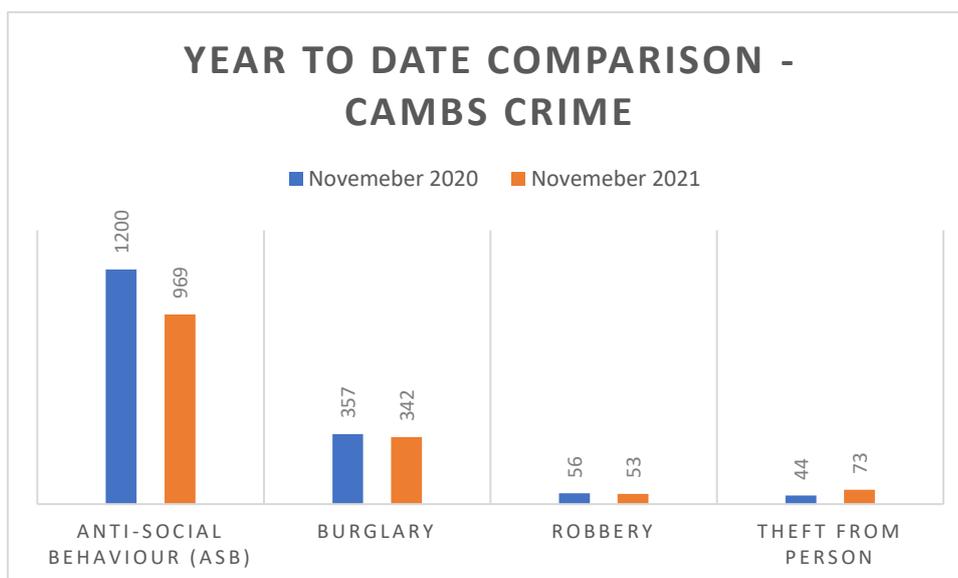


Cambridgeshire - DYMENSiON Research

Authors: KST Risk and Intelligence Team

Cambridgeshire in the Eastern Region of the UK has been highlighted frequently in the news since the start of 2022, with the number of ATM Ram Raid attacks occurring across the county; and with links to other attacks occurring in the Eastern Region. Police Data collated during November 2021 (most recent public data available) noted that there were 6912 crimes reported into Cambridgeshire Police. Out of this total number, 969 of the reports were regarding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) equating to 14% of the total crimes reported. ASB is the second highest crime reported, with Violence and Sexual Offences at 2420 reports, which represents 35% of the grand total of crimes reported into Cambridgeshire Constabulary. By looking at the year to date from November 2020, there were a total of 6429 crimes reported during that month – which means there was an 8% rise in crime committed when comparing the year to date. This can be seen in the number of related ASB crimes being called into Cambridgeshire Police during November 2020, with 1200 related ASB crimes being collated, November 2021 saw a decrease in this type of crime – the reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour seen in November 2021 was a drop of 19% (969 ASB Crimes in Nov 2021). This fall in incidents could be due to the level of COVID-19 Restrictions being relaxed during 2021, with 2020 seeing the peak of infection rates during the winter months and the United Kingdom placed into a Tier System.

In November 2020, The Eastern Region was placed in Tier 4 Alert Level, which was a requirement for citizens to stay home, reduce contact with others, with non-essential retail & indoor venues closing and socialising in indoor places, such as homes, banned. The mandatory rule of face masks and not gathering in large groups was strictly enforced, with people being fined for breaching these rules. With the minimum of meeting only one person outside and restrictions on seeing friends and family brought tension and frustration in communities – with some citizens breaking these COVID-19 guidelines due to operating their businesses to generate money, loneliness of being isolated from others and irritation of the Government placing such strict rules – impacting their freedoms. The correlation of ASB being so high and the Tier 4 COVID-19 level could link due to groups gathering in open spaces, not wearing correct PPE and large gatherings at events that were forbidden – I.E Weddings and Parties indoors. The decrease of ASB in the county shows that with the relaxation of restrictions during November 2021, allowed for citizens to feel a sense of freedom to see others, which in truth helped relieve stress, anxiety and tension felt due to isolation. However, ASB is still a concern in the County and around specific areas of Cambridgeshire, shortly in this report – ASB and Burglary hotspots will be examined through the DYMENSION system.

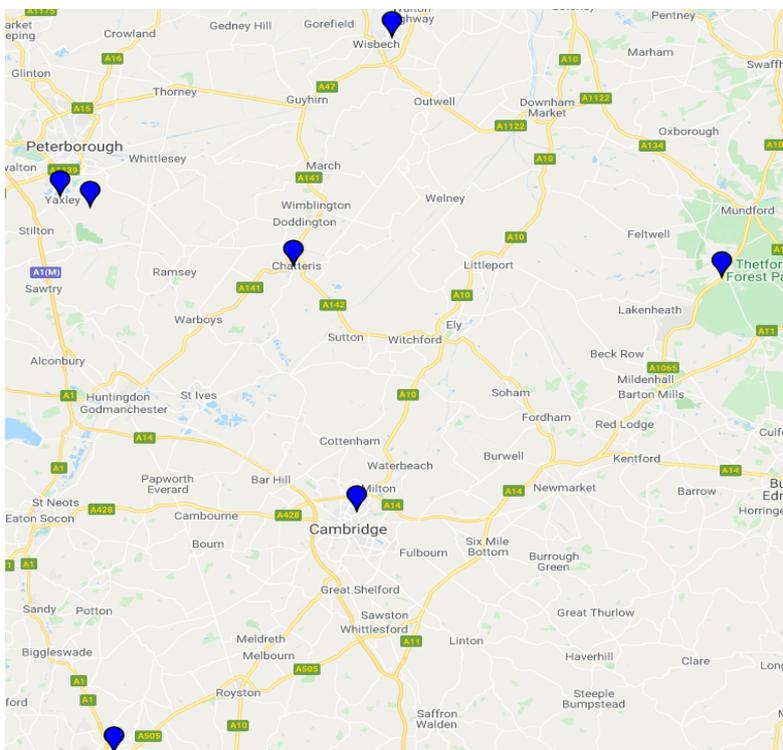


(Data Collected from Home | data.police.uk)

By looking at other crimes in Cambridgeshire (Burglary, Robbery and Theft), there has been a difference in reporting since November 2020. As stated in the graph above, there has been a decrease in Burglary and Robbery since November 2020, with Burglaries in November 2021 seeing 342 reports, compared to 357 incidents being collated in the same month of 2020 – this is a decrease of 15 incidents being called in to the authorities: a 4% decrease in reporting. Robbery saw a decrease of 5%, with 3 less incidents reported (56 in Nov 2021 to 53 in Nov 2022). The only increase in 2021 from these main crime groups was Theft from Person, seeing a rise of 66% in the county – with an additional 29 incidents being called in. The main issue seen in Cambridgeshire is still the high number of ASB and Burglaries in that geographical area of the Eastern Region. By using DYMENSION, the KST Risk and Intelligence team are able to collate reports from customers, conduct open-source research, and collect police data. These advantages of the system help the team map out areas with continuous problems and identify major hotspots of Cambridgeshire. The most notable hotspots in this area have been seen around the Peterborough and PE Postcodes (Wisbech and the Fenlands). More on this geographical mapping through DYMENSION will be discussed shortly.

ATM Ram Raid Series – Cambridgeshire and Eastern Region Timeline

As stated earlier in this piece, Cambridgeshire and other areas in the east have seen a rise in ATM Ram Raid attacks. The modus operandi (MO) being that either a vehicle or heavy plant vehicles are used to ram raid the entrance of the premises and then rip out the internal ATMs. The below is a timeline of recent events with a map of the attacks across Cambridgeshire and other areas of the Eastern Region (Hertfordshire and Suffolk).



- **Thursday, 6 January** - Thieves stole the cash machine at the Nisa shop in Chatteris.
- **Friday, 7 January** - Co-op shop in Milton Road in Cambridge was smashed into but the raiders failed to steal the ATM.
- **Wednesday, 12 January** - At around 1am, a vehicle was used to crash into the Old Walsoken Post Office near Wisbech.
- **Wednesday, 12 January** - At 4.18am, a police officer was injured after a police car was rammed when thieves made their getaway after a raid on a Co-op shop in Yaxley near Peterborough.
- **Friday, 14 January** - Ram-raiders demolished a Costcutter shopfront in Baldock, Hertfordshire just after midnight.
- **Monday, 24 January** - Between 1am-2am, thieves used a JCB to destroy the front of the store in Brandon, Suffolk, and removed the cash machines, lifting them on to the back of a flatbed Ford Transit. Between 1am-2am at Tesco.

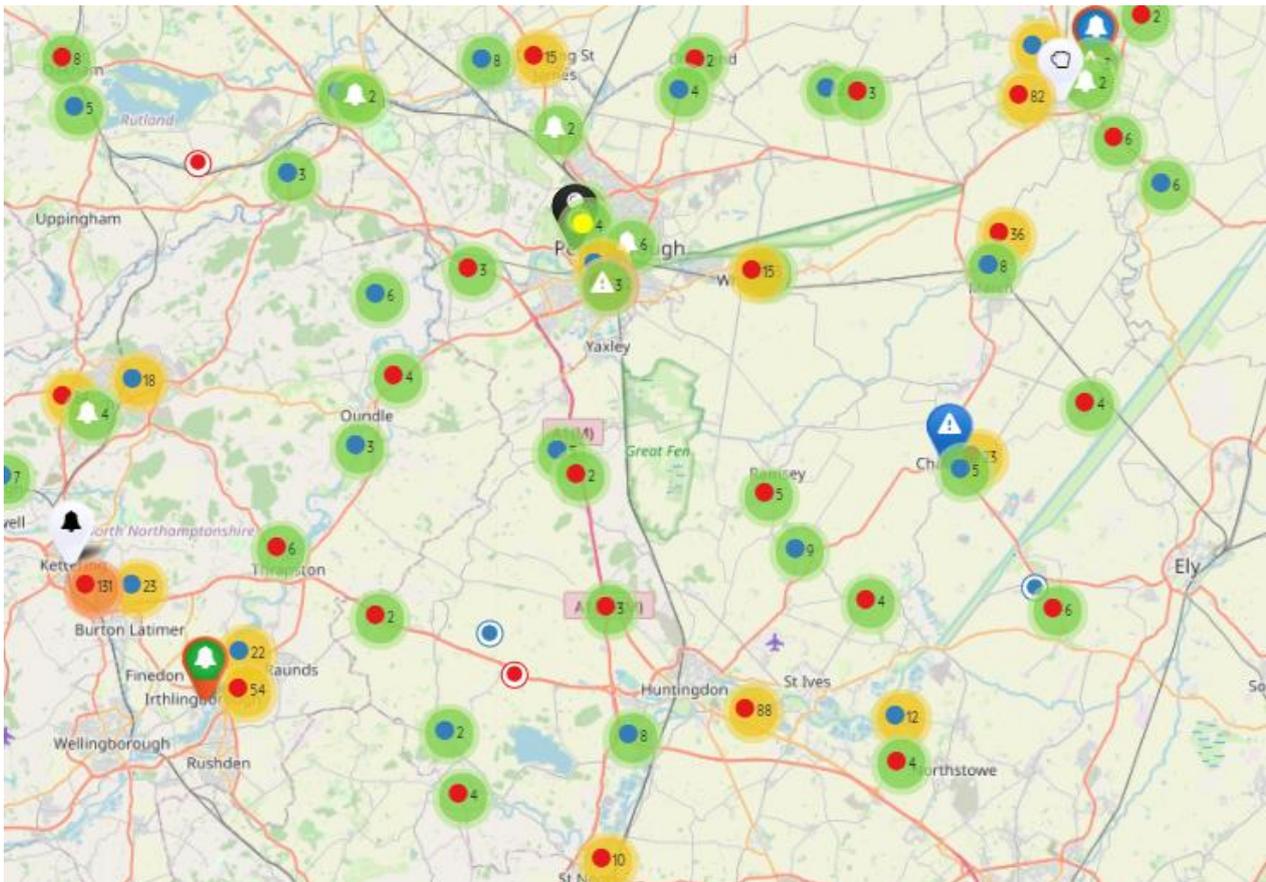
More on this series will be discussed in main DYMENSION Estate Wide Piece – Due to be released in Mid-February 2022. This will have further research and theories to these incidents, with further intelligence to report.

DYMENSION Research and Mapping

With these high levels of ASB and Burglaries (particularly the ATM Ram Raids) occurring in Cambridgeshire, it would be best practice to examine what data has been collected into DYMENSION – via DYMENSION Reports, Open Research and Police Data.

From DYMENSION, the search conducted related to Burglary (Blue) and ASB (Red) offences, but also you may see the inclusion of Confirmed Intruder Alarms (Green with a White bell), Policed Intruder Alarms (Blue with a White Bell) and a Blue coloured Explanation Point (A) to show incidents raised through reports added to DYMENSION, either through customers or open-source research.

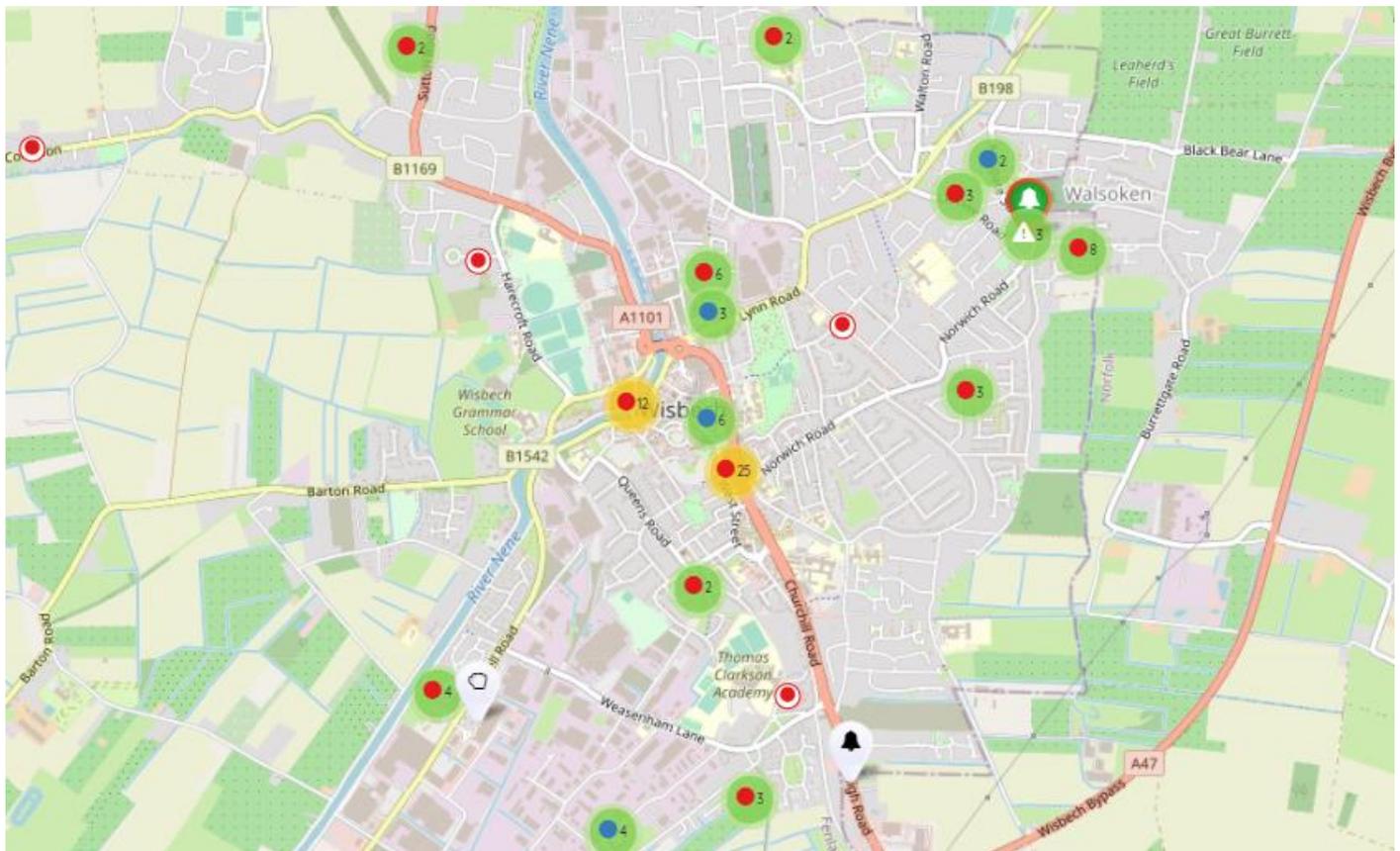
The search is over the last 30 days and from the image below, it shows a lot of activity occurring across Cambridgeshire, especially the Fenland area. By choosing the centre of Peterborough and at a search range of 25 miles, this covers a large stretch of the geographical map across Cambs and into other areas. The search covers up to Wisbech in the East, Rutland in the West, St Neots in South and Bourne in the north. By focusing to the East of the map, Wisbech shows a hotspot of ASB and other incidents that were reported into our DYMENSION system.

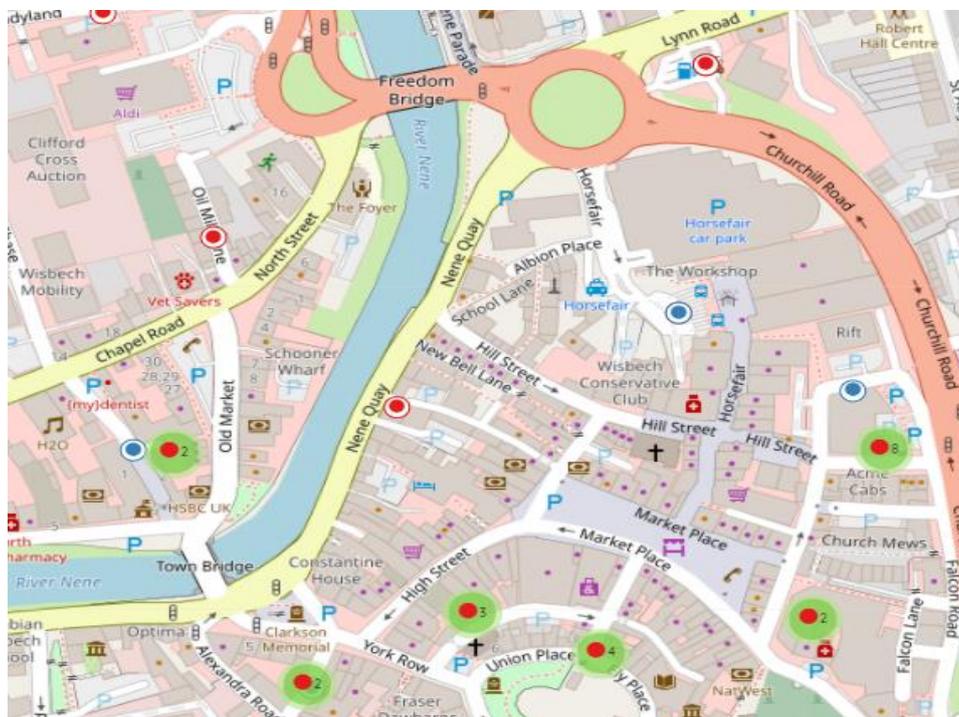


Wisbech Research & Findings

Wisbech has been described by most researchers to be the “*most dangerous medium-sized town in Cambridgeshire*” ([Wisbech Crime and Safety Statistics | CrimeRate](#)) In 2020, it was reported that Wisbech crime rate was 102 crimes per 1000 people, which towered over the overall Crime Rate of Cambridgeshire. Cambridgeshire was sitting at 71 crimes per 1,000 residents. Wisbech was 30% higher than the County average of crimes per person. Currently, there is no 2021 evidence available to compare the year to date. However, one would presume a possibility for the rate to be around the same level or slightly higher with the continuous crimes plaguing the county – such as the ram-raids on businesses and high levels of ASB.

Below is the DYMENSION Map of Wisbech. It is showing large clusters and hotspots of ASB in the area and some Burglary offences can be seen across the town. Notably, the town centre on Churchill Road shows many ASB reports and 6 burglaries occurring, which is a prime hotspot to investigate. It also shows DYMENSION incidents that have been flagged up for an Intruder Alarm (Churchill Road) and a PA alarm being activated on Cromwell Road. If you look at the area of Walsoken, there is a confirmed Intruder alarm in green – this premises was attacked during the current ATM Ram Raid series. There is also a cluster of ASB incidents occurring close by, with 2 Burglary crimes being detected also. In this part of the report, we will focus on the centre of Wisbech, due to the high levels of ASB and burglaries in this area.





As stated earlier- Wisbech has seen issues with ASB and Burglary in the area. By looking at the November 2021 data, the police recorded 83 ASB crimes occurring in the town, which is a decrease from October 2021, which reported 90 incidents of this offence – a decline of 9%. However, ASB was much higher in November 2021 than in November 2020 – with a difference of 20 reports (63), an increase of 32% from the previous year. To put that into perspective, the overall ASB crimes reported in Cambs in November 2021 was 969, Anti-Social Behaviour in Wisbech contributes to 9% to the overall total of this crime type. By looking closer into the town centre of Wisbech, you can see hotspots of Anti-Social Behaviour located at Union Place and Ely Place – which is a local greenery area, where people can congregate and meet in large groups to socialise. It must also be noted that there was 8 ASB reports near Acne Cabs, close to Churchill Road. Around this area there is a cinema complex and a range of cafes and pubs, where ASB can be increased due to the consumption of alcohol and gatherings of large groups, especially youth of the town.

If we look at Burglary incidents, we can see some areas of the town centre have been affected by this crime type. The crime stats for Wisbech on Burglary in November 2021 saw 19 reports across the area, an increase of 1 report from November 2020 (18) – a rise of 5%. Looking at Old Market Road, there was an incident of Burglary occurring close by to 2 incidents of ASB being called into Cambs Police. These trends and hotspots on DYMENSION can help customer's locate problematic areas and understand what the common issues are and how they can build a plan on what needs to be done to protect their businesses and assets. Areas of high ASB and Burglary may benefit from Fogging units, more CCTV usage (Especially 3g Cameras), PA Alarms, and either patrolling or static guarding. This report helps build awareness on current trends and aids customers or future clients in this geographical area on what is happening and how they can approach these issues; with the aid of utilising DYMENSION and working closely with the KINGS Risk and Intelligence Team. The KST Risk and Intel Team can look at common issues and produce reports like this through collated information on DYMENSION, Open-Source research and Police Data to allow clients to understand what needs to be addressed and protecting their businesses from future harm and losses.