



**STRATHCLYDE
POLICE**

Divisional Analytical Unit

**Crimes and Incidents Oban
Drinking in Public Places
1st May 2009 – 30th April 2010**

Working Together - Building Safer Communities

Author: Analyst Researcher

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Introduction

The aim of this report is to provide a brief overview of crimes and incidents in relation to Youth Anti Social Behaviour, Disturbances and Drinking in Public within Oban in order to establish if the town would benefit from an extension in the local bye law which makes it an offence to drink alcohol in public places.

The report will identify 'hotspot' locations, provide temporal analysis and an offender profile for detected crimes.

Methodology

Twelve months data from the 1st May 2009 to 30th April 2010 was extracted from the STORM incident and Crime Management database for beats 23 and 24 and accessed via geographical mapping system Arc GIS.

All STORM incidents with disposal codes 114 (crime report submitted) and 992 (linked incident) were then removed to eliminate duplicate records. Incidents were then split into the following categories for analysis under the following criteria:

- ***Youth Anti Social Behaviour:*** all STORM incidents with Initial Serve Code 24 (complaint), 27 (drugs/solvent abuse), 28 (disturbance), 39 (knife/edged weapon), 49 (traffic-other), 55 (drinking in public places), 78 (property damaged), 79 (crime other), 98 (miscellaneous). The description text was then searched for key words relating to youths such as boy, girl, gang, teen etc and all remaining records were filtered for relevance.
- ***Drinking in Public Places:*** all STORM incidents with Initial Serve Code 55 (drinking in public places) which did not relate to youth disorder.
- ***Disturbances:*** all STORM incidents with Initial Serve Code 28 (disturbance) which did not relate to youth disorder.

In addition all Group 6 crimes in relation to drinking in public, ABC (Prohibition of Consumption of Alcohol) Bye-Laws 1999 s. 2(1) and ABC (Prohibition of Consumption of Alc) Bye-Laws (Luss) 2007 s. 2(1), were extracted from the Crime Management System for analysis.

Incidents

Youth Anti Social Behaviour Incidents

In total there were 305 incidents which related to Youth Anti Social Behaviour in beats 23 and 24 for the period under investigation.

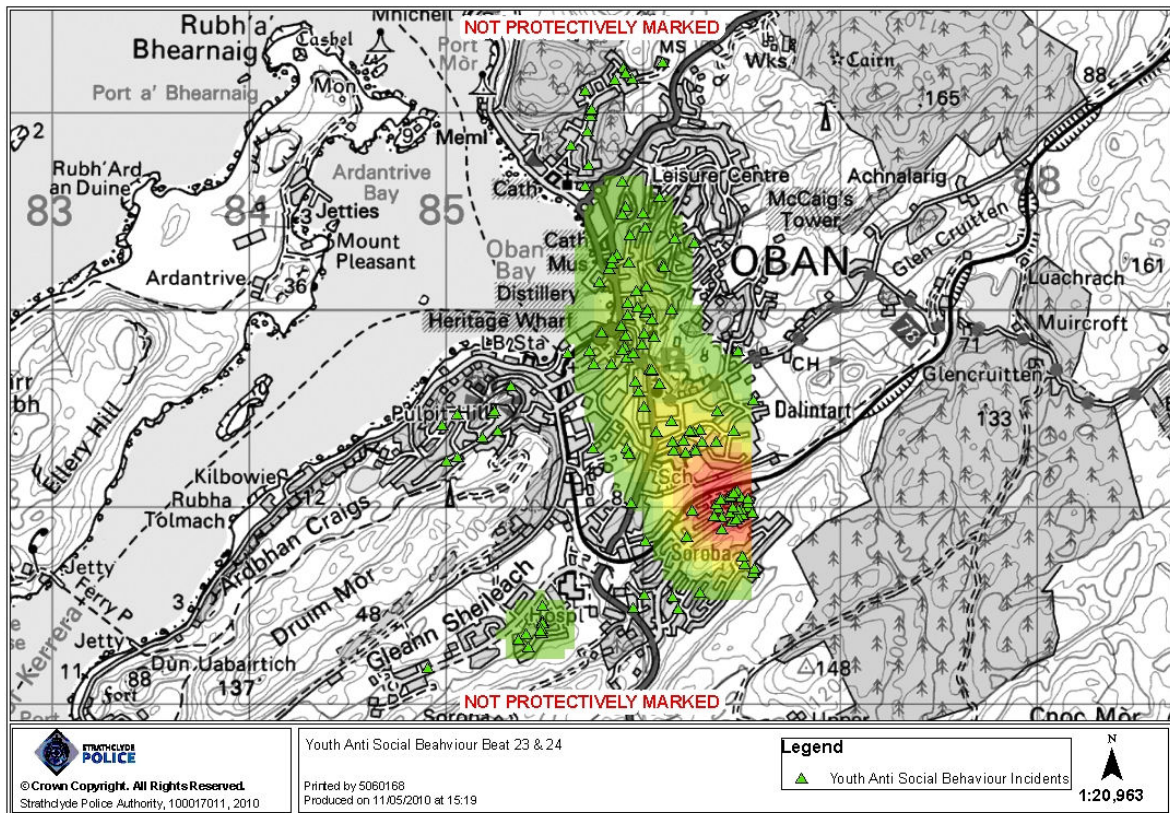
All incidents were broken down by long description as per figure 1 below:

Figure 1:

LONG DESCRIPTION	Total
COMPLAINT	204
DRINKING IN PUBLIC PLACES	45
DISTURBANCE	24
NATURE OF INCIDENT TO BE DESCRIBED IN FREE TEXT FIELD	13
PROPERTY DAMAGED	5
DRUGS / SOLVENT ABUSE	5
CRIME OTHER	5
TRAFFIC - OTHER	3
KNIFE/EDGED WEAPON	1
Total	305

The majority of youth related anti social behaviour incidents reported, 67%, were recorded as complaints. These complaints largely related to youths creating noise and general complaints of youths hanging about. Drinking in public places constituted the second greatest number of calls generated, accounting for 15% of all youth related anti social behaviour incidents, for the most part these incidents related to groups of 3 or more youths gathered drinking however a number of incidents described large groups of between 15 and 18 youths. In addition an overview of the complaints highlighted that alcohol was noted in a number of calls and a search of all 305 youth anti social behaviour incidents discovered that roughly 20% of all records made reference to alcohol. It is also of note that a number of the complaints made reference to drunken youths creating noise suggesting that potentially a number of the noise related incidents may also be a consequence of alcohol.

The locations of all incidents are noted on the map below:



A clear hotspot can be identified at the residential housing at Soroba however it is noted that a significant number of incidents are taking place throughout the town centre. The majority of incidents within the hotspot follow the identified trend for the whole town and relate to noisy youths or youths drinking in public. It also appears that a significant number of youth anti social related incidents are occurring outdoors in public places as 69% of STORM incidents did not have a locus house number assigned to the call and it can therefore be assumed that the incidents occurred on the street. McCaig Road and Colonsay Terrace experienced the greatest number of incidents with 24 and 16 incidents respectively between 1st May 2009 and 30th April 2010. Both streets are situated within the hotspot above and were cited as locations where large groups of youths congregate to drink outside and the open space which surrounds the residential housing will attract youths and provide a space for them to gather.

As may be expected the majority of youth anti social related incidents take place over the weekend in the evenings between 20:00 and 22:00 hours (figures 2 and 3) with more incidents taking place in the summer months, peaking in August most likely as a result of the school holidays and brighter, warmer nights.

Figure 2:

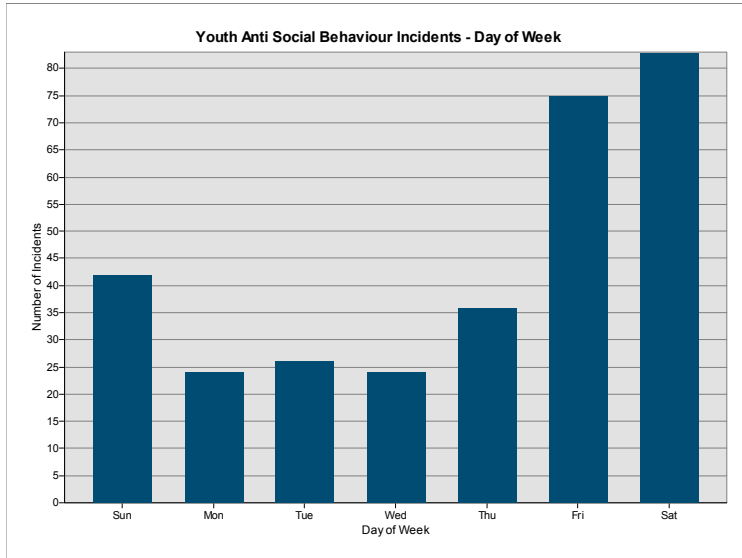
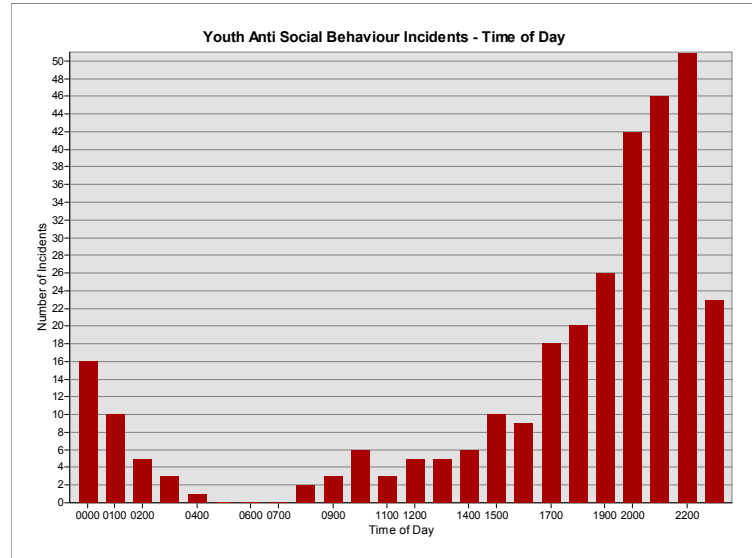


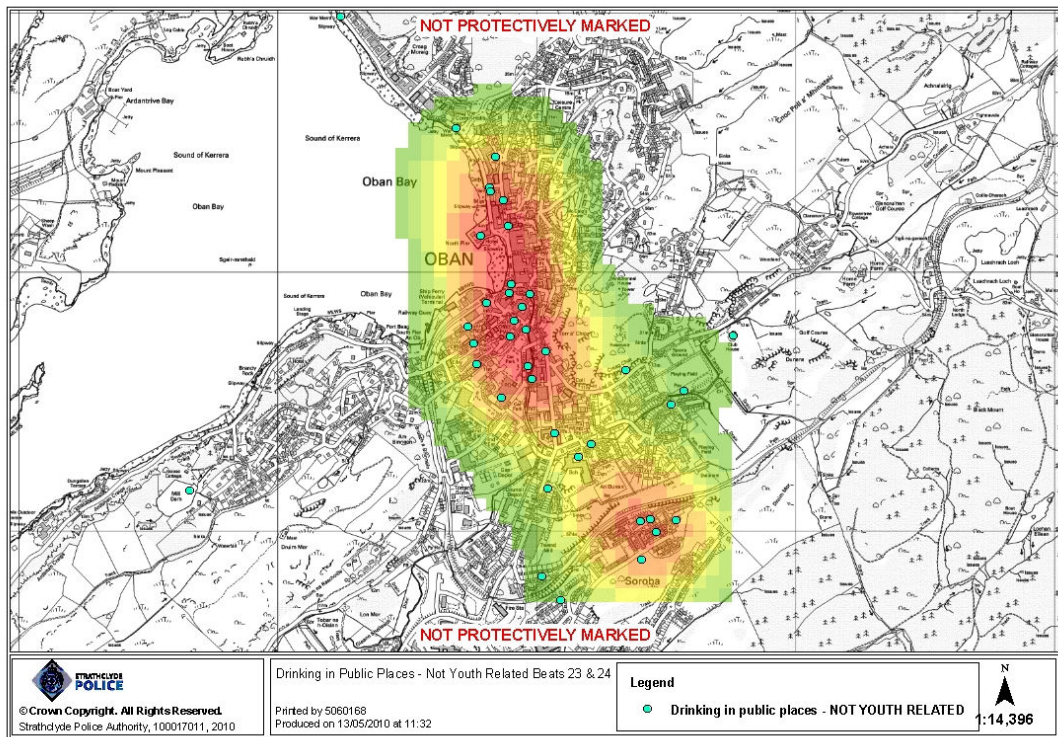
Figure 3:



Drinking in Public (Not Youth Related)

In total there were 72 incidents which related to drinking in public places in beats 23 and 24 between 1st May 2009 and 30th April 2010. 25% of all incidents related to fixed penalty notices being issued.

All incidents are noted on the map below:



It can be seen that the majority of incidents fall within the town centre and along the water front. The spatial concentration of crimes is less densely populated offering a larger hotspot and identifying that drinking in public places is an issue concerning the whole of the town centre. All streets and locus with more than two incidents recorded within the period examined are displayed in figure 4 below:

Figure 4:

LOCUS NAME/STREET	Total
GEORGE STREET	11
MCCAIG ROAD	5
TESCO STORES LTD	4
SHUNA TERRACE	4
COMBIE STREET	4
COLONSAY TERRACE	4
SOROBA ROAD	3

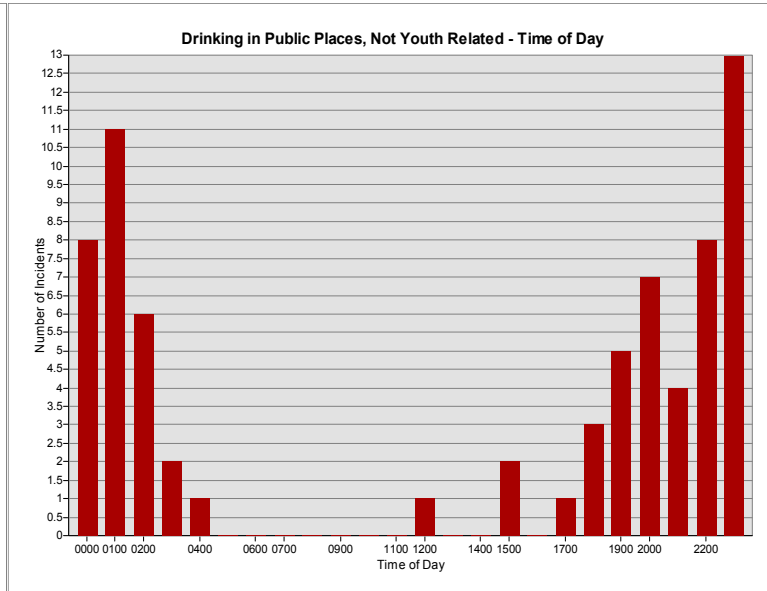
Again incidents in relation to drinking in public places follow the trend of occurring over the weekend period Friday through to Sunday, with the number of incidents peaking on a Saturday. The majority of incidents occur between 23:00 and 01:00 hours, as seen in figures 5 and 6. Looking at the incidents which occurred on George

Street in isolation all incidents occurred after 22:00 hours and 9 of the 11 incidents occurred between 01:00 and 02:30 hours.

Figure 5:



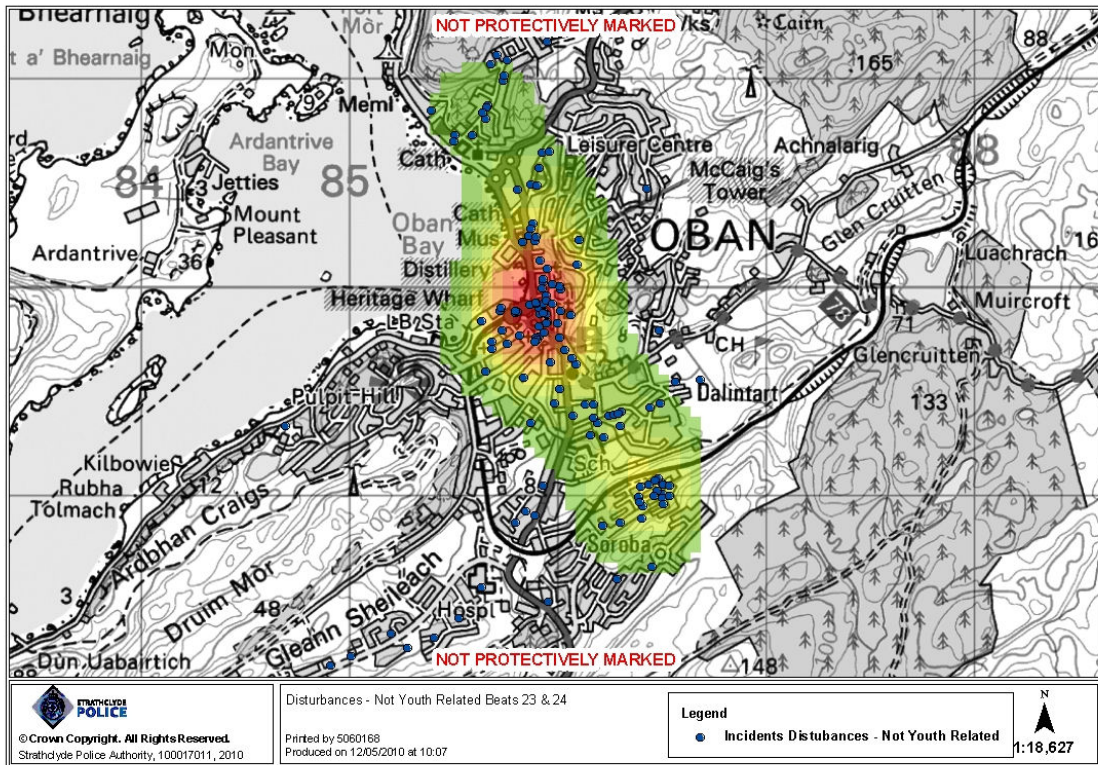
Figure 6:



Disturbances (Not Youth Related)

There were 298 incidents during the period examined which were classed as disturbances which were not identified as being related to youths. A large number of the disturbances have no further description beyond disturbance and the nature of the incidents is not further described. A review of the description of all incidents established that 18% of all disturbances were in relation to fights and when details were provided the majority of fights were between male subjects. Again a large number of disturbances were regarding noise complaints and further disturbances made reference to incidents of breach of the peace and it is also of note that there were a significant number of disturbances relating to doors being kicked in.

All incidents relating to disturbances are plotted on the map below:



It can be seen that the hotspot for disturbances is located over the town centre which is in line with the hotspot for incidents relating to drinking in public places. A further cluster of disturbance incidents are noted within the residential area at Soroba where youth anti social behaviour incidents are also concentrated. In line with the hotspot for disturbances being located in the town centre George Street was identified as a recurring location for incidents with 30 of the 298 disturbances occurring on the street. It can also be assumed that a large number of the disturbances occur outside on the street as 62% of all disturbances did not have a locus number assigned to the STORM call.

Disturbances largely take place over the weekend period however the numbers of incidents are lower on a Friday for disturbances than those seen for youth anti social behaviour and drinking in public places due to the trend for incidents taking place in the early morning between 01:00 and 02:00 hours, as shown in figures 7 and 8 below.

Figure 7:

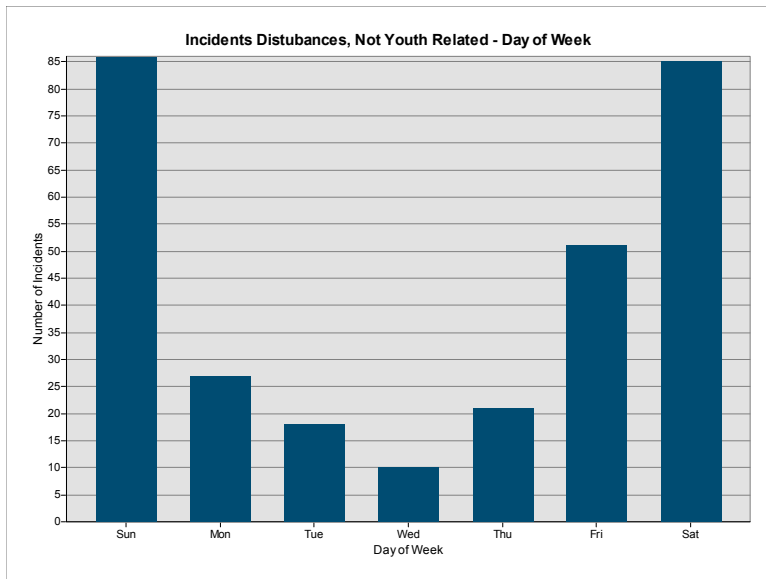
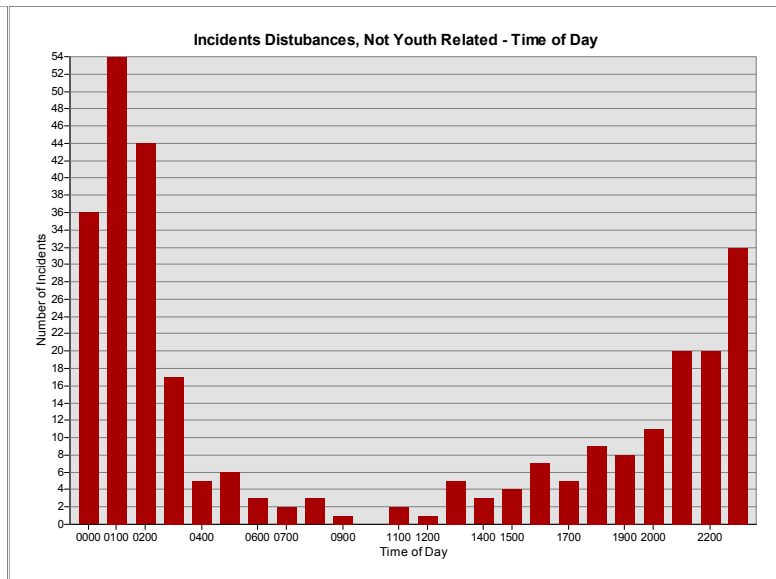
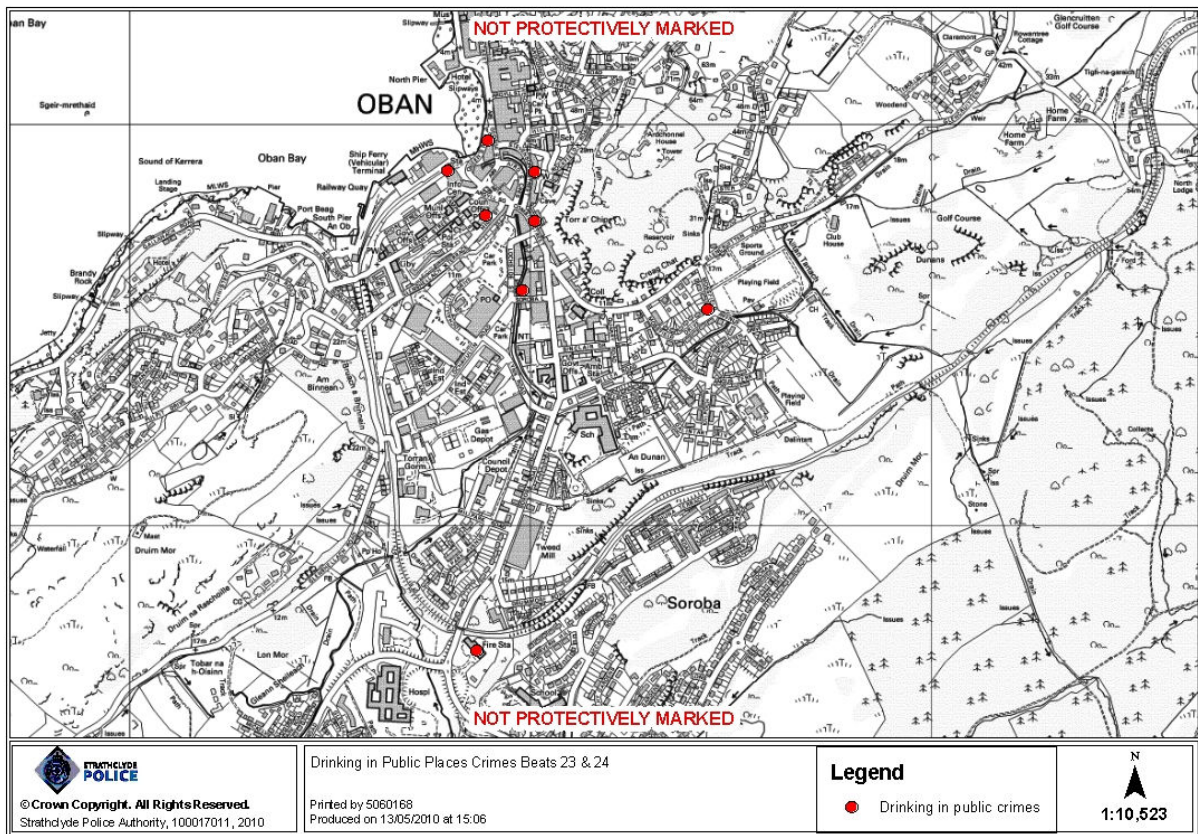


Figure 8:



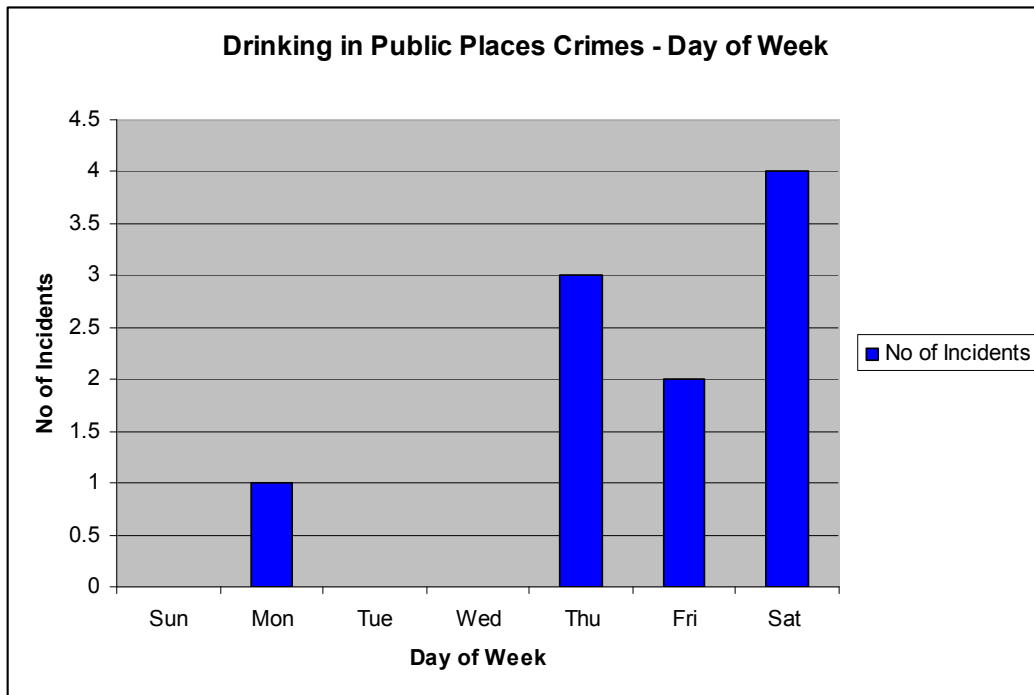
Crimes

All Group 6 crimes in relation to drinking in public places were considered for analysis. In total there were 10 crimes between 1st May 2009 and the 30th of April 2010. The location of all crimes are displayed on the map below, please note that 2 crimes took place in close proximity at the Fire Station and 2 crimes also at the Railway Station and Bank of Scotland on Station Road and therefore there are only 8 location points on the map rather than ten.



Temporal analysis of all crimes which occurred between the 1st of May 2009 and the 30th of April 2010 established that the crimes follow the same trend as the incidents and occur over the weekend period figure below 9. It is of note that the crime which occurred on a Monday took place at 00:30 hours. All crimes occurred between 22:25 and 02:25 hours which also reflect the early morning nature of the incidents in relation to drinking in public places and disturbances.

Figure 9:



Analysis of the offender in all crimes in relation to drinking in public places established 8 of the 10 offenders were male and the average age of the offender was 25 with the oldest offender 48 years old and youngest 16. Only 2 of the offenders did not live locally in Oban. In addition there were only 2 crimes where the offender was charged with more than the drinking in public offence and the other charges included the theft from a public house and also conducting themselves in a disorderly manner.

Key Findings

- Incidents and crimes are concentrated in the town centre and Soroba areas within beats 23 and 24 however incidents do occur throughout the town.
- Drinking in public places accounted for 15% of all youth related anti social behaviour incidents and alcohol was cited as a factor in many other incidents involving youths.
- Youth anti social behaviour is concentrated in the residential area of Soroba.
- There were 72 STORM incidents relating to drinking in public places between 1st May 2009 and 30th April 2010.
- A large number of incidents in relation to disturbances were in relation to males fighting in public places.
- George Street is noted as a recurring location for incidents of drinking in public places and disturbances.
- Crimes and incidents generally take place over the weekend in the late evening and early hours of the morning.