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IHMC Incident Report March 2021

The IHMC responded to 69 incidents on the road network throughout Cambridgeshire in March, covering 23 weekdays. This is the highest number we have seen since last October and is in fact higher than March last year where restrictions were just coming into place. Please see the table below which illustrates the number of incidents over the last 6 months, compared to the same period last year.

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2019/20	74	87	79	107	96	60
2020/21	69	56	64	39	37	69

We use the term 'incident' to describe something that has happened on the County's road network which has an impact (of varying degrees) on usual traffic flows. This could include, for example, a Road Traffic Collision, a burst water main or temporary traffic lights for roadworks.

Our @Cambs_Traffic Twitter account is our quickest engagement tool with the public and the interaction gives a good indication of how effective the messages are getting out to people.

The increase in followers throughout March was lower than February, however the number of tweets sent, number of profile visits and number of tweet impressions are all higher figures compared to February.

Twitter Analytics	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Number of Followers	15,216	15,249	15,326	15,358	15,382	15,393
Increase in followers from previous month	-6	33	77	32	24	11
Number of Tweets sent	265	277	324	315	245	321
Number of profile visits	3,363	3,481	12,600	10,700	8,622	9,497
Number of Tweet impressions	538,000	646,000	674,000	684,000	478,000	633,000

Table 1: Twitter Analytics for @Cambs_Traffic

Note: The number of Tweets sent includes advance notice road works and event Tweets alongside live incident Tweets.

The number of incidents recorded peaked at 8am, followed by two smaller peaks at 1pm and 4pm.

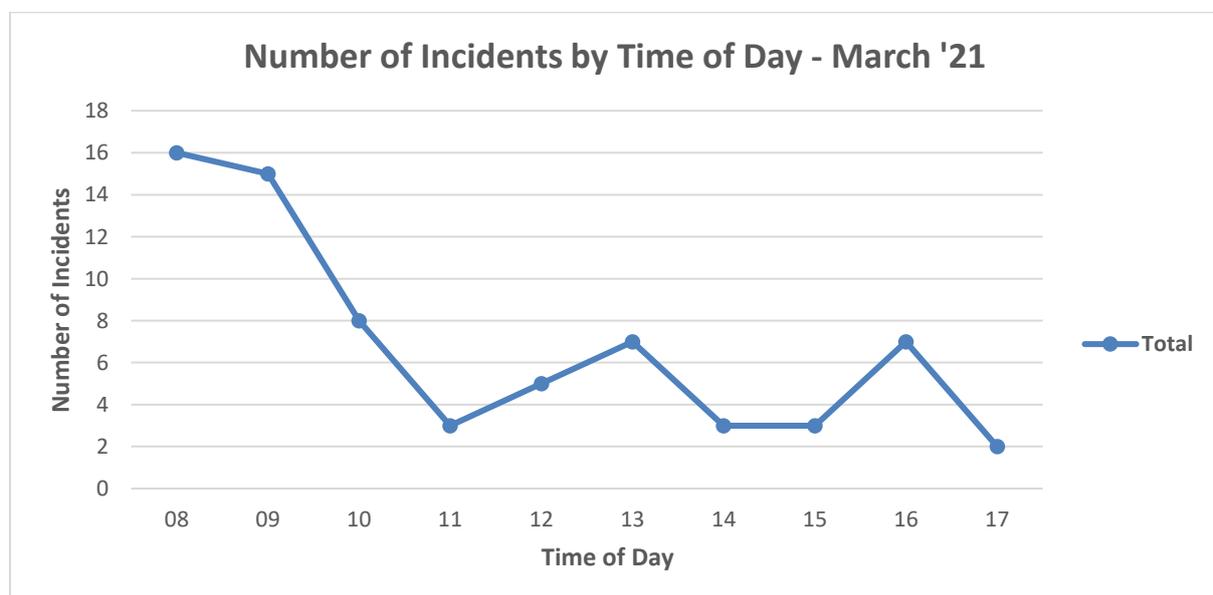


Figure 1: Number of incidents recorded by time of day March 2021



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Of the incidents recorded during March, 15% were due to Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) and 53% were due to road works (both planned and unplanned). A further 9% were due to an obstruction in the carriageway and 3% was due to a vehicle breakdown. A further 4% was due to a traffic signal fault, 1% due to flooding and 15% were classed as 'Other' which includes incidents where the cause could not be confirmed. See Figure 2 below.

Type of incident - March '21

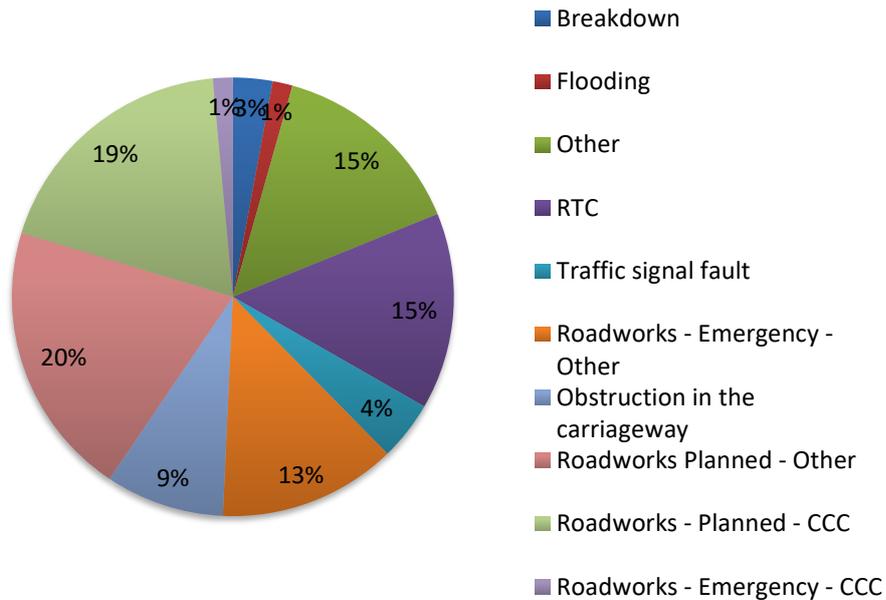


Figure 2: Type of Incident - March 2021

Of those incidents recorded 7% had a road closure, 55% temporary traffic lights, and 25% had congestion which was not considered normal for the location and time of day. (See Figure 3). A further 6% had a lane closure, 4% resulted in the road being partially blocked, 2% had a traffic signal fault and 1% had the traffic signals not working at all.

Impact of incident - March '21

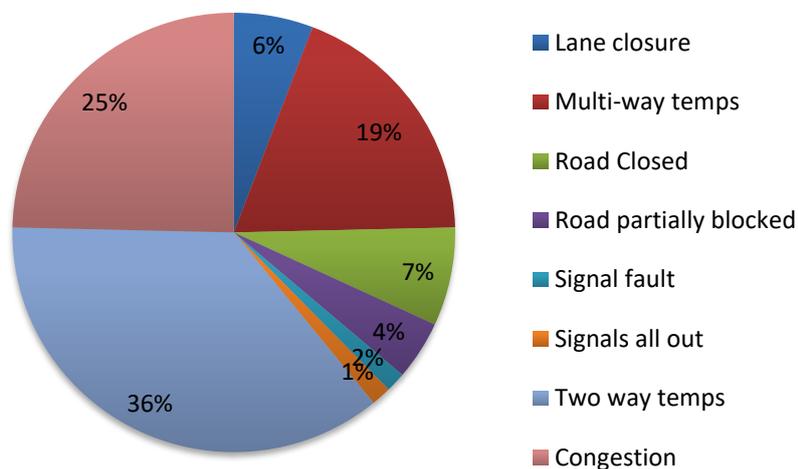


Figure 3: Impact of Incident on the network - March 2021



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This month the highest number of incidents were recorded in South Cambridgeshire, followed by Cambridge City (Figure 4, below). East Cambridgeshire had the lowest number of incidents recorded throughout March, followed closely by Fenland and Huntingdonshire.

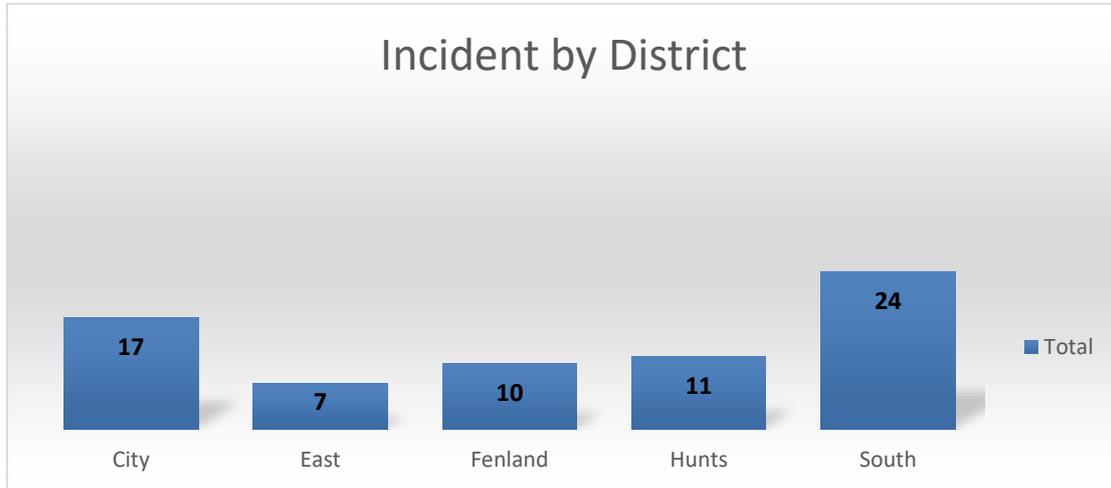


Figure 4: Incident location by District area - March 2021

During the month we responded to 24 minor incidents, 34 medium incidents, 8 major incidents and 3 critical incidents. (See Figure 5).

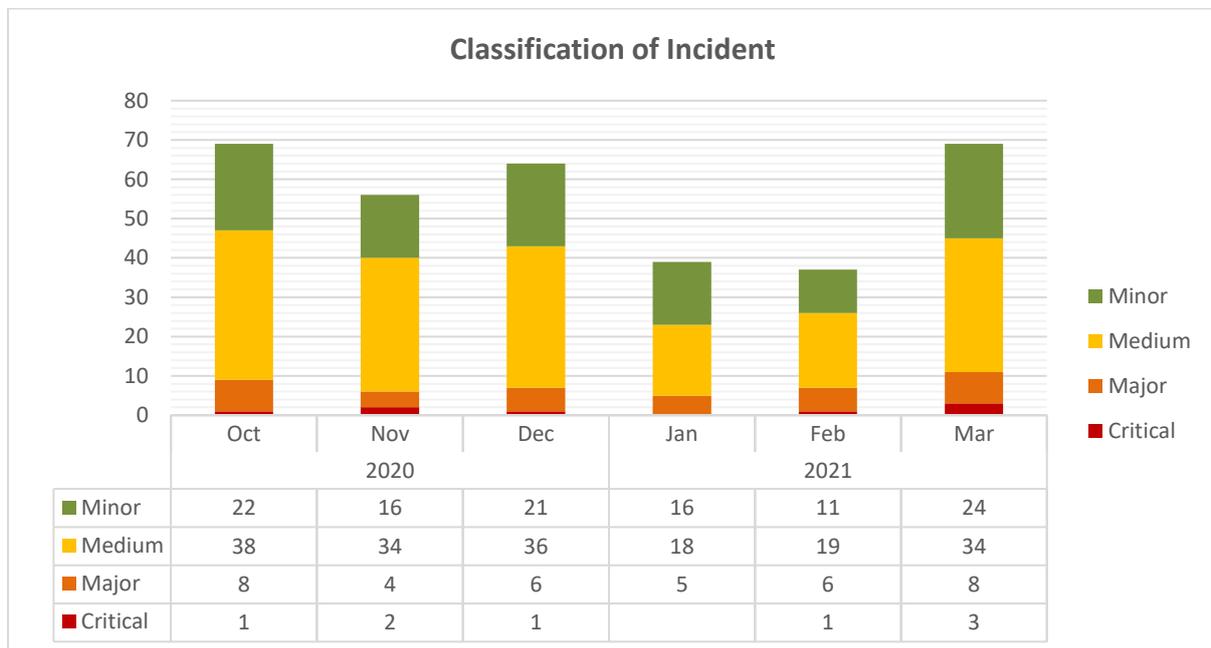


Figure 5: Classification of incident

Notes: Classification of Incidents

Minor: Delays less than 15 minutes. Low levels of congestion which are not normal conditions.

Medium: Delays of up to 30 minutes. Significant congestion which is not normal conditions.

Major: Delays of up to one hour. Severe congestion that has started to spread to neighbouring roads which is not normal conditions.

CRITICAL: Delays of over 1 hour. Congestion that has spread to numerous roads over a wide area. e.g. whole of central Cambridge.



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In March, we reached the milestone of a full year since the first restrictions and lockdown were implemented. A lot has changed in that year, and it feels like we have come full circle. The first stage of easing lockdown was introduced on the 8th March this year where schools were re-opened to all students and people could leave home for recreation and exercise outdoors with their household or support bubble. On the 29th March, outdoor gatherings for up to six people or two households was allowed, and certain outdoor sports facilities and organised sports could take place. Looking ahead, further easing is hoped take place on the 12th April where non-essential shops can open, and hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors. It will be interesting to see if this will influence traffic levels moving forward.

Please find details of the critical incidents below:

- **10/03/21** (09:40 – 17:30) **A1307 Hills Road, Cambridge** – Emergency roadworks using temporary traffic lights were causing delays which peaked at an hour.
- **11/03/21** (08:40 – 17:30) **A1307 Hills Road, Cambridge** – Emergency roadworks using temporary traffic lights were still in place and delays peaked at just over an hour.
- **11/03/21** (08:55 – 13:30) **A47 in both directions between Guyhirn and Thorney** – Road closure was implemented due to a Road Traffic Collision. Delays peaked at 1 hour 15 minutes.

Whilst there is still less traffic on the roads, we have continued operating under reduced monitoring hours, which are 08:30 - 17:30. This is being regularly assessed.

For more information on roadworks across the County, please have a look at <https://one.network/>

STAY SAFE THIS
SPRING

Continue to follow the Covid-19 guidance this spring so the roadmap can continue.

This depends on us.

Stay local Keep social distancing Stick to the rule of 6

[#ThisDependsOnUs](https://twitter.com/Cambs_Traffic)

Integrated Highways Management Centre (IHMC) – Monitors Cambridgeshire’s Highways in order to warn and advise of disruptions on the network.

Operating Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm Mon-Fri.

Contact us: 01223 507176 ihmc@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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