

Analysis of Shoplifting in Fenland

2022

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1. Introduction

The 2021/22 community safety strategic assessment for Fenland noted shoplifting had increased in Fenland in 2021, whilst Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole had seen a decrease.

After discussion at a CSP meeting in Summer 2022 the partnership raised it as a concern for the following reasons:

- Shoplifting can be linked to vulnerabilities e.g. exploitation, destitution, substance misuse.
- Potential Drivers of this local increase need to be assessed to understand if those vulnerabilities are behind the increases in Fenland.

As a result, Fenland CSP commissioned the Research Group to complete a deep dive to understand shoplifting in the district in more detail.

Police recorded crime and suspects data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary are the main data sets analysed in this report. The reference period for the local data analysis included here is offences which were recorded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary between July 2019 and Sept 2022. As not all offences are immediately reported, police recorded crime data includes both the date the offence was recorded and the date the offence actually occurred. As data for the report was extracted by the recorded date it is possible that some offences may have been committed during the reference period but were not included in the analysis as they had not yet been reported. This is unlikely to have had a notable impact on the analysis as for the offence type included here (specifically shoplifting) there tends to be minimal of delay between the offence occurrence and the crime reporting (unlike, for example, sexual offences where more historic reporting occurs).

There are some vulnerabilities associated with shoplifting, outlined at the end of this report, for which data gaps exist at a localised (i.e. district or sub-district) level.

2. Key Findings

- Acquisitive crime has been substantially influenced in recent years by the Covid-19 pandemic, with associated lockdown restrictions limiting offending opportunities.
- Police recorded shoplifting remains at a higher level since 2019 in Fenland.
- Indicators of the retail context in Fenland show a relatively stable volume of retail addresses with a small increase mainly in those from the Fast Food Outlet / Takeaway category since 2019.
- Hotspots and most commonly recorded stores reporting to police are identified within March, Chatteris, Wisbech, Whittlesey.

- Analysis of the times that shoplifting offences occurred across Fenland as a whole showed a majority occurring between 1pm and 3pm. Wednesday was the peak day of the week for shoplifting in the period analysed.
- Analysis of items stolen in offence data revealed data gaps. Of the sample of records analysed, food/ drink, toiletries and alcohol were main categories where any item was recorded. Due to gaps in the data it is not possible to assess whether items stolen indicate wider vulnerabilities, for example the true proportion of essential necessities being stolen cannot be shown.
- Analysis of Suspects data shows the main demographic profile is males aged between 30-49 accounted for over a third (35%) of all suspects.
- There was a notable proportion of child/adolescent suspects recorded with 16% of suspects aged under 18 years.
- A small number of prolific repeat suspects account for a high proportion of offences, with the four suspects who were linked to 20 or more offences each accounting for just under a third (23%) of all 520 offences recorded in Fenland.
- The specific vulnerabilities of the offenders / suspects linked to shoplifting in Fenland would require information from relevant offender services which is not available at this time.

3. Summary and Recommendations

Analysis shows that there are a few locations vulnerable to shoplifting. Further there are specific retailers reporting frequently to the constabulary. It should be noted that without surveying all or a good representative sample of retailers in Fenland it is not possible to say if those already reporting are the retailers experiencing the largest volume of shoplifting. The analysis provides opportunities for the following;

1. The partnership already has a few retailers identified to engage with and hotspot areas to tackle
2. The CSP could provide support and guidance around the benefits of giving more detailed information (i.e. items stolen) when reporting and recording crime. In the longer term this could help monitor the situation and inform the partnership response going forward.
3. The partnership could take an opportunity to engage with other retailers to see if they are experiencing shoplifting but not reporting and explore the barriers to engagement.

Analysis for this document has shown that reoffending plays a key part in the volume of shoplifting locally, with a small number of suspects linked to a large proportion of offences. CSPs have a statutory role in reducing reoffending. This provides an opportunity to focus partnership efforts on the reoffending associated with shoplifting.

A further recommendation therefore is that the CSP seek input from offender services in order to understand (and respond to) the vulnerabilities of the prolific shoplifting offenders in Fenland to date.

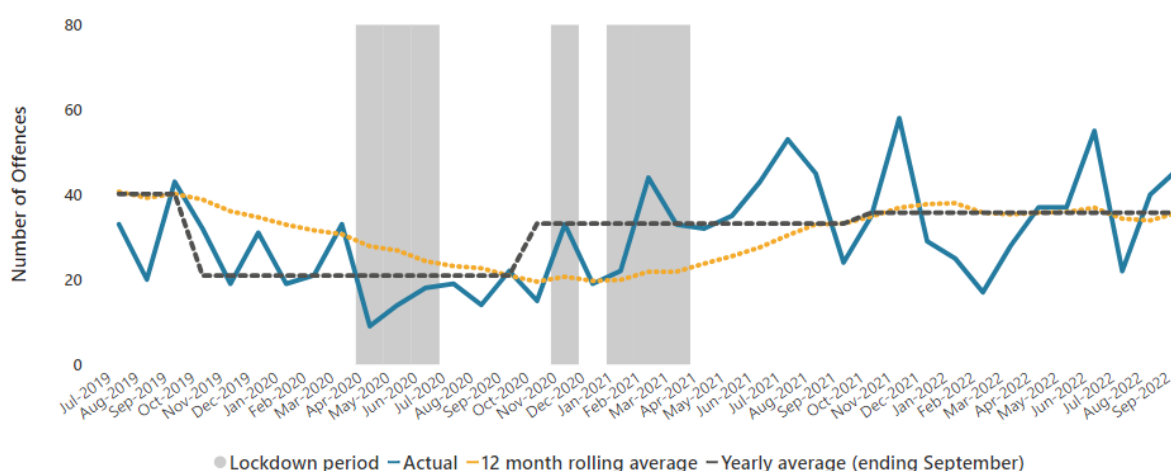
4. National and local trend in shoplifting offences

Acquisitive crime has been substantially influenced in recent years by the Covid-19 pandemic, with associated lockdown restrictions limiting offending opportunities.

National estimates of crime prevalence are also now available for pre and post pandemic comparison as the CSEW has returned to face-to-face interviews for the latest data release (year ending June 2022). The CSEW estimates show a statistically significant reduction of 19% in theft offences in the year ending June 2022, compared to the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020. National police recorded crime data reflects the same pattern with an 18% reduction in theft offences recorded over the same time period. This reduction is indicative of a sustained impact following the Covid-19 pandemic, however long-term reductions in theft have been observed by the CSEW overall. Police recorded shoplifting specifically has shown a decrease of -19% nationally when comparing the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020 to the year ending June 2022.

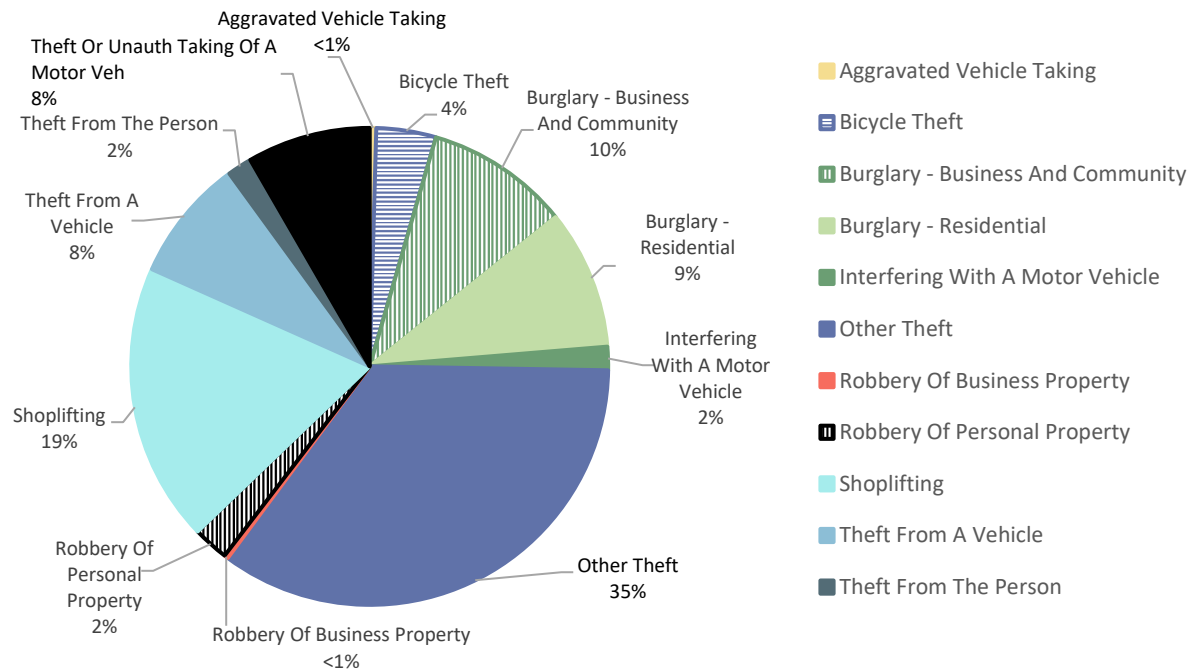
In Fenland there have been marked peaks in police recorded shoplifting offences in November 2021 and July 2022 and a sustained monthly average offence count above that seen in 2019/20, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Count of police recorded shoplifting offences in Fenland July 2019 to September 2022



For context, a breakdown of police recorded acquisitive crime is provided in Figure 2. Shoplifting formed 19% of all acquisitive crime in Fenland for the year ending September 2022.

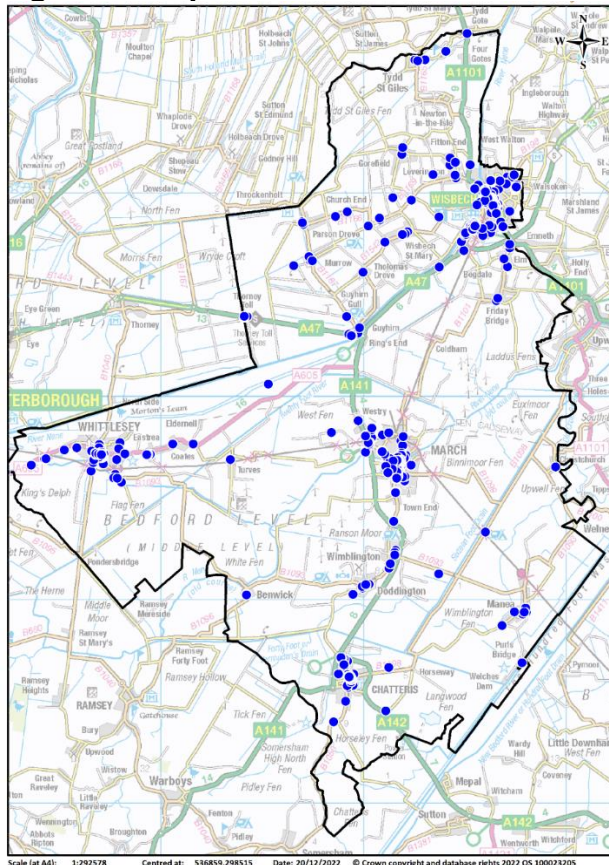
Figure 2: Police recorded acquisitive crime in Fenland, October 2021 – September 2022, sub-type breakdown



5. Fenland retail context

The ordnance survey Addressbase dataset lists all addresses in the UK and includes a classification of the property. This has been used to map retail locations across Fenland for context. As at July 2022 the Addressbase indicated retail locations in Fenland as shown in the map below. A majority of the retail addresses are located in Wisbech, March, Whittlesey and Chatteris.

Figure 3: Map of retail locations in Fenland as at July 2022



Source: Addressbase

Because the Covid-19 pandemic is acknowledged to have negatively affected retail spaces nationally (Local Data Company, 2022), a comparison between Addressbase data for retail addresses in 2019 and 2022 was carried out.

As shown in Table 1, there has been a small increase (+21 addresses or 2.19%) in the number of retail locations in Fenland since 2019. Over half of these are recorded as the 'Fast Food Outlet / Takeaway (Hot / Cold)' type of retail (+11 addresses). Shop / Showroom (+5 addresses). The Retail Service Agent category also increased in number (+9 addresses).

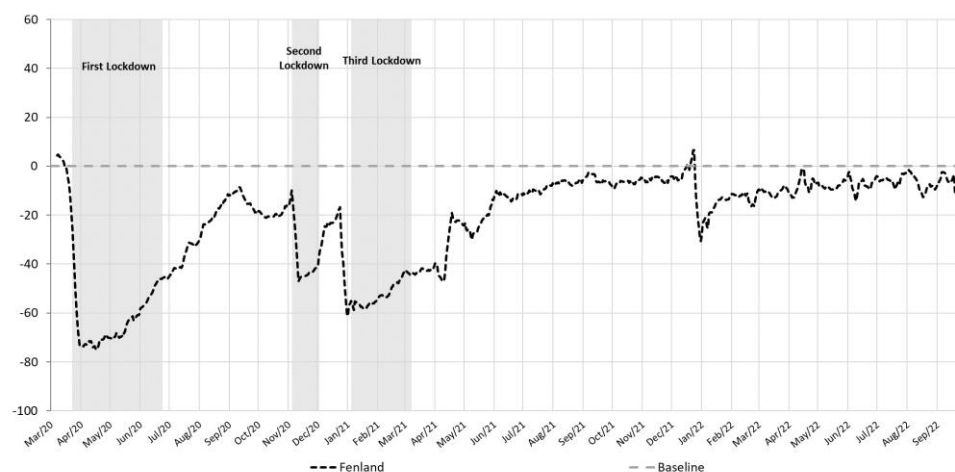
Table 1: Comparison of the number of retail addresses according to type in Fenland, 2019 and 2022 (Source: Addressbase)

Retail business type	Count: 2019	Count: 2022	% Change in address count from 2019 to 2022
Shop / Showroom	575	580	0.87%
Retail Service Agent	118	127	7.63%
Fast Food Outlet / Takeaway (Hot / Cold)	75	86	14.67%
Public House / Bar / Nightclub	67	66	-1.49%
Restaurant / Cafeteria	56	56	0.00%
Other Licensed Premise / Vendor	25	25	0.00%
Bank / Financial Service	23	21	-9.52%
Petrol Filling Station	15	16	6.67%
Market (Indoor / Outdoor)	2	2	0.00%
Unknown	2	-	-
Total retail addresses	958	979	2.19%

Google mobility data is anonymised data gathered from Google account holders' location history. This large scale and anonymised data is collected by Google across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts and is only collected for those who have a piece of technology enabled with Location History. It should be noted that the way in which this data is collected means that people without access to this type of technology are not represented here. Data for visits to retail and recreation locations in Fenland are summarised in Figure 4 below; they remain below the baseline.

It should be acknowledged that retailers themselves may have different policies in relation to shoplifting. There may also be different resources in place (i.e. security presence, anti-theft devices on products), from store to store which will impact what shoplifting they are able to identify and report.

Figure 4: Google mobility data for retail and recreation locations in Fenland; 7 day rolling average compared to Google's pre-COVID baseline of 3rd Jan – 6th Feb 2020.

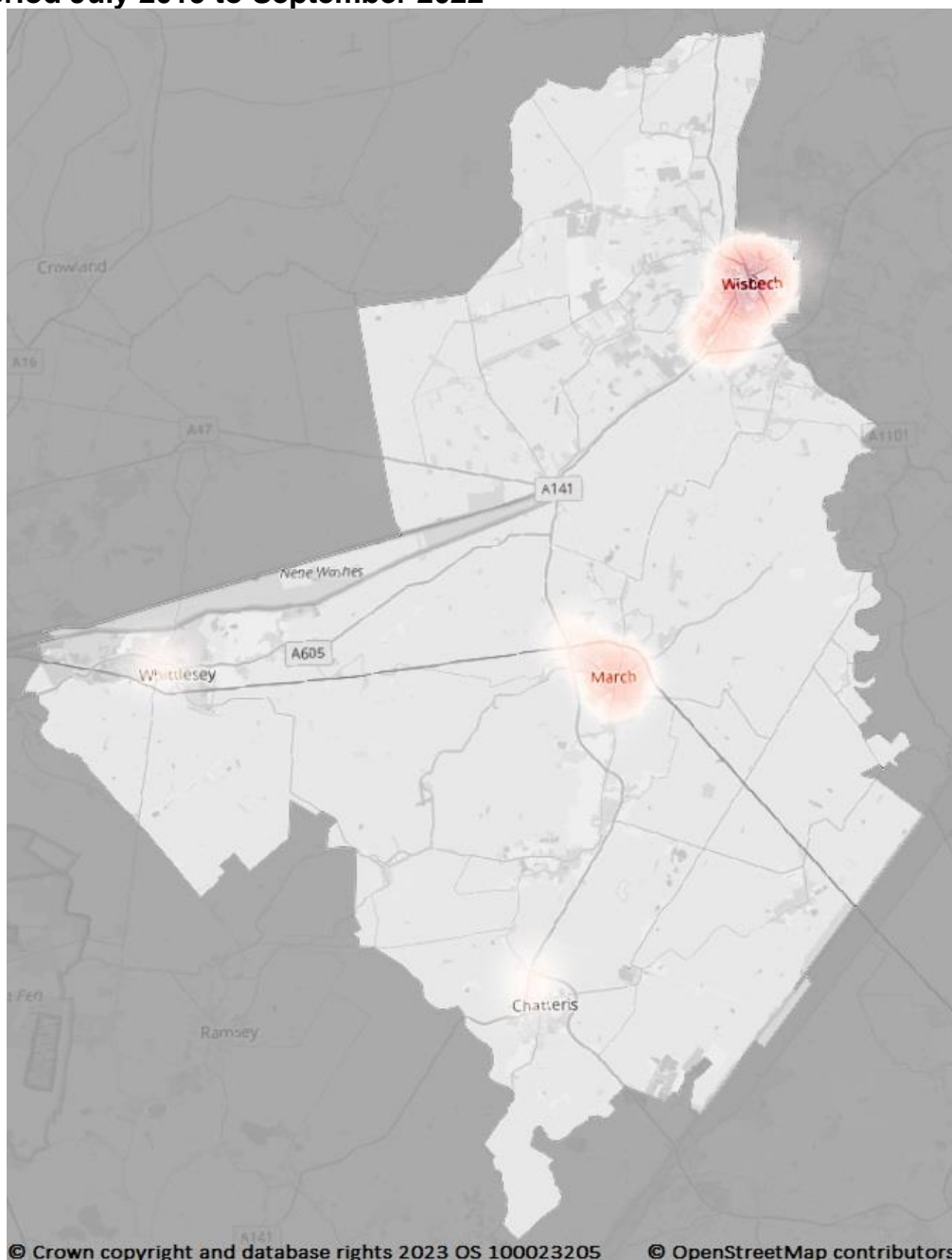


6. Analysis of police recorded shoplifting in Fenland

6.1. Hotspot mapping

As shown in Figure 5, Wisbech has the highest number of shoplifting offences, with high numbers of offences also being recorded in March. There has also been a focus of offences in the retail areas in Chatteris and Whittlesey, with the stores most commonly reporting offences outlined below (supplementary maps are provided in Appendix A).

Figure 5: Hotspot map of the number of shoplifting offences in Fenland from the period July 2019 to September 2022



Wisbech

A majority of the police recorded shoplifting offences in Wisbech were recorded in supermarkets. Supermarkets in Wisbech that had relatively high numbers of recorded shoplifting offences, namely Aldi (114 offences) and Asda (50 offences) on Leverington Road, and Tesco on Cromwell Road (100 offences).

Analysis shows key recorded locations for Shoplifting in the Horsefair area include Poundland (62 offences), Boots (48 offences), QD (38 offences) and Peacocks (27 offences).

At the Cromwell retail park in Wisbech, shoplifting was mainly recorded at the B&M store (60 offences).

March

In March, the majority of offences took place in the Broad Street area where again, the highest number of offences took place in Supermarkets, including Tesco express (63 offences), and Sainsburys (61 offences). The Tesco store on Hostmoor Avenue also saw a relatively high number of offences with 48 offences recorded between July 2019 and September 2022.

Chatteris

Chatteris had relatively fewer offences but there was a focus of offences recorded in Aldi near the Isle of Ely Way and Bridge Street; 29 shoplifting offences took place here between July 2019 and September 2022

Whittlesey

There was a small, localised hotspot of offences recorded in Whittlesey; where the highest numbers of recorded offences was Lincolnshire Co-op on Finkle Lane (18 offences), and the Nisa Local convenience store on Broad Street (15 offences).

6.2. Time and day of shoplifting offences

The time and day that shoplifting offences occurred (where known) were analysed for the whole of Fenland to build a picture of patterns of offending.

The Table below shows the majority of shoplifting offences were in the early afternoon, particularly between 1pm and 3pm, with very few occurring in the early hours in the morning (except for a small peak at midnight on Saturday). This likely reflects typical retail opening times. The day of the week with the highest number of shoplifting offences recorded was Wednesday, with the lowest number occurring on Sundays.

Table 2: A heatmap table of the time and day of shoplifting offences in Fenland for the period July 2019 to September 2022

Hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Grand Total
0:00								12
1:00								2
2:00								0
3:00								2
4:00								0
5:00								1
6:00								4
7:00								13
8:00								18
9:00								44
10:00								57
11:00								67
12:00								72
13:00								109
14:00								130
15:00								122
16:00								91
17:00								81
18:00								54
19:00								57
20:00								57
21:00								44
22:00								20
23:00								6
Unknown hours								109
Total	172	165	206	174	146	190	119	1172

Note: Darker shades of red indicate a higher number of offences.

6.3. Analysis of items stolen

A dip sample of 100 offences were selected at random from all shoplifting offences which occurred in Fenland between June and September 2022. The MO and incident summary field of these records was read to obtain details of the stolen property. Of the records analysed, 25% did not contain any description of the items stolen. The level of detail included varied for the remaining offences, for example, only some included the volume/value of items stolen.

For the 75 offences which contained details of stolen items, the most common categories of property were 'food/drink' and 'toiletries' (which each featured in 24% of offences), followed by 'alcohol' (20%). The next most common property types were 'clothing/footwear' (11%) and 'cleaning products' (8%). No other property categories saw more than 1 or 2 offences.

One theme which emerged during the detailed record analysis was that in a notable proportion of incidents (39%) it was stated that the suspect(s) were known repeat shoplifting offenders.

6.4. Offenders context

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Needs Assessment: Victims, Suspects and Offenders: 2019/2020 (2020) provides some insight into offender needs in relation to acquisitive offending.

Within this report the needs associated with Adult (BeNCH CRC cohort 2020) offending behaviour was analysed (where the assessment data was available).

Grouping people by their demographic profile and /or nature of their offending showed commonalities in terms of the offender needs identified.

For the Adult BeNCH CRC cohort the following was noted:

- 90% of offenders committing acquisitive crime had a financial need pathway compared with 31% of offenders committing violent offences.
- Similarly acquisitive crime offenders were more likely to have a Lifestyle (73%), and Education Training and Employment (61%) need than those offenders committing violent offences (54%) and (41%).

Analysis of a subgroup of adults that had re-offending data showed:

- It was noted that re-offenders generally had a higher criminogenic need level across all pathways compared to the whole caseload.
- Re-offenders who have No Fixed Abode are the most likely to re-offend 5 times or more.

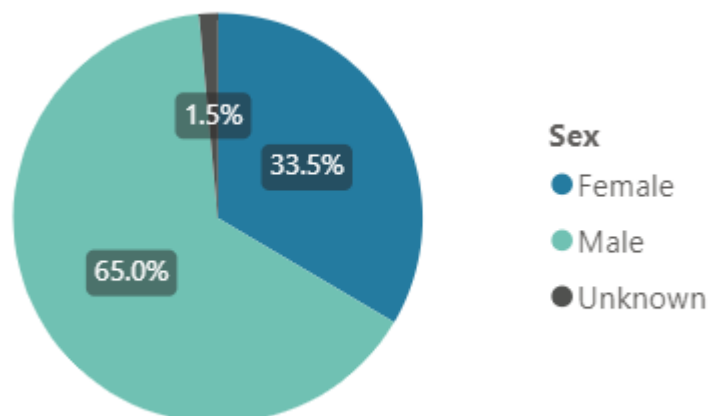
6.5. Analysis of offenders linked to shoplifting crimes in Fenland

Suspect data has been analysed for all shoplifting offences recorded in Fenland between July 2019 and September 2022. This data represents crimes recorded by the police with the marker 'Suspect' and includes all subcategories of suspects except for 'suspect eliminated'. As such, the individuals featured within this analysis may have been arrested, interviewed, cautioned or convicted in relation to the shoplifting offence.

Suspects may be linked to more than one offence, as such, it was necessary to create a dataset of 'unique suspects' in order to complete demographic analysis. This was done by selecting the suspect record for the most recently occurring linked offence. It should be considered in the interpretation of analysis that some limitations in accuracy occur because of this approach, for example, suspects may have changed addresses between different offences and their age may also have changed.

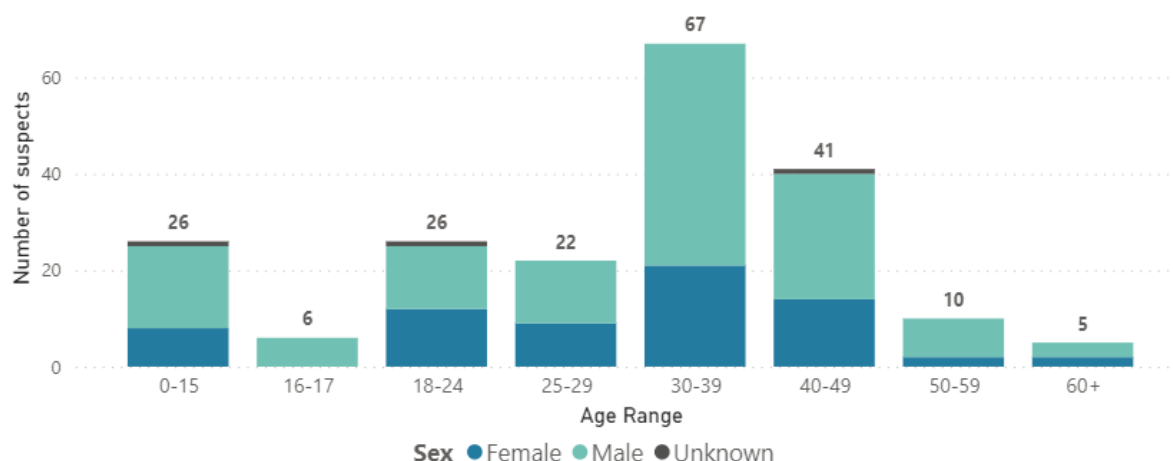
There were 203 unique suspects linked to at least one shoplifting offence recorded in Fenland between July 2019 and September 2022. The majority of these suspects were male (65%) (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Sex breakdown for suspects linked to a shoplifting offence in Fenland, July 2019 - September 2022



The age breakdown for suspects is displayed in Figure 7**Error! Reference source not found.** The dominant age group, particularly for male suspects, was 30-39 and 40-49. Males aged between 30-49 accounted for over a third (35%) of all suspects. There was a notable proportion of child/adolescent suspects, with 32 suspects aged under 18, accounting for 16% of suspects. The youngest aged suspects within this cohort were 12 years old.

Figure 7: Age and sex breakdown for suspects linked to a shoplifting offence in Fenland, July 2019 - September 2022



10% of suspects were recorded as 'No fixed abode' under their latest home address.

There was a total of 520 offences linked to the 203 suspects. The table below provides a summary of the number of repeat suspects. The majority of suspects (67%) were linked to a single offence, with the remaining 33% linked to two or more offences and as such a suspected repeat offender.

Table 3: Number of shoplifting offences (July 2019 - September 2022) linked to individual suspects

Number of linked offences	Count of suspects	Percentage of all suspects
1	135	66.5%
2 – 4	46	22.7%
5 – 9	10	4.9%
10 – 19	8	3.9%
20 - 44	4	2.0%

A small number of prolific repeat suspects account for a high proportion of offences, with the four suspects who were linked to 20 or more offences accounting for just under a third (23%) of all 520 offences.

7. Vulnerabilities linked to shoplifting and information in Fenland

The following section outlines knowledge of some vulnerabilities that have been linked to shoplifting and, where the data is available, information about each in Fenland.

- Destitution and poverty
- Homelessness
- Substance misuse
- Modern Slavery and exploitation

It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list of vulnerabilities and those shown here are not mutually exclusive. The partnership should also be mindful that not all people experiencing these vulnerabilities go on to offend. However, the information here could be used to inform the work of the partnership going forward, particularly in the context of the cost-of-living crisis which is likely to mean more residents experience these vulnerabilities over time. The specific vulnerabilities of the offenders / suspects linked to shoplifting in Fenland would require information from relevant offender services which is not available at this time. The CSP could benefit from seeking input from offender services in order to understand the vulnerabilities of the prolific shoplifting offenders in Fenland to date.

Research has shown links between different forms of social exclusion, such as homelessness, survival shoplifting, institutional care, and substance misuse. A survey by Fitzpatrick et al (2011) of 1286 users of low threshold services (a type of support service for various forms of social exclusion) indicated a high degree of overlap. 98% of service users reported experiencing homelessness, and 67% had engaged in street drinking, begging, or survival shoplifting, also known as “street culture activities” (from here-in referred to as SCAs). 100% of those who had engaged in SCAs also reported experiencing homelessness. 59% had experienced both substance misuse and SCAs. However, this overlap was found to be less substantial in migrant individuals. Similarly, previous research on homeless families has shown less of an overlap with substance and alcohol problems, or criminal and antisocial behaviour (Pleace, et al., 2008); suggesting rates of other forms of social exclusion may differ amongst subgroups. The importance of this lies in data (see page 19) suggesting there may be a high representation of single adults in Fenland’s homeless population.

7.1. Destitution and poverty

Destitution is defined as either having lacked two or more of the following essential items over the past month due to being unable to afford them:

- food;
- heating;
- lighting;
- weather appropriate clothing and footwear;
- and basic toiletries (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2020).

According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2020), the level of destitution in the UK since 2017 has been increasing. Their 2020 report notes that whilst the majority of people living in destitution do not report complex needs (defined in the report as experiencing two or more of homelessness, drug and alcohol problems, offending, domestic violence, and begging), it is more common amongst people experiencing destitution compared to the general population.

It is clear how destitution could lead to 'survival shoplifting'. As noted on page 12 of this report, a recent needs assessment for offenders of acquisitive crime in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (Cambridgeshire Research Group, 2020), showed that 90% of offenders of acquisitive crimes had a pathway to offending related to financial needs.

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) for 2019 was the official measure of deprivation for Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England. An LSOA is a geographical area with a population of approximately 1500. Fenland ranked 80th out of 317 local authorities in England, where 1 represents the most deprived, and 317 the least deprived. It was the second most deprived local authority in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. When looking at individual domains, Fenland ranked 56th for income, 54th for employment, and 3rd for education, skills and training. A full breakdown is shown in

Table 4 from the 2019 IMD District Level Report for Fenland (Cambridgeshire Research Group, 2019, p. 4). Within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area, Fenland is the 2nd most deprived local authority; however nationally, South Cambridgeshire is the 16th least deprived in England.

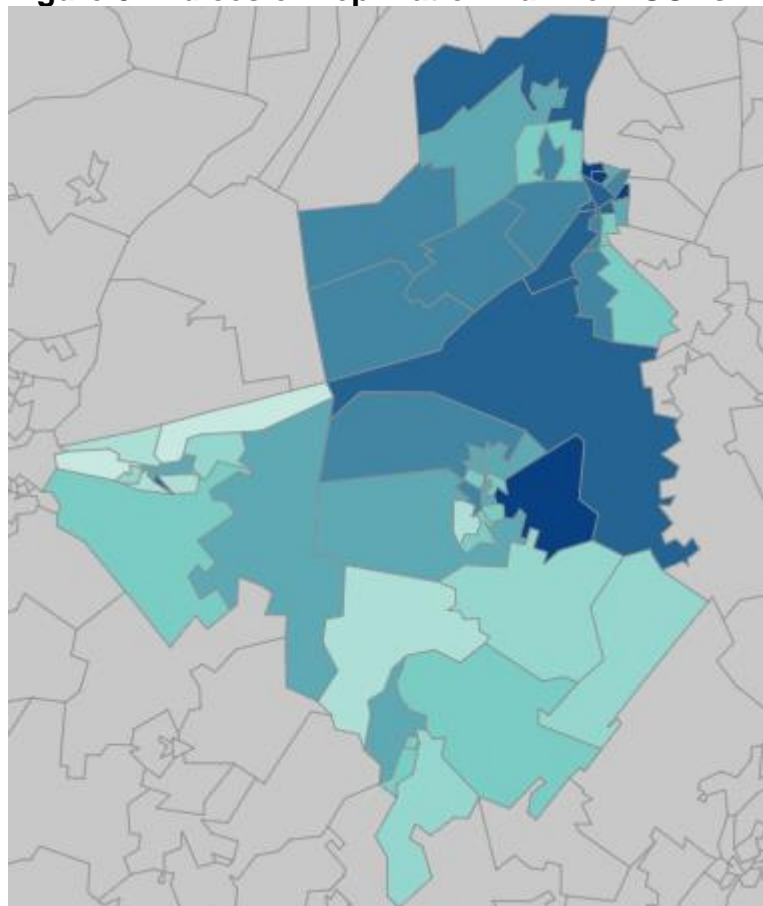
Table 4: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 Domain Ranks for Fenland

Domain	National Local Authority Rank out of 317
Income	56
Employment	54
Education, Skills and Training	3
Health Deprivation and Disability	55
Living Environment	204
Crime	136
Barriers to Housing and Services	108
Income sub-domains	-
IDACI (Income Deprivation affecting children)	46
IDAOP (Income Deprivation affecting Older People)	41

Source: 2019 IMD District Level Report for Fenland (Cambridgeshire Research Group, 2019, p. 4)

The 4 most deprived LSOAs in Fenland are shown in navy blue in Figure 8; all of which were within the lowest 10% (IMD rank) of LSOAs in England (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2019). Namely, the Waterlees area and northern area of Staithe in Wisbech, and the Eastern area of March.

Figure 8: Indices of Deprivation Rank of LSOAs in Fenland



Source: IoD2019 Interactive Dashboard by Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2019).

More recently, data from the 2021 census showed that 41.7% of households in Fenland were not deprived in any dimension (with dimensions consisting of education, employment, health, and housing), up from 36.2% in the 2011 census (Office for National Statistics, 2022; Office for National Statistics, 2013). Whilst definitions of disability in the 2021 census have been amended to be more explicitly inclusive of disability (see Appendix B), potentially affecting both employment and health figures, the percentage of households deprived in 2, 3 or 4 dimensions have all reduced since the 2011 census (see Table 5). The number of households deprived in 1 dimension however has increase from 34.5% to 37.4%.

Table 5: Percentage of households deprived across four dimensions: Education, Employment, Health and Housing, at the 2011 and 2021 Census

Household Deprivation	2011	2021
Households not deprived in any dimension	36.2%	41.7%
Households deprived in 1 dimension	34.5%	37.4%
Households deprived in 2 dimensions	23.5%	16.9%
Households deprived in 3 dimensions	5.3%	3.9%
Households deprived in 4 dimensions	0.4%	0.2%

Source: Office for National Statistics (2013; 2022)

7.2. Homelessness

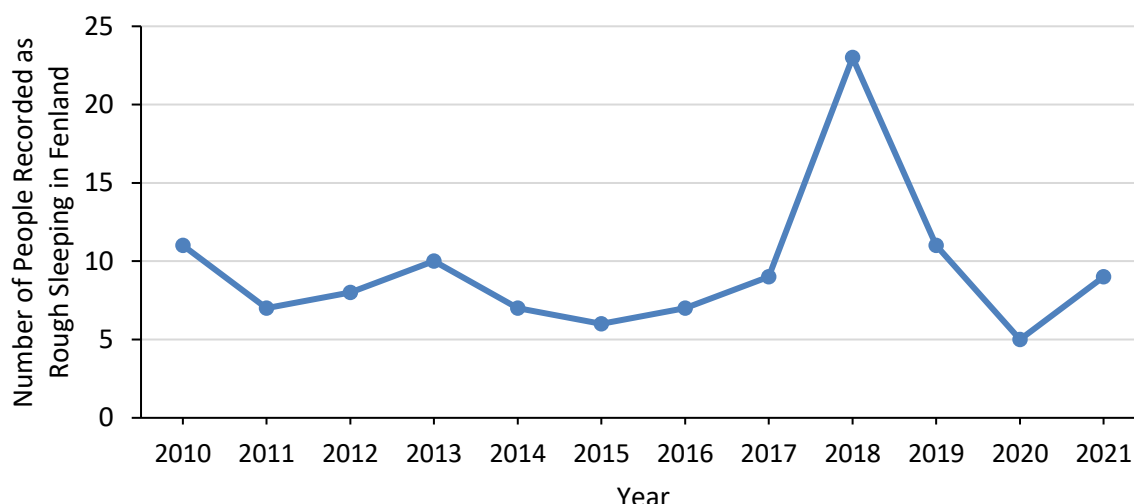
Figures related to homelessness specifically in Fenland are available predominantly via the annual rough sleeping survey and statutory returns on homelessness prevention and relief. These are outlined below.

Figure 9 shows the annual number of rough sleepers in Fenland, counted on a single day in Autumn between October 1st and November 30th. The count is carried out by outreach workers, local charities and community groups. Independent verification is carried out by Homeless Link (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2022).

There was a sharp increase in 2018, followed by a sharp decrease in 2019, continuing to 2020, followed by a small uptick. Whilst this gives an indication as to the fluctuations in the number of people rough sleeping in each district from year to year, there are clear limitations to only taking a measurement on a single day. This is demonstrated by the disparity in November 2019, between the snapshot in autumn figures (which showed 11 rough sleepers) and the number of rough sleepers Fenland District Council were working with (35). The snapshot for autumn reported 5 rough sleepers in 2020, whilst the council reported 52 as of April 2020 (Fenland District Council, 2020). As mentioned in a report by Shelter (2021), this snapshot in

autumn may miss those who choose not to “bed down” at night, or to sleep in hidden places due to fear of violence. Research has shown particular concerns around rough sleepers fearing gender-motivated violence (Bretherton & Pleace, 2018), and Shelter has highlighted concerns over racially-motivated violence (Shelter, 2021).

Figure 9: The Annual “Snapshot on a day in Autumn” of the Number of People Recorded as Rough Sleeping in Fenland from 2010-2021



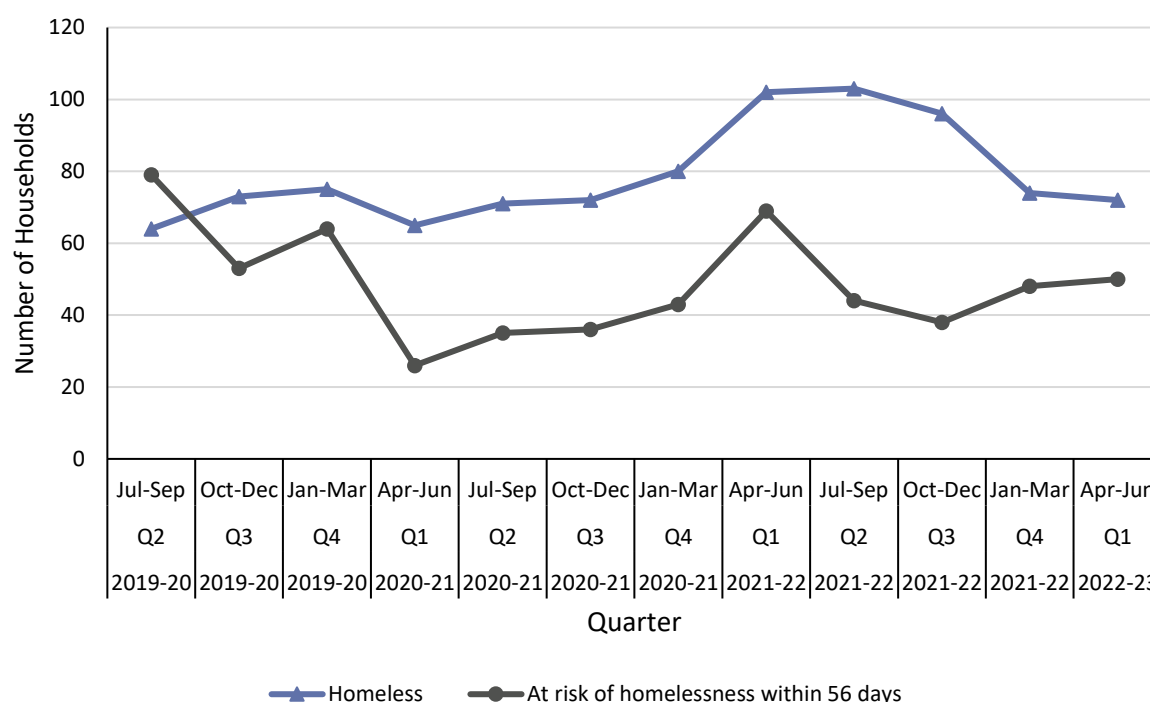
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2022)

Figures on the number of applications for prevention and relief duty from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government can also give an indication of the levels of homelessness.

Homeless households who apply and are deemed eligible for support are classed as being owed relief duty. Households at risk of homelessness within 56 days who apply, and are deemed eligible, for support are classed as being owed prevention duty. Figure 10 shows the number of households owed relief or prevention duty increased between quarter 1 (April to June) of 2020-21 to a peak in quarter 1 of 2021-22.

The number of households owed relief duty gradually decreased over the following quarters, whereas the number owed prevention duty showed a sharper initial decrease, with more variability between quarters. Figures from the final quarter of 2021-22 were similar to those in the first quarter of 2022-23. Further data on Fenland from The Housing Board for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough & West Suffolk (Personal communication), suggests that single adult households accounted for 68% of those owed relief duty in the year 2021-22; with 50% of the total applications owed relief duty being single adult males.

Figure 10: Quarterly Number of Households in Fenland Classed as Homeless or at Risk of Homelessness Within 56 Days at Assessment for New Homelessness Applications from July 2019 to June 2022



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2022).

There are limitations as to how well figures on prevention and relief duty reflect levels of homelessness and housing insecurity. Prior to the pandemic, these figures would not include those with “no recourse to public funds” (or NRPF); this includes:

- Those who do not have permission to be in the UK;
- Those who do have permission, but on the condition that they have NRPF;
- Those who are classed as having a “maintenance undertaking” (e.g. an adult dependent of a relative with settled status will have NRPF for 5 years).

The figures will also not have included those who are not classed as having NRPF, but are not eligible for benefits, homelessness assistance, or social housing through the council register, such as:

- Those immigrating from EEA countries who are prevented from accessing benefits (e.g. jobseekers are unable to claim housing benefits).
- UK and Irish nationals immigrating from outside the UK, RoI, Isle of Man, or Channel Islands must live in the UK for three months before they are eligible to claim benefits (Cambridgeshire Insight, n.d.).

However, the government’s response to Covid-19 meant that those who typically would be ineligible for homelessness assistance, may have become eligible. Moreover, these measures may have reduced the number of those who could have been at risk of homelessness and in need of assistance. This response included a ban on private rented sector evictions; lengthened notice periods for landlords; a restriction on Bailiff enforcement; mortgage payment holidays; and the “Everyone In”

scheme, in which authorities provided emergency accommodation to those in need. This included those not normally eligible for assistance (such as those with NRPF). A full breakdown of measures and their dates is detailed in Appendix C. As of June 2021, 84 people had been accommodated under the Everyone In scheme in Fenland, 66 (or 79%) of whom were successfully moved in to settled accommodation or supported housing. This period of support appears to coincide with lower numbers of those being owed prevention duty as shown in Figure 10.

Nationally, these measures were associated with a 20% reduction in the number of households threatened with homelessness (and therefore owed a prevention duty), and a 14% increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation on 30th June 2020 compared to the previous year (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020; The Housing Board, 2021). In Fenland however, the number of households owed prevention duty decreased by 47% for the year 2020-21 from the previous year (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2022). The end of this period of support (30th June 2021) appears to coincide with the peak in those owed prevention and relief duty in Figure 10. The following decrease that can be seen in those owed prevention duty coincides with the lockdown easing period. More analysis would be needed to determine whether this was related to the benefits of freedom of movement (such as the re-opening of businesses and enabling travel to work).

7.3. Substance Misuse

National statistics to understand trends in drug use are sourced from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). The most recent update of this estimated that approximately 1 in 11 adults aged 16 to 59 years and approximately 1 in 5 adults aged 16 to 24 years reported having used drugs in the year ending June 2022 (ONS, 2022).

Research has identified direct links between substance misuse and shoplifting of specific items. A study by Smith and Clarke (2015) indicated that products in supermarkets that are known to serve roles in illicit drug use were shoplifted at higher rates than products that do not. More detailed information recorded about items stolen in crime reports may help identify this pattern.

The latest drug and alcohol needs assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is due to be published in spring 2023. This evidence base is required to understand substance misuse in Fenland specifically.

7.4. Modern Slavery and exploitation

Modern Slavery and exploitation can be linked to shoplifting where victims engage in survival shoplifting (not having access to resources for basic needs whilst being exploited), but also through forced acquisitive crime (as the form of exploitation).

In a research report by the Home Office (2017) on 328 confirmed cases of modern slavery in the UK, a small number (1%) took the form of forcing victims to commit acquisitive crimes. This included both pickpocketing and shoplifting (usually alcohol). In return victims were offered accommodation and food, but were rarely paid. Victims were all adults, and were only identified as victims of modern slavery after being arrested by the police. They were often recruited in their country of origin, but given false information about the work they were expected to carry out, and often also experienced labour or sexual exploitation. However in another study looking at a sample of modern slavery in England between April 2015 and June 2018 (Lightowers, et al., 2022), only 10% of victims were identified directly by the police whilst the offence was still taking place. 34% of cases were historic offences which had ceased before coming to the attention of the police, with an average lag of approximately 2 months in cases of forced criminality (in the form of forced begging or shoplifting). The length of time that victims of forced criminality were exploited for varied considerably, but on average lasted for approximately a year.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary Analysis of Serious Organised Crime (SOC) notes that local conditions mean the occurrence of Modern Slavery in Fenland is likely. However there remains gaps in identifying Modern Slavery in the local area with offence counts relatively low considering the acknowledged risk levels. As such the CSP needs to keep in mind the potential links with Modern Slavery when addressing shoplifting in the area.

Appendix A: Detailed map of hotspot analysis - Shoplifting in Fenland

Figure 11: Hotspot map of shoplifting offences in the A1101 area in Wisbech during the period July 2019 and September 2022

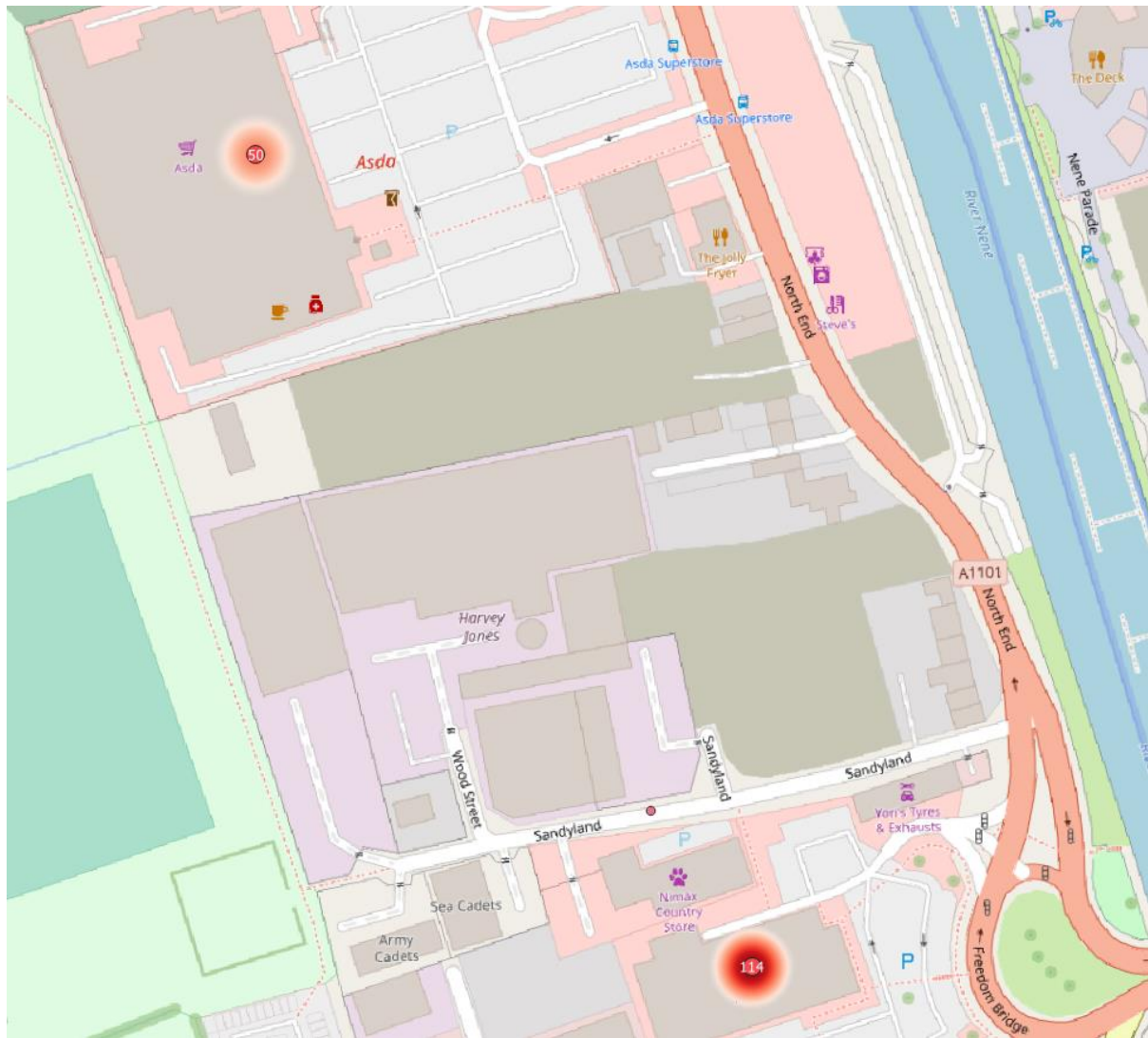
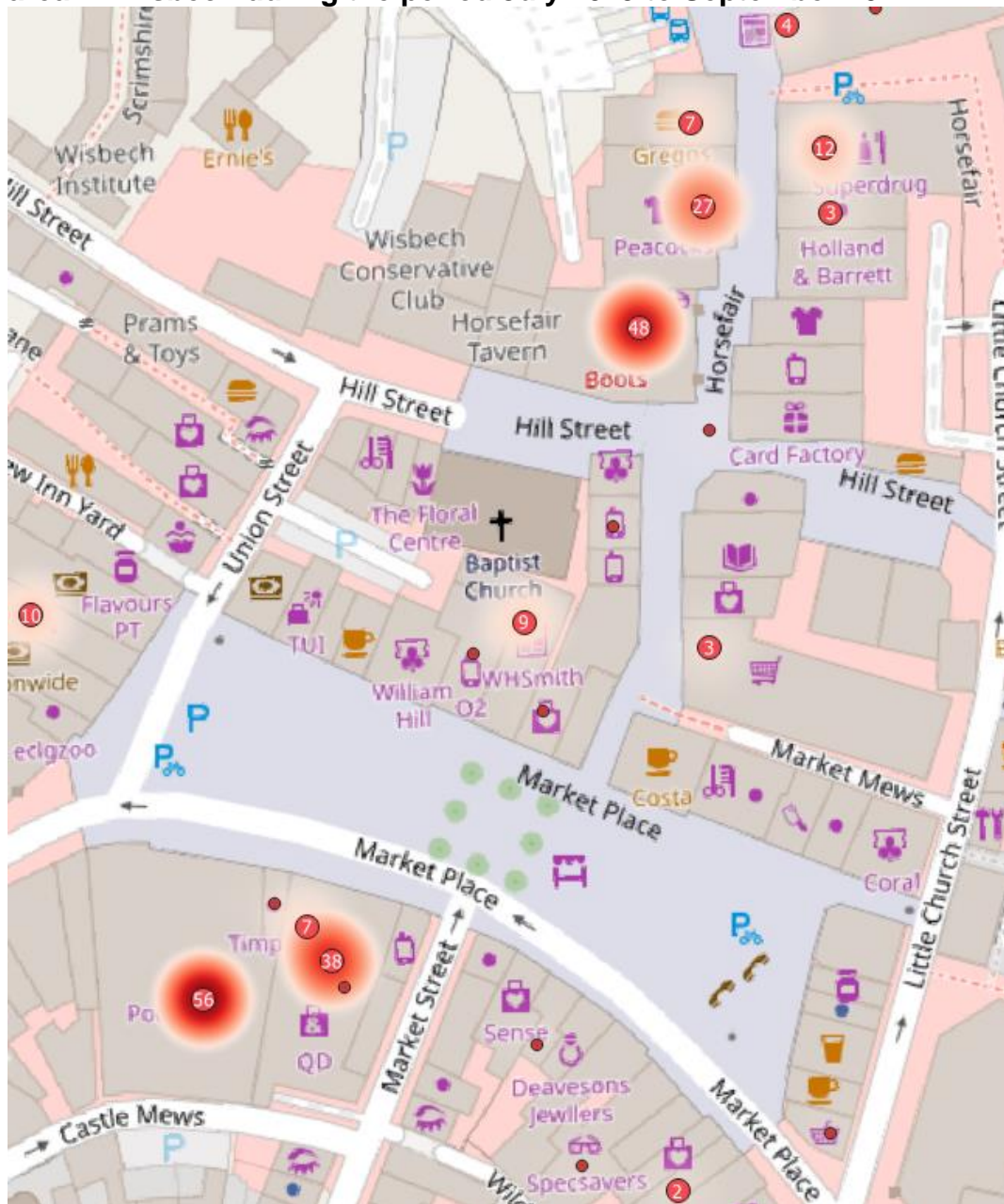
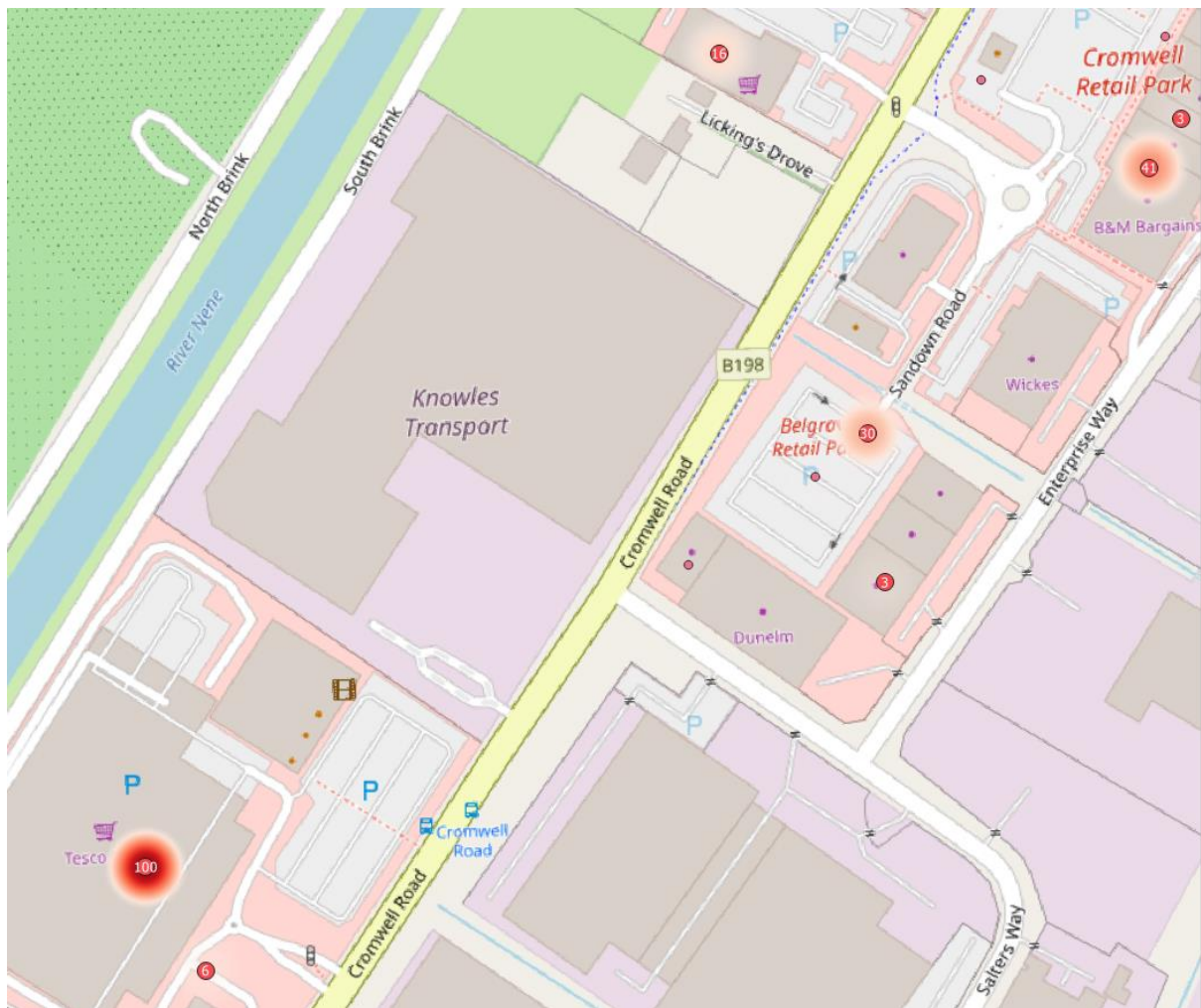


Figure 12: Hotspot map of shoplifting offences in Horsefair and Market Place area in Wisbech during the period July 2019 to September 2022



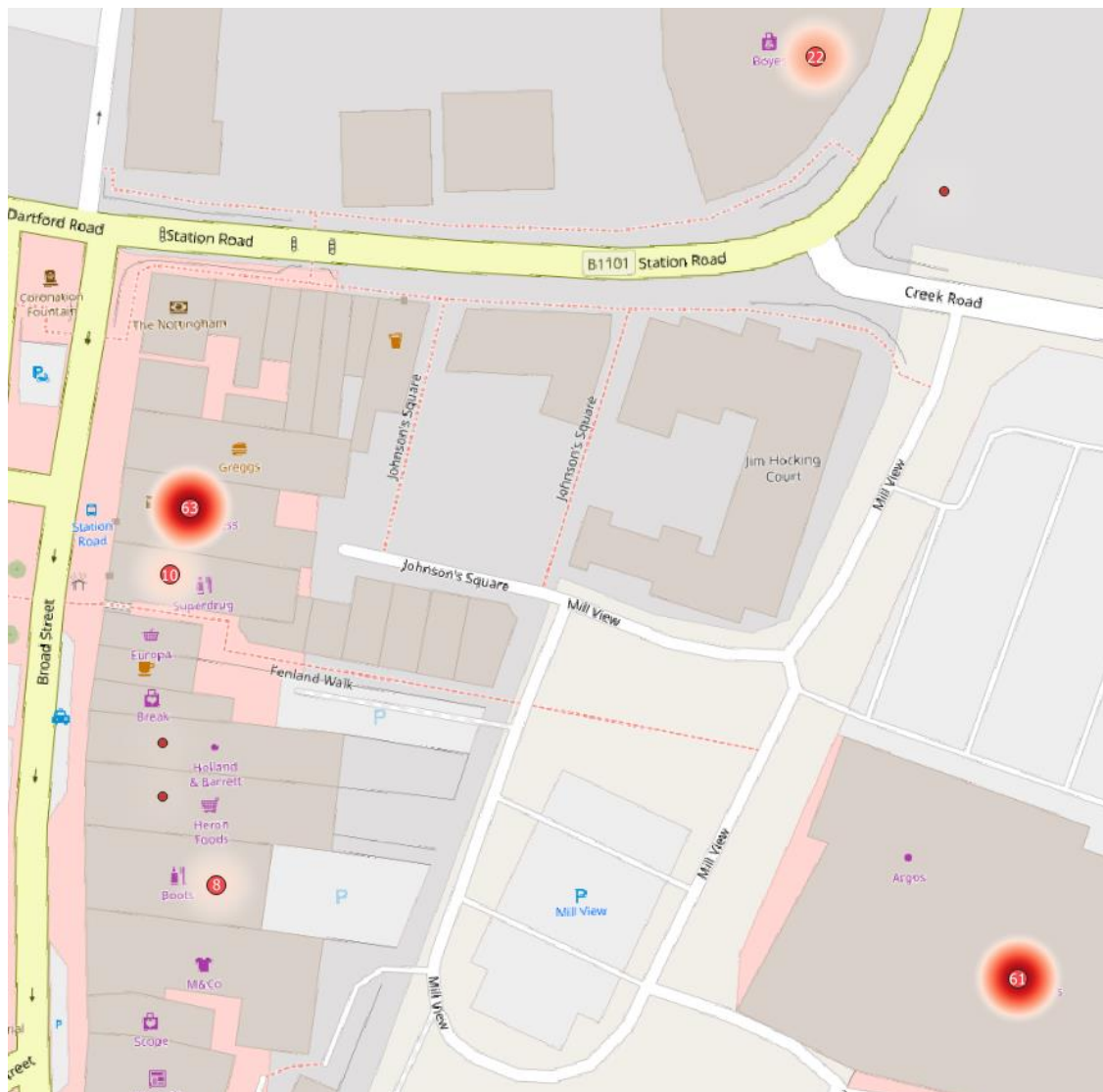
Note: Whilst 56 offences map directly to Poundland on the above map, additional inspection of the crime record comments shows that a further 6 of the 7 offences located between Poundland and QD took place in Poundland. This leaves a total of 62 offences in Poundland.

Figure 13: Hotspot map of shoplifting offences on Cromwell Road area in Wisbech during the period July 2019 to September 2022



Note: Of the 30 offences shown as taking place in Belgrave retail park, 19 took place at B&M in Cromwell retail park, bringing the total of offences for B&M up from 41 to 60.

Figure 14: Hotspot map of shoplifting offences in Broad Street area in March during the period June 2019 to September 2022



Appendix B: Deprivation definitions for 2011 and 2021 census

Table 6: Definitions of deprivation in the 2011 and 2021 census from Office for National Statistics

Dimension	2011	2021
Education	Education: no person in the household has at least level 2 education (see highest level of qualification), and no person aged 16-18 is a fulltime student.	Education: A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.
Employment	Employment: any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick.	Employment: A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability.
Health	Health & disability: any person in the household has general health 'bad or very bad' or has a long term health problem.	Health: A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled. People who have assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses are considered disabled. This definition of a disabled person meets the harmonised standard for measuring disability and is in line with the Equality Act (2010).
Housing	Housing: Household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.	Housing A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.

Sources: 2011 census deprivation dimension definitions source: Office for National Statistics 2011 Households by Deprivation Dimensions (2013); 2021 census deprivation dimension definitions source: Office for National Statistics Census Map (2022).

Appendix C: The government response to Covid-19

The government's response included:

- A ban on private rented sector evictions (between 27th March and 20th September 2020);
- Lengthened notice periods for landlords;
- A restriction on Bailiff enforcement (from 17 November 2020 until 31 May 2021);
- mortgage payment holidays (introduced in March 2020);
- The “Everyone In” scheme, which was introduced on 26th March 2020.

The Everyone in Scheme

As a part of the Everyone In scheme, authorities were asked to provide emergency accommodation to people who were rough sleeping, those at risk of rough sleeping, and those living in shelters with shared sleeping arrangements. This included those not normally eligible for assistance (i.e. those with no recourse to public funds [NRPF]). Nationally, this was rolled back in May 2020, but Local Authorities were left to their own discretion to decide whether to re-instate pre-pandemic policy on those with NRPF (Shelter, 2021).

Appendix D: Glossary

Table 7: Glossary of terms and acronyms

Term/acronym	Definition
BenCH CRC Cohort	“Adult offenders in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough managed by the Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire” (BeNCH) CRC” (Community Rehabilitation Company). (Cambridgeshire Research Group, 2020).
CSEW	Crime Survey for England and Wales
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Includes several domains relating to deprivation on which geographical areas are scored, including: Income, Employment, Education, Skills and Training, Health Deprivation and Disability, Living Environment, Crime, Barriers to Housing and Services; and Income sub-domains: IDACI (Income Deprivation affecting children), and IDAOPI (Income Deprivation affecting Older People).
Low threshold services	A type of support service for various forms of social exclusion, which make minimal demands on service users.
LSOA (Lower Super Output Area)	An LSOA is a geographical area, usually comprising of between 400 to 1200 households, and a resident population of between 1000 and 3000 people (ONS, 2023).
Modern Slavery	“Modern slavery is a complex crime that covers all forms of slavery, trafficking and exploitation. Trafficking includes transporting, recruiting or harbouring an individual with a view to them being exploited.” The 5 main types of exploitation that victims of modern slavery may experience are: labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting (ONS, 2020)
NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds)	This includes: those who do not have permission to be in the UK; those who do have permission, but on the condition that they have NRPF; and those who are classed as having a

	“maintenance undertaking” (e.g. an adult dependent of a relative with settled status will have NRPF for 5 years) (Cambridgeshire Insight, n.d.).
SCAs	“Street culture activities”. Includes street drinking, begging, or survival shoplifting.
Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)	Defined by the Home Office as “individuals planning, co-ordinating and committing serious offences, whether individually, in groups and/or as part of transnational networks. The main categories of serious offences covered are: child sexual exploitation and abuse; illegal drugs; illegal firearms; fraud; money laundering and other economic crime; bribery and corruption; organised immigration crime; modern slavery and human trafficking; and cyber crime” (Home Office, 2019)
Social exclusion	Social exclusion is a complex and multi-dimensional process. It involves the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political arenas. It affects both the quality of life of individuals and the equity and cohesion of society as a whole.” (PSE, 2016). It includes for example homelessness, survival shoplifting, institutional care, and substance misuse.

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[Plan/pdf/Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.pdf?m=637340317660370000](https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/15686/Homelessness-and-Rough-Sleeping-Action-Plan/pdf/Homelessness_and_Rough_Sleeping_Strategy.pdf?m=637340317660370000)

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