

Angus Community Safety Partnership  
Crime Briefing Profile

Vandalism in Angus

REPORTING PERIOD 01/04/2014 to 31/12/2014



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January 2015

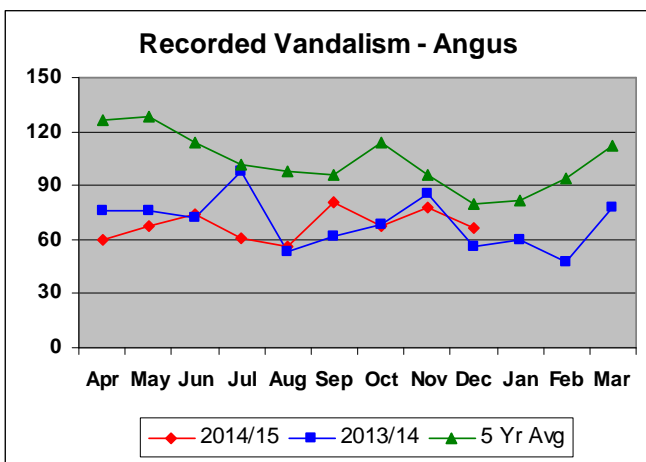
INTRODUCTION

Vandalism is an important issue for communities across Scotland including the people of Angus. It has a negative impact on the quality of the local environment and on the lives of those living within it. This is before the costs of repair and investigation are considered. The Angus Community Safety Partnership (CSP) assesses vandalism as being one of its key priorities under the theme of reducing anti social behaviour. Partners regularly discuss tactics for reducing vandalism levels within Angus. These include measures designed to prevent vandalism, detect offenders and educate local communities.

This briefing report provides more detail to the analysis included within the CSP Tactical Assessment document, to inform partners further on the nature and extent of vandalism within Angus. The report considers the data available for the whole of Angus before the local picture in each of the seven main Angus towns is set out. Data referenced in this report covers the nine-month period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

All data comes from Police Scotland (D Division - Angus).

RECORDED CRIME LEVELS - ANGUS

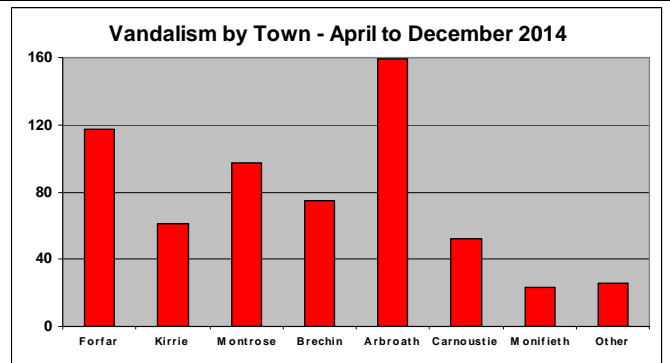


Vandalism in Angus is reducing. Reported incidents between April and December 2014 are 5.6% down on the same period in 2013. The chart opposite illustrates this reduction (red to blue line) and highlights the significant reduction in recent offending levels when compared to historical trends (green line).

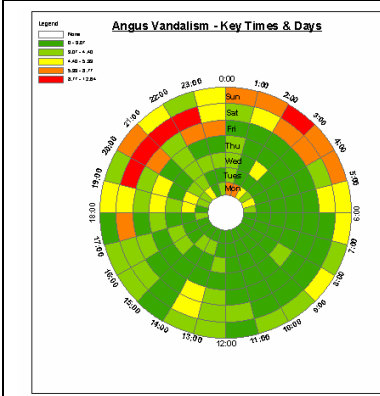
Vandalism levels in Angus peak in the spring and early summer before reducing during the autumn months, prior to rising again over the winter period.

VANDALISM REPORTS BY TOWN

Arbroath experiences significantly higher levels of vandalism reports when compared to other Angus towns. The chart opposite illustrates the relative offending levels of the seven main towns. The individual burgh profiles later in this document will put offending levels into context by offence type, offender, key times etc. From the chart it would appear that vandalism is more prevalent in the larger towns and less so in Carnoustie and Monifieth.



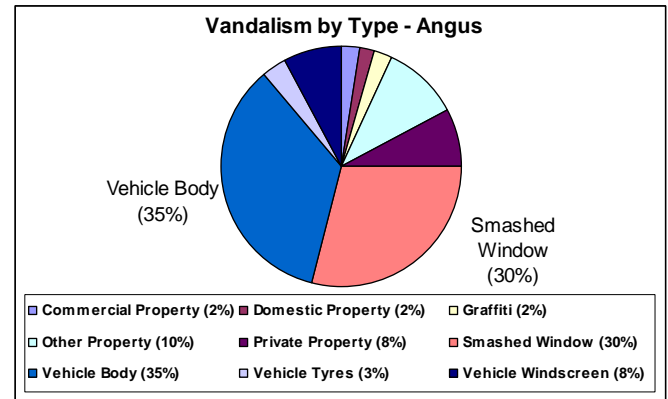
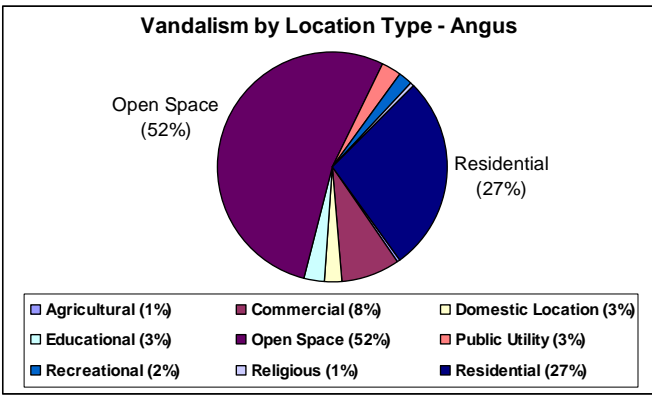
KEY DAYS & TIMES - ANGUS



Vandalism is very often committed without any planning or previous forethought. The spontaneous nature of the offences makes it difficult to put forward any high-risk days or key times. In addition, there are rarely witnesses to these crimes. Crimes therefore go undiscovered and unreported for some time after the event – this is particularly true at the weekend.

Despite this, the time clock opposite does indicate certain days and times when vandalism are more prevalent (darker orange and red colours). In particular, there is an indication that crimes are more likely during weekend evenings into the small hours of Saturday and Sunday.

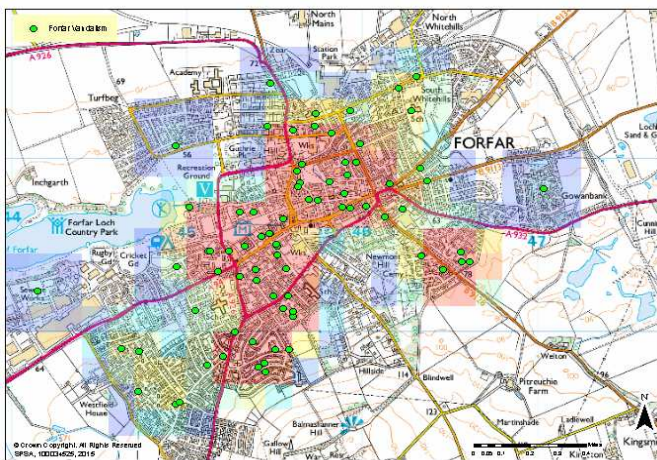
VANDALISM REPORTS BY TYPE - ANGUS



Vandalism reports can be analysed to gain a better understanding of the nature of the offences and type of locus they take place. The pie chart above left illustrates that over half (52%) of all vandalism take place in 'Open Space'. This description covers a wide range of locus types. The individual burgh profiles discussed later in this document will look at this type of locus in more detail. In addition, a further 27% of offences take place within private houses or other residential settings.

Vandalism can take many forms. When all of Angus vandalisms between April and December are considered, 30% relate to the deliberate breaking of window – either in a domestic, residential, commercial or other context. The pie chart above right also illustrates that the largest group of crimes are car vandalisms – these account for 46% of all vandalisms with the greatest number of these resulting to damage to the bodywork of the vehicle (35% of all crimes). Only 2% of recorded crimes are incidents of graffiti.

FORFAR



The map opposite shows an identified hotspot area for vandalism within the town centre of Forfar. The majority of the 117 vandalism recorded in the Forfar area between April and December fall within this hotspot and include a mix of open space and residential incidents. This is consistent with the whole of Angus findings and reflects the mix of commercial and residential properties in the area.

Smashed windows account for 37% of crimes with vehicle crime another 43%. These proportions are slightly higher than Angus as a whole.

An analysis of the key days and times would suggest that incidents are again more likely later in the evenings and at weekends.

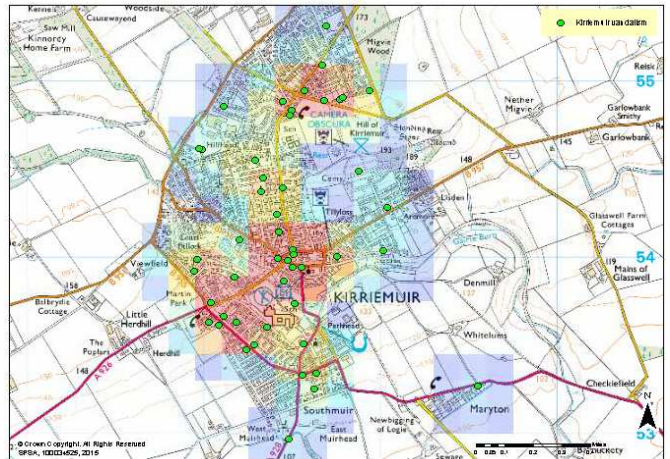
Analysis of the offenders involved in Forfar vandalisms would indicate that over 90% are male. Half of all offenders are of school age with all the others between the ages of 18 and 35. This is consistent with patterns that have emerged from previous analysis of vandalism in Forfar.

**PROTECT**  
**KIRRIEMUIR**

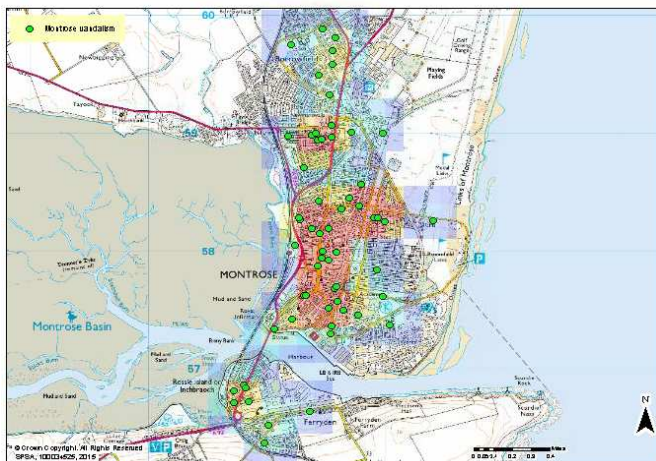
The primary hotspot area for the 61 recorded vandalisms within Kirriemuir is the town centre. A smaller hotspot is also evident in the north of the town. Two thirds of all crimes take place in an open space environment with less than 20% occurring in private residential properties. This split differs significantly from the whole of Angus figures. Damage to vehicles accounts for well over half of all offences.

Crimes are again more likely in the evenings and at weekends – particularly between 7.00pm on a Saturday into the small hours of Sunday.

As in Forfar, the offenders tend to be younger males – half of all detected offenders are males aged between 18 and 25.



**MONTROSE**



Incidents in Montrose are concentrated in the town centre area with further smaller pockets of offending in areas that are more residential in nature – such as Borrowfield in the north of the town. Rossie School also generates a significant number of the 97 crimes recorded in Montrose.

The proportions of open space (65%) and residential type crimes (13%) differ significantly from the Angus averages. Vehicle damage accounts for two thirds of all offences.

Key times and days for offending are again at the weekend.

Over 90% of all offenders detected are male – again as in other towns, offenders are primarily younger. The age profile in Montrose differs slightly with a greater proportion of school age offenders. The crimes reported by Rossie School can at least partly explain this finding.

**BRECHIN**

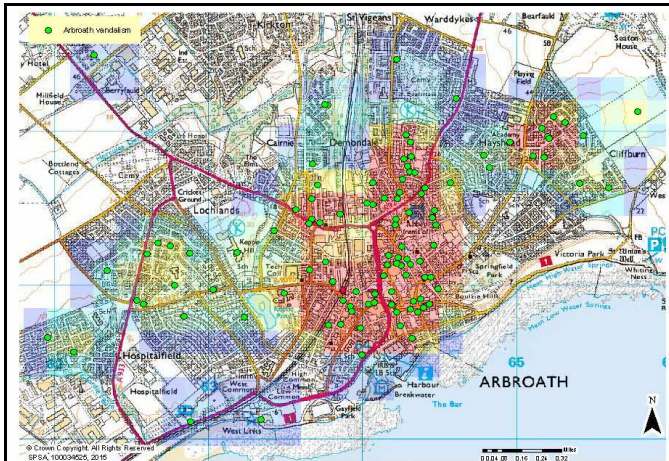
In common with other Angus towns, the 75 recorded vandalisms in Brechin split between those that take place in the town centre and those in areas that are more residential. Many of the town centre crimes link to the night time economy. The primary residential area of concern is towards the bottom end of Montrose Street taking in the Hillview and Drumachlie areas.

Less than 42% of Brechin incidents take place in open space with a further quarter being residential. There are significant numbers of incidents reported from commercial properties in Brechin.



Owing to of this unusual mix of crime locus, there is not the same trend towards weekend evening offending in Brechin as elsewhere. Also, damage to vehicles accounts for only a third of offences. The offender profile is similar to the other Angus towns – young males of school age and above.

## PROTECT ARBROATH



Vandalism within Arbroath is concentrated in the town centre, extending north to the area around Arbroath Abbey. There is also a small pocket of incidents in the more residential area of Hayshead.

Of the 159 recorded incidents, 52% are open space with a further 235 taking place in private residences. 28% of all crimes involve broken windows with 42% being damage to vehicles. A number of graffiti incidents are also included in the overall totals.

Arbroath crimes are spread between days and times more than in other towns.

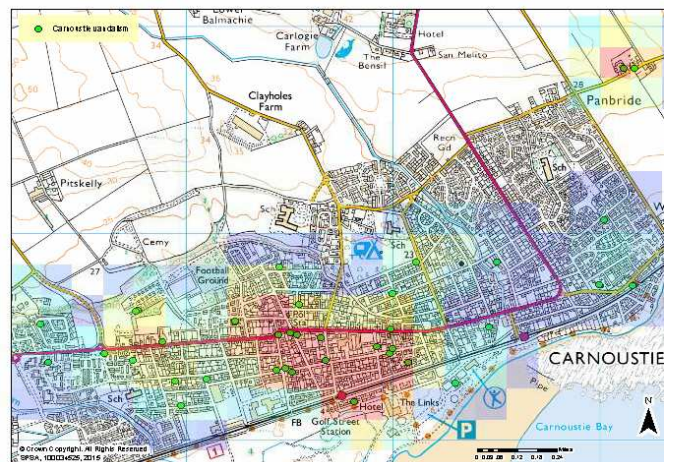
The offender profile in Arbroath is similar to elsewhere – although at 20% the proportion of female offenders is higher than most other areas of Angus. School age children are responsible for 40% of all offences with the remainder primarily committed by males under 30.

## CARNOUSTIE

As previously stated, vandalism in Carnoustie is relatively rare in comparison to other towns – only 52 incidents between April and December 2014.

The hotspot area is in the town centre and around the links. There are ongoing issues with youth annoyance around the links. School age young people committed all but two of the detected Carnoustie crimes.

Half of all crimes occurred in open space with windows smashed in 27% of crimes and vehicle damage in a further 35%. Incidents are as likely during the week as at weekends in Carnoustie.



## MONIFIETH

Vandalism levels in Monifieth remain very low with only 23 incidents recorded in the period between April and December last year. Due to these low numbers, it is not possible to identify any particular hotspot area. In addition, these low numbers may skew any inference made about key days/times or offender profile.

Damage to vehicle would appear to be less prevalent in Monifieth than elsewhere with the majority of crimes involving smashed windows to private residences.

## GRAFFITI REPORTS

As previously stated, less than 2% of all recorded vandalism in Angus were graffiti type incidents – fifteen crimes in total. While there were incidents of graffiti in Kirriemuir, Carnoustie, Forfar and Montrose, ten of the fifteen crimes occurred in Arbroath. These incidents were spread throughout the town with educational establishments and the bus station damaged on more than one occasion. Only three of the Arbroath incidents have been detected with the same 16 year old male youth responsible for all three. No other pattern or specific tags have been established to link the detected crimes to any of the other undetected incidents.