

## Alcohol-related crimes and incidents in Peterborough's OP Can Do area

This report covers all incidents and crimes (alcohol-related and otherwise) recorded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary within the boundaries of Peterborough City Council's 'OP Can Do' area, which includes parts of North, Central and Park Wards. Its aim is to provide quantitative data on the prevalence of alcohol-related crimes and incidents and whether or not these correlate to the presence of licensed premises in this area to support the Peterborough City Council's review of the policy undergirding OP Can Do.

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### Key findings

Based on the data examined for this report, it is not clear if the Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) in the OP Can Do area is having the intended effect. There appears to be no positive effect on the occurrence of alcohol-related incidents and crimes over this time. In fact:

- **Alcohol-related incidents occurred at approximately the same rate over the last three years**, as a percentage of all incidents (declining less than 1% from October 2017 to September 2020). Over this period, **alcohol-related incidents declined in absolute terms**, but this is more likely a result of the COVID-19 response (lockdown).
- **Alcohol-related crimes actually rose** as a percentage of all crimes, and in absolute, year-on-year terms, over the same period, but **non-alcohol-related crimes fell**.
- Alcohol-related incidents and crimes have also been stable in terms of where they are concentrated in the OP Can Do area: the **same group of postcodes are afflicted year after year**, with little change in concentration.
- **Alcohol-related incidents and alcohol-related crimes tend to occur in different areas: the former in more commercial areas and the latter in more residential areas.**

Specific figures are provided below to support these points. However, before an assessment can be made as to whether or not the OP Can Do area should be maintained, altered or scrapped, a comparative analysis of this area with other, similar areas in Peterborough should be completed and a further analysis going back to the pre-CIP period should be completed.

### Date and method

Data were provided by the Force Performance Team and cover the period 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2020. Crime data are drawn from CrimeFile for 2017 and part of 2018, and Athena from mid-2018 onward. All incident data are drawn from C&C3. The data set is extensive, but incomplete as it relies on those creating records to apply an 'alcohol' tag or code for each entry. These are not always applied. Furthermore, the switch from CrimeFile to Athena in mid-2018 caused a disruption in reporting and produced artificial declines in crime numbers. This is due to missing crime reports. Data on licensed premises in Peterborough are drawn from a list dated 18 August 2020 and provided by a Peterborough-based Strategic Regulatory Officer – Licensing.

Because the OP Can Do area does not align precisely with ward boundaries, mapping based on 'hotspot' analysis and postcode choropleths is used to show correlation between alcohol-related

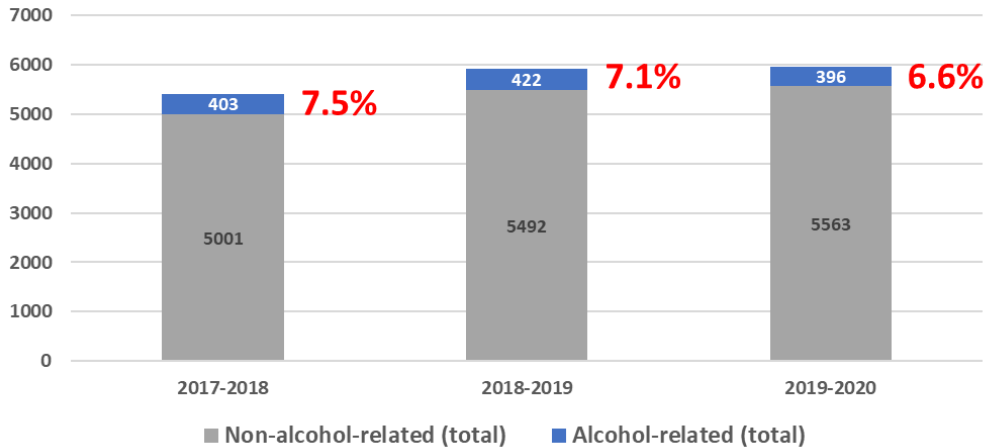
incidents and crimes and licensed premises locations, and with the locations for all incidents and crimes in the same area. In brief, this report provides:

1. Temporal analysis: year-on-year comparisons of total incidents and crimes, total alcohol-related incidents and crimes, and the percentage of incidents and crimes that are alcohol-related.
  - a. Based on three twelve-month periods from October to September, 2017 to 2020.
2. Spatial analysis comparing the areas of concentration (using postcode-based choropleths and top-ten postcode tables) including:
  - a. Proximity of all incidents and crimes, and alcohol-related incidents and crimes to licensed premises.
  - b. Areas where alcohol-related incidents are most prevalent versus where alcohol-related crimes are.
  - c. Areas where general incidents and crimes are most prevalent versus where alcohol-related incidents and crimes are.

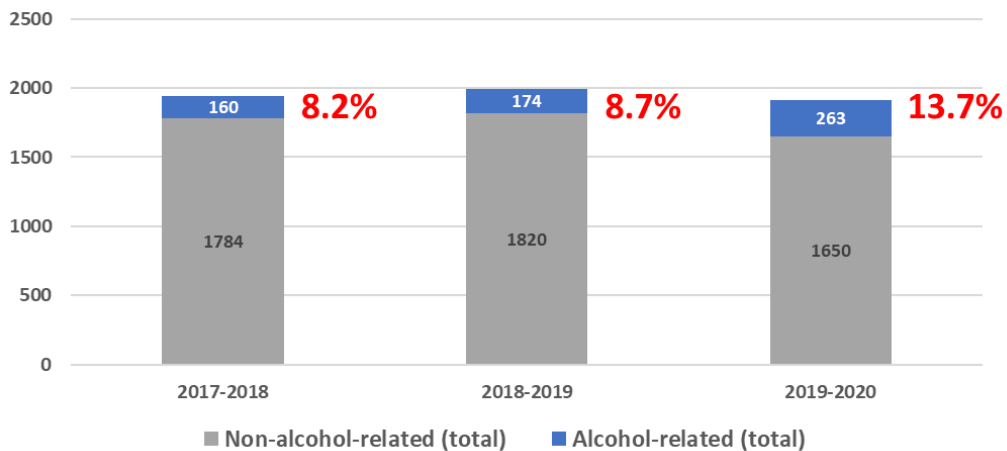
This report did not compare the occurrence of alcohol-related incidents and crimes in other parts of Peterborough to the OP Can Do area, nor did it include a deeper historical look at the whole CIP period since 2013, though such comparisons would be useful in providing a more comprehensive assessment as to the efficacy of the CIP in the OP Can Do area.

Temporal comparison: alcohol-related incidents and crimes since October 2017

Alcohol-related incidents as a percentage of all incidents, total by twelve month period



Alcohol-related crimes as a percentage of all crimes, total by twelve month period



Key points:

- Alcohol-related incidents declined each twelve-month period from October 2017 to September 2020, as a percentage of all incidents, and in absolute terms from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020.
- Alcohol-related crimes rose in both as a percentage of all crimes and in absolute terms in the same period, and rose by 51% from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020.

From October 2018-September 2019, alcohol-related incidents rose by 5% compared to the same period in 2017-2018 (up 19, to 422 from 403) but such incidents *declined by 6%* in the 2019-2020 period (down 26, to 396 from 422). This decline is likely attributable to the ‘COVID effect’, whereby the pandemic response and closure of the night-time economy and hospitality industry meant less public intoxication and fights. This decline is mirrored in total incidents: in the 2018-2019 period, incidents rose by 9% over 2017-2018, but rose by only 1% in the 2019-2020 period.

As a percentage of all incidents, alcohol-related incidents occurred at a relatively constant rate over the period examined: from 2017-2018 they were 7.5%, 7.2% in 2018-2019 and 6.7% in 2019-2020, so becoming slightly less frequent as a percentage of all incidents (a decline of .8%).

Alcohol-related crimes rose more dramatically in the timeframe of this report: from 2018-2019, such crimes rose by 9% versus 2017-2018 (up 14, to 174 from 160) but *were up a significant 51%* in 2019-2020 (up 89, to 263 from 174). The reason for this rise is unclear, but may be attributable to two primary factors: one data related (an artificial drop in crime figures in 2018 due to the system switch from

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CrimeFile to Athena) and the other COVID-19 related (as reflected in the spatial dispersion of alcohol-related crimes, perhaps alcohol fuelled more violence in the home and at private residences and residential areas, versus at public venues that were closed during the ‘lockdown’). This rise was *not observed* in all crimes for the same period: in the 2019-2020 period, *all crimes actually fell by 4.1%* (after rising by 2.6% in the 2018-2019 period). As a percentage of all crimes, alcohol-related crimes occurred at a relatively constant rate between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019: 8.2% and 8.7% of all crimes, respectively. However, in the 2019-2020, alcohol-related crimes were 13.7% of all recorded crimes. This is not surprising given the decline in crimes overall, but the rise in alcohol-related crimes, and this gives more credence to the ‘COVID effect’ driving crimes up at residential locations. This maybe attributable to the ‘lockdown’, when sales of alcohol rose and surveys showed people were drinking more at home.<sup>1</sup> During this time, crime in general declined as people stayed home.

Month	INCIDENTS									Month	CRIMES								
	2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020				2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020		
	All	% alcohol	Alcohol	All	% alcohol	Alcohol	All	% alcohol	Alcohol		All	% alcohol	Alcohol	All	% alcohol	Alcohol	All	% alcohol	Alcohol
Oct	504	6.5%	33	419	5.5%	23	469	5.5%	26	Oct	194	9.3%	18	150	2.0%	3	157	17.2%	27
Nov	479	6.9%	33	422	5.5%	23	472	8.3%	39	Nov	207	9.2%	19	124	7.3%	9	141	9.2%	13
Dec	431	9.7%	42	481	9.1%	44	423	8.0%	34	Dec	173	12.7%	22	151	8.6%	13	148	18.2%	27
Jan	425	5.2%	22	475	9.9%	47	496	5.2%	26	Jan	147	11.6%	17	181	7.2%	13	178	14.0%	25
Feb	400	5.5%	22	468	7.5%	35	391	10.0%	39	Feb	127	8.7%	11	162	4.3%	7	130	13.1%	17
Mar	436	6.7%	29	458	5.7%	26	449	7.6%	34	Mar	157	12.1%	19	203	6.9%	14	152	13.8%	21
Apr	454	7.3%	33	500	8.4%	42	541	4.8%	26	Apr	150	12.7%	19	191	14.7%	28	137	16.8%	23
May	446	4.3%	19	529	6.8%	36	512	7.6%	39	May	152	6.6%	10	148	10.1%	15	136	13.2%	18
Jun	412	10.9%	45	583	7.2%	42	532	6.4%	34	Jun	158	3.8%	6	160	8.1%	13	186	12.4%	23
Jul	519	9.6%	50	519	9.2%	48	564	4.6%	26	Jul	175	3.4%	6	181	13.8%	25	196	12.2%	24
Aug	459	7.8%	36	538	6.7%	36	563	6.9%	39	Aug	156	5.1%	8	165	14.5%	24	165	12.1%	20
Sep	429	9.1%	39	494	4.0%	20	533	6.4%	34	Sep	148	3.4%	5	178	5.6%	10	187	13.4%	25
TOTAL	5394	7.5%	403	5886	7.2%	422	5945	6.7%	396	TOTAL	1944	8.2%	160	1994	8.7%	174	1913	13.7%	263
Avg per 12 month period	450	7.5%	34	491	7.1%	35	495	6.8%	33	Avg per 12 month period	162	8.2%	13	166	8.6%	15	159	13.8%	22
Avg over 3 years	478	7.1%	34			Avg during lockdown	528	6.3%	33	Avg over 3 years	163	10.2%	17			Avg during lockdown	153	14.1%	21

The table above reflects the so-called ‘COVID effect’ on both incidents and crimes (alcohol-related and not). The average number of alcohol-related incidents during lockdown (April to June 2020) is 33, which is below or equal to the average for each of the three twelve-month periods, and below the average for the entire three-year period. Further, the average percentage of incidents that were alcohol-related during the lockdown (6.3%) is lower than each of the three twelve-month averages and the average for the whole period, but the average number of incidents per month during lockdown (528) is substantially higher (this is due to an increase in incidents related to COVID-19 breaches). The opposite effect is seen in crimes (the table to the right). There, the monthly average number of crimes in lockdown (153) is below all other averages, but the monthly average for alcohol-related crimes during lockdown (21) is higher than or equal to all others, and the percentage of crimes that were alcohol-related during this time (14.1%) is well above all other averages. ***Alcohol drove crimes higher in 2020, especially during the pandemic response, but it was less of a factor in incidents during the same period.***

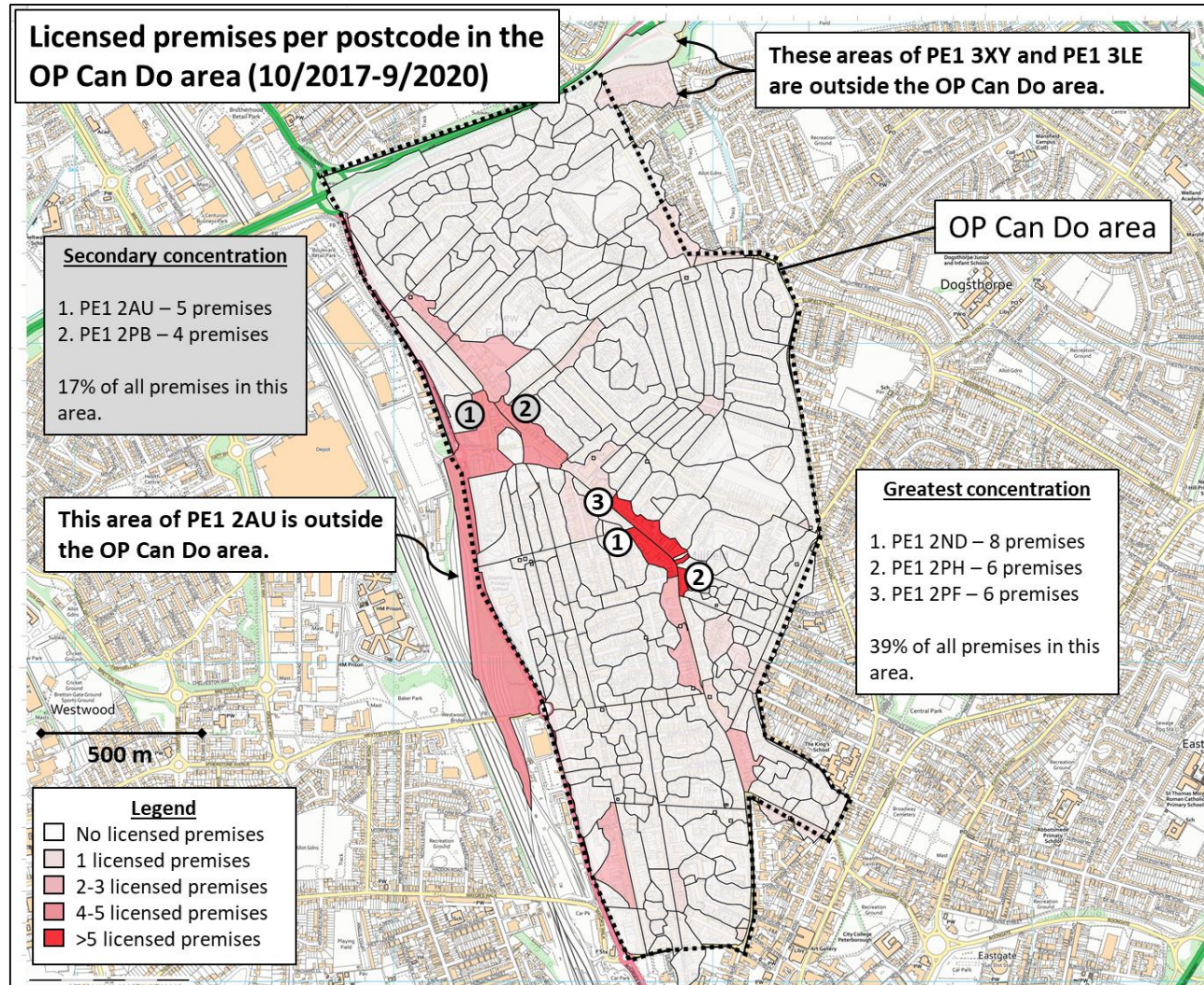
<sup>1</sup> Household drinking was examined in an Institute of Alcohol Studies survey in June 2020 (<http://www.ias.org.uk/uploads/pdf/IAS%20reports/sb28062020.pdf>). Off-license sales (especially at supermarkets) were covered by *The Guardian* in a 21 July 2020 story (<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/jul/21/uk-grocery-sales-covid-19-outbreak-local-shops>).



**Spatial comparisons: locations of incidents and crimes relative to licensed premises**

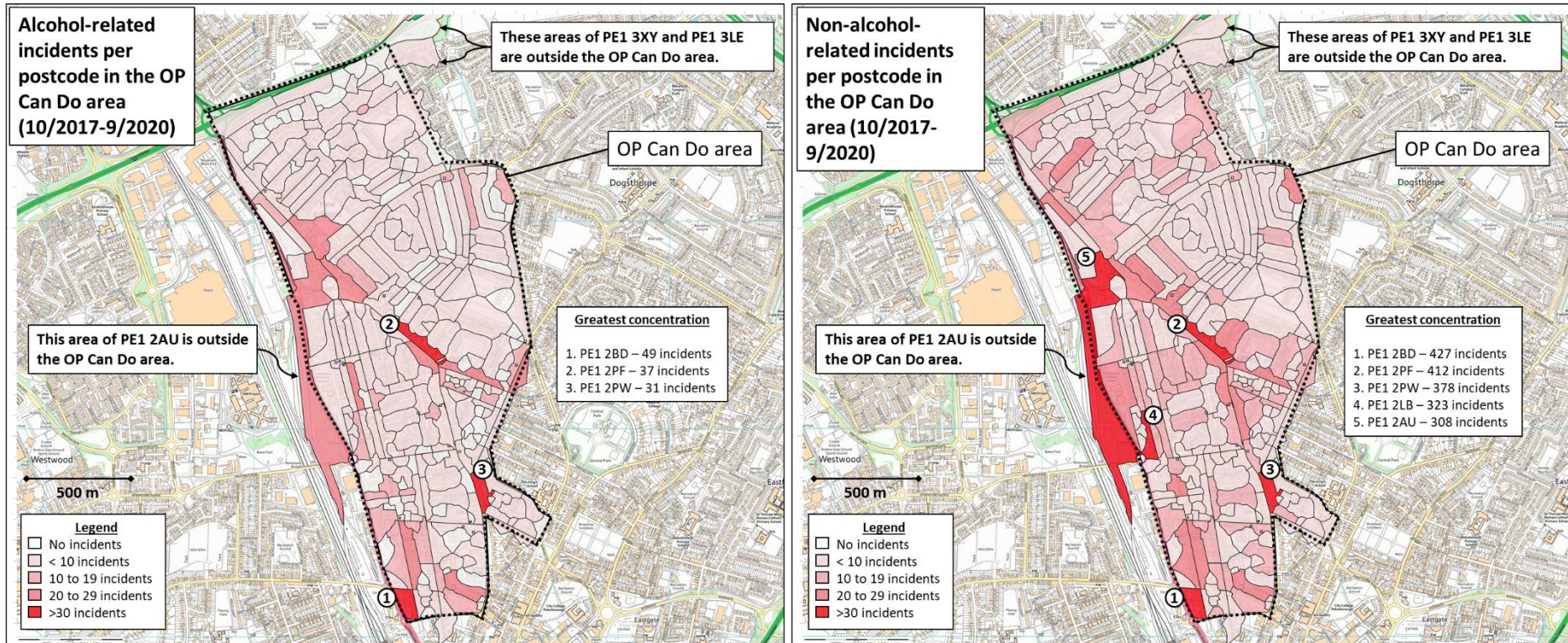
As seen in *Map 1*, licensed premises in the OP Can Do area are highly concentrated along Lincoln Road (the area’s main commercial thoroughfare) and are clustered at particular points along it. There are two primary clusters: one at Lincoln Road and Bourges Boulevard and the other at Lincoln Road and Alma Road. This concentration is reflected in *Map 2*, which shows licensed premises by postcode in the OP Can Do area, with these postcodes coloured based on the number of such locations within them (a choropleth). There are five shades, from white (no licensed location) through to red (five or more licensed premises). This shows licensed premises in this area are concentrated in only five postcodes, out of more than 300. These five include 56% of all licensed premises in the OP Can Do area. There are a handful of licensed premises away from Lincoln Road, but no significant clusters of more than one such location.

Similar five-scale choropleths were generated using data on incidents and crimes (alcohol-related and not) to determine any correlation in terms of location (whether or not alcohol-related incidents and crimes, in particular, occur nearer to licensed premises). If this were the case, it could reasonably be concluded that licensed premises help to drive alcohol-related incidents and crimes in this area and would particularly apply





to those premises where alcohol consumption occurs on site (bars, pubs, restaurants, etc.) Both clusters described above include a mix of on and off-licensed premises.

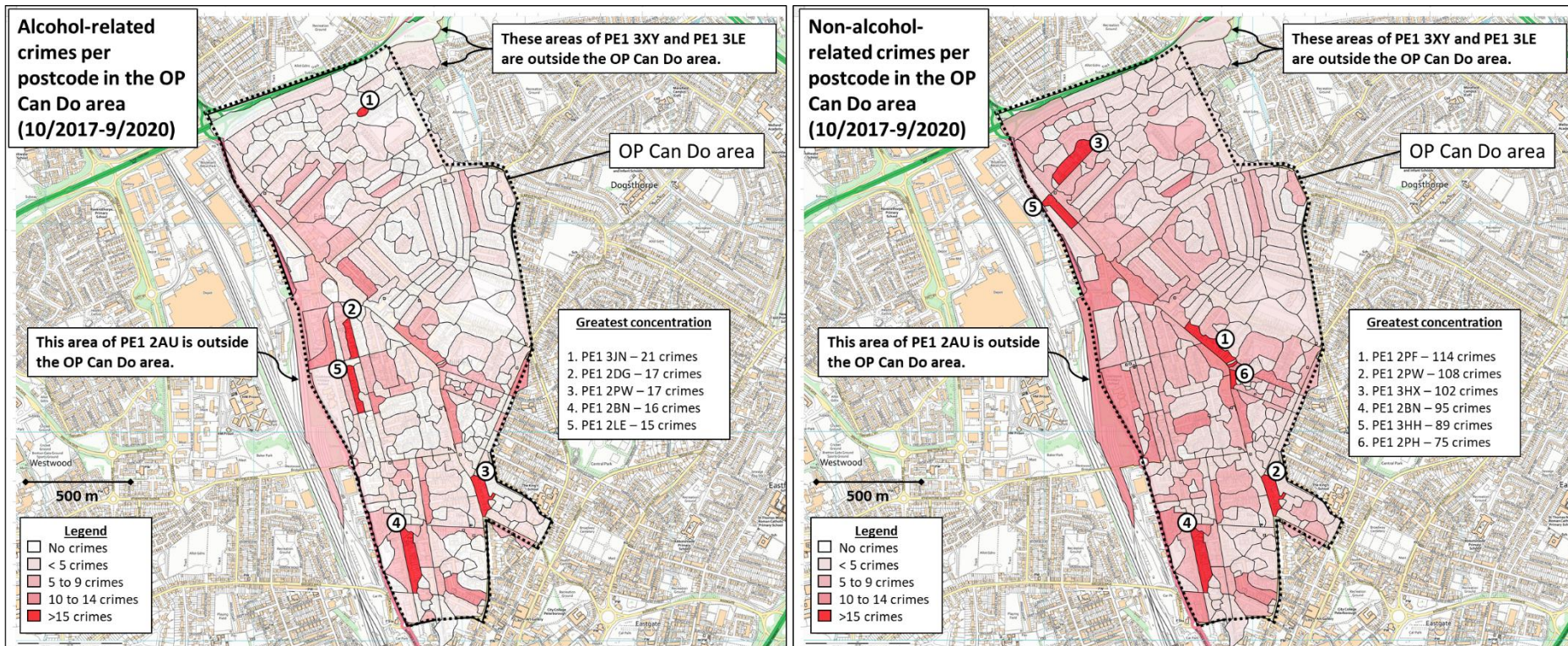


The map on the left depicts where alcohol-related incidents occurred over the three-year period, by postcode, and there is only minor overlap with the concentration of licensed premises in the OP Can Do area, with only one postcode (PE1 2PF) appearing on both choropleths. Indeed, the postcode with the most recorded alcohol-related incidents (PE1 2BD) has no licensed location and the postcode with the third highest number of such incidents (PE1 2PW) only has two (one for on-site consumption and an off-license). Other postcodes, with lower concentrations of alcohol-related incidents (such as PE1 2ND and PE1 2AU, fourth and fifth highest, respectively) do overlap more with those postcodes with the highest concentration of licensed premises. Further, the map to the right, showing non-alcohol-related incidents per postcode, shows a similar overlap: two of the top five postcodes with the more non-alcohol-related incidents also appear on the top five list for licensed premises per postcode (PE1 2PF and PE1 1AU) but the other most afflicted postcodes are outside the



‘licensed premises clusters’ (the top three postcodes for both alcohol-related and not are the same, and in the same order: PE1 2BD, with no licensed premises, PE1 2BD, part of the main cluster of licensed premises, and PE1 2PW, with two licensed premises).

Thus, the locations of licensed premises do appear to attract alcohol-related incidents, with 13% of all recorded alcohol-related incidents in the three-year period occurring within the five postcodes (out of more than 300) with the greatest number of licensed premises. However, the greatest concentrations of alcohol-related and non-alcohol-related incidents occur elsewhere in the OP Can Do area and not necessarily within close proximity to a licensed location (especially in the southern portion of the OP Can Do area, south of Taverners Road and west of Lincoln Road, where there are few licensed premises but where over one-third of all incidents occurred).

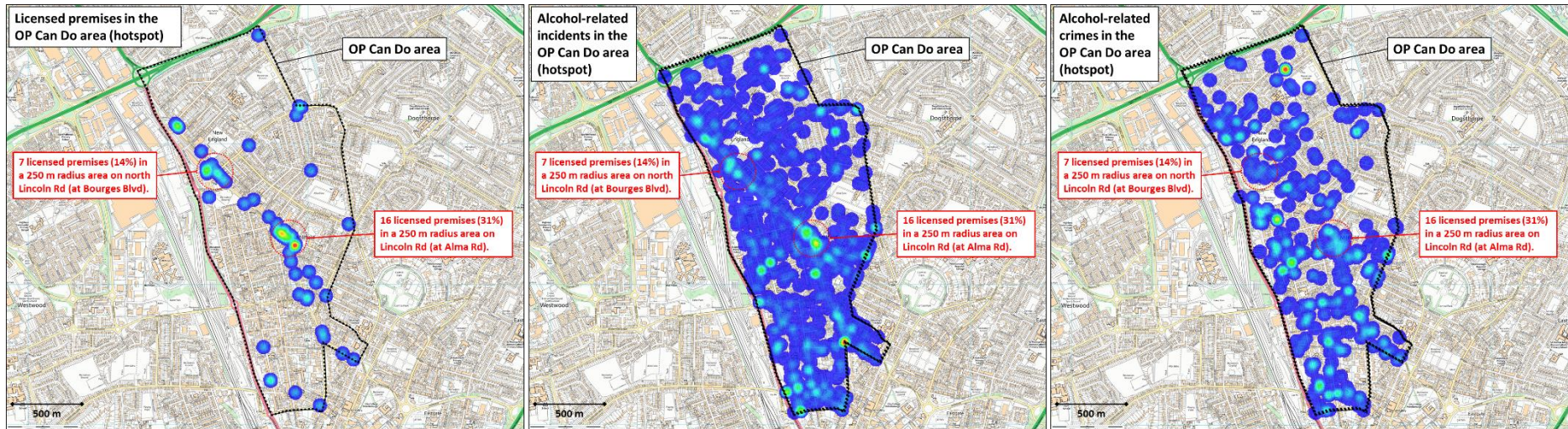


With regard to crimes, the conclusion is even less clear. As with incidents on the page above, the two maps above show crimes per postcode, on a five-colour scale: alcohol-related crimes on the left, and non-alcohol-related crimes on the right. Alcohol-related crimes appear to be concentrated in areas that do not include any (or only a few) licensed premises and appear to be primarily residential in nature. For instance, the top postcode for alcohol-related crimes is PE1



3JN, which includes the supported living facility Carl Hall Court, where 21 alcohol-related crimes occurred (nearly 5% of the total over three years). The second, fourth and fifth next highest postcodes for alcohol-related crimes (PE1 2DG, PE1 2BN and PE1 2LE, respectively) each do not include a single licensed location and are mostly residential in nature. Only PE1 2PW is a 'high alcohol-related crime postcode' that also includes (only two) licensed premises. For non-alcohol-related crime, however, the correlation is slightly stronger, with the primary cluster of licensed premises in the middle of Lincoln Road (at Alma Road) featuring (PE1 2PF is the top postcode for crimes over this period in the OP Can Do area, and it has the highest number of licensed premises). However, the more significant overlap with crime locations appears to be commercial areas in general, rather than those defined by the night-time economy and the hospitality industry.

**The bottom line is that over one-fifth of all alcohol-related crimes recorded over the three-year period examined in this report occurred in postcodes that lack a licensed location and which are primarily residential in composition, while non-alcohol-related crime appears to be more concentrated in commercial areas (especially along the Lincoln Road corridor). This breakdown is not surprising when details of alcohol-related crimes are considered: over 30% of crimes of common assault, assault without injury and assault occasioning ABH/GBH are related to domestic incidents. Alcohol is driving crimes in the OP Can Do area, especially within homes, but it is not clear if this is due to local licensed premises (though it would stand to reason that if alcohol is readily available near home, residents are likely to go to local off-licenses and bars to get it).**



The maps above are provided to reinforce the conclusions drawn from the postcode choropleths by showing as 'hotspots' where licensed premises (left map), alcohol-related incidents (middle) and alcohol-related crimes (right) are located. The hotspots are based on concentrations of event or premises location within a 50-meter radius circle: blue reflects low density (one occurrence or location) and red indicates high density (greater than 10 locations or incidents)



within 50 meters). Alcohol-related incidents are seen to concentrate primarily along the Lincoln Road corridor, from the greatest concentration (obscured by the OP Can Do area boundary in the bottom right of the map) through the clusters of licensed premises, heading northwest, with other concentrations in the southwest of the OP Can Do area (described in the postcode choropleth section as mostly lacking licensed premises). Alcohol-related crimes are much more dispersed, but the greatest concentration (at Carl Hall Court, in the northeast of the OP Can Do area) is clearly evident, with other less dense concentrations along Clarence Road and Gladstone Road, in the west-central area of the OP Can Do area. For alcohol-related crimes, there is little overlaps in terms of density with those areas with the highest concentrations of licensed premises (indicated on the maps with red circles).

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