DISTRIBUTION OF KNOWN DEERVEHICLE COLLISIONS 2010–2019

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3 Deer Vehicle Collisions – Hotspot Maps for England and Wales

Deer collisions are a high risk for drivers. It is estimated there could be up to 74,000 deer related traffic accidents in the UK each year. As a result there are several hundred human injuries and a number of human fatalities each year.

Drivers have told DeerAware that knowing they are in a high-risk area has helped them modify their driving and has made it possible for them to avoid a deer collision. Therefore, the more we can inform drivers about high-risk areas the better we can help them to avoid a collision.

Since 2003 the DeerAware campaign has been researching and collating deer vehicle collision data across England and Wales. As well as collecting incident reports, DeerAware also receive data from several organisations to help build a clearer picture of high-risk areas, for collisions. This data has been used to generate hotspot maps to help identify higher risk areas. These maps are freely available in this document.

How You Can Help

Reporting incidents

You can help by sending in a hotspot incident report on the DeerAware website **www.deeraware.com**

You can also provide a similar report using the BDS Deer App. The app has a deer sighting feature that allows users to report sightings related to collisions, as well as other sighting of deer. www.bds.org.uk/information-advice/resources/bds-deer-app/

These reports will help us create even more accurate hotspot maps.

Spreading the Word About Driving DeerAware

The more people who know how to drive deer aware, the more collisions we can prevent. Check the safety advice on the DeerAware website **www.deeraware.com/safety-advice/** and share our safety posts on DeerAware's social media to help spread the word to friends and family.

Warning Signs

Wildlife warning signs are a great way to help alert drivers but can take time to be approved. Temporary signs maybe much easier to obtain permission for and could provide a much-needed warning at higher risk times of year e.g. May and October to December. If you are worried about the risk in your area, talk to your local authority about warning sign options.

Please be aware deer are unpredictable and can appear very suddenly. Wild deer also live freely across the country and although some areas have a high risk, they could still appear on or near any of our roads.

Take note of wildlife warning signs

These signs are positioned only where animal crossings are very likely.



Be aware of higher risk times for deer collisions

Peaks in deer vehicle collisions occur October to December and in May.

Highest-risk times are from sunset to midnight, the hours shortly before and after sunrise.

Drive to the conditions and with caution

During danger periods or on roads where hitting a deer is a possibility, drive with caution at or below the posted speed limit. Also adjust your driving to the conditions and give yourself time to react.

Seen one? Look for another

Deer are often in groups so if you have seen one keep an eye out for more.

Use your lights

When appropriate use full-beam as it will illuminate the eyes of deer on or near a roadway and provide greater driver reaction time. BUT, when a deer or other animal is noted on the road, dim your headlights as animals startled by the beam may 'freeze' rather than leaving the road.

Don't over-swerve to avoid hitting a deer

If a collision with the animal seems inevitable, then hit it while maintaining full control of your vehicle. The alternative of swerving into oncoming traffic or off the road surface could be even worse.

Motorcyclists are at particular risk when in direct collisions with animals.

Be aware of vehicles behind you

Only brake sharply and stop if there is no danger of being hit by following traffic. Use your hazard lights. Try to come to a stop as far away from the animal as possible to enable it to leave the roadside without panic.

Maps of the relative distribution of reported Deer-Vehicle Collisions within Counties and Unitary Authorities in England and Wales (2010 to 2019)

5

A countrywide Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVC) research and monitoring project has been on-going since 2003, administered in most of the earlier years by The Deer Initiative in England & Wales and NatureScot (formerly known as Scottish Natural Heritage) in Scotland.

Since April 2020 (following closure of Deer Initiative Ltd) The British Deer Society, with support from National Highways (formerly known as Highways England), have taken on the further collation and analysis of available information on DVCs occurring in England and Wales. A parallel project by NatureScot continues to collect complimentary information on **DVCs for Scotland**.

The term deer-vehicle collision (DVC) is used here to encompass any incident where it may be concluded that a collision of a road vehicle with a deer occurred, as evident either from live injured or dead deer casualties found at the roadside, or from reported road traffic collisions in which deer were implicated. It is important to note that as there is no legal requirement for DVCs to be recorded or reported to any authority (except for accidents involving human injury), the numbers of records obtained represent merely an annual sample of all DVCs that occur.

The 46 maps in this compendium show the relative density of DVCs within either single or small groups of adjacent counties and unitary authorities, reported to the project (after exclusion of any apparent duplicates) for the 10-year period 2010 to 2019.

The data 'sampling regime' has over the past decade focussed down on a number of those 'core' sources able to provide most consistent input across all counties, including in particular, RSPCA incident logs of injured deer at the roadside; National Highways trunk road agents; rangers in Forestry Commission forests (as well as a number of other major community forests), supplemented by input from BDS members and the public via **DeerAware** and the **BDS Deer APP**.

Although records mapped are combined for 10 years, it should be noted that our countrywide data samples average only around 10% (c. 5,000 to 6,000) of the total number of DVCs estimated to occur annually in England and Wales (c. 60,000 DVC). One exception here are motorways and other trunk roads, where the proportion of the DVC incidents reported are likely to be somewhat better (30–50% of actual tolls) in at least some parts of the trunk road network.

We currently estimate the data shown in these maps to approximate the true number of DVC that occur within a single year.

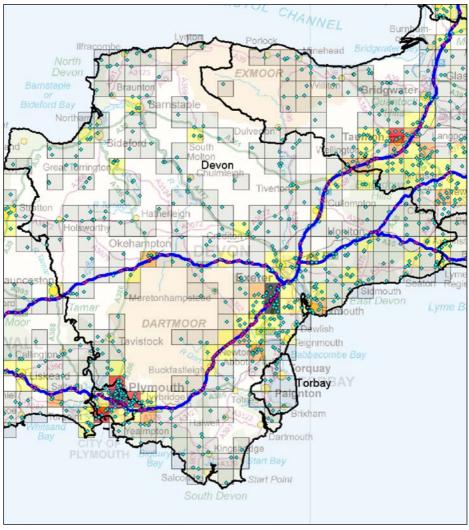
Cornwall



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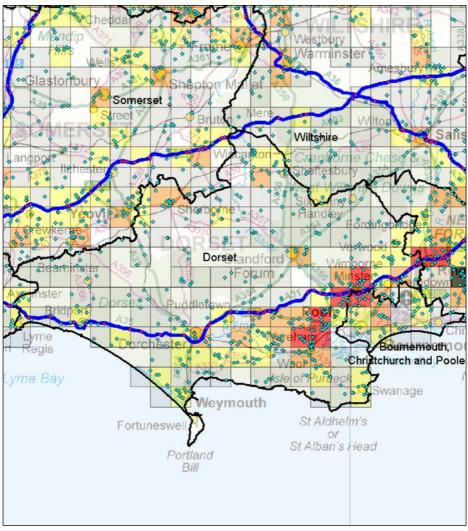
Devon, Plymouth and Torbay



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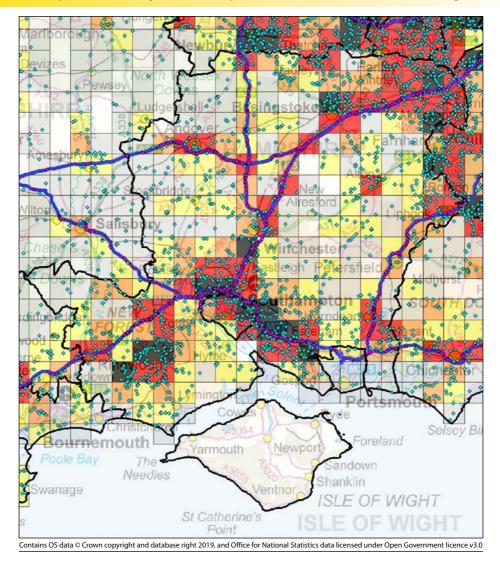
Dorset County and Bournemouth & Poole



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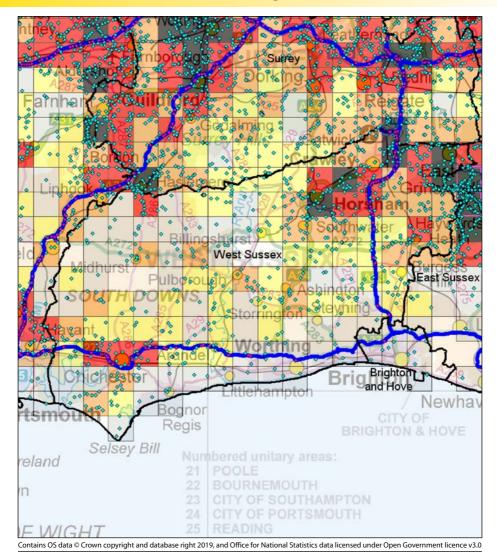


9 Hampshire County, Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight



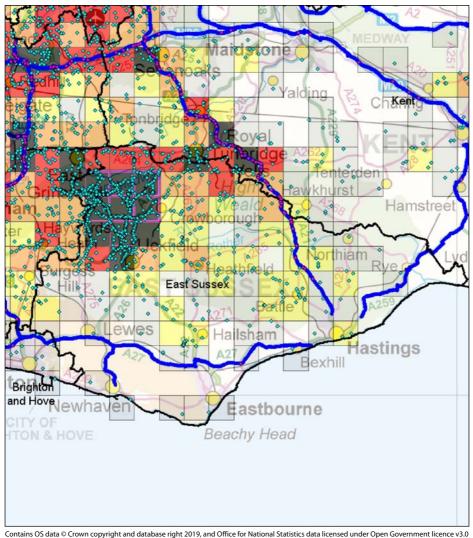


West Sussex and Brighton & Hove



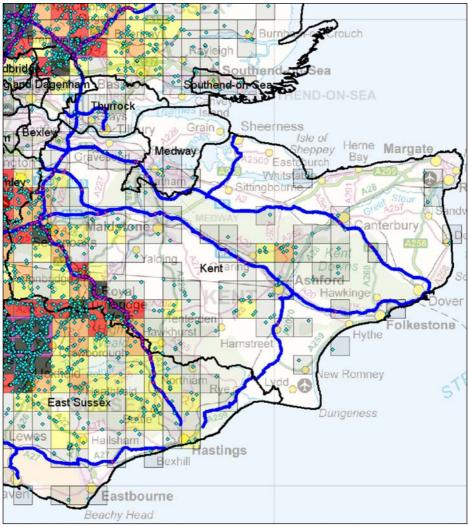


East Sussex





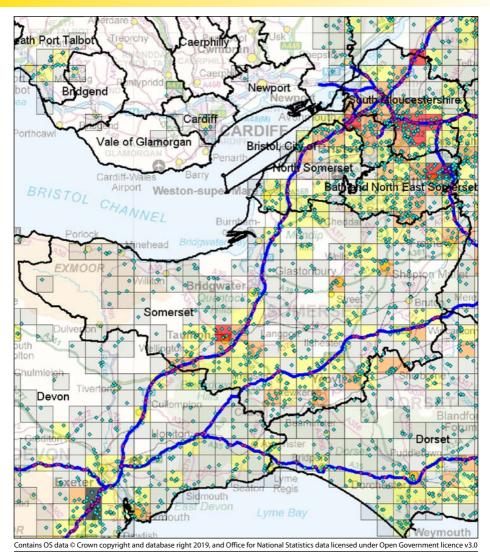
Kent County, Medway and Thurrock



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Somerset, North Somerset and Bath & NE Somerset

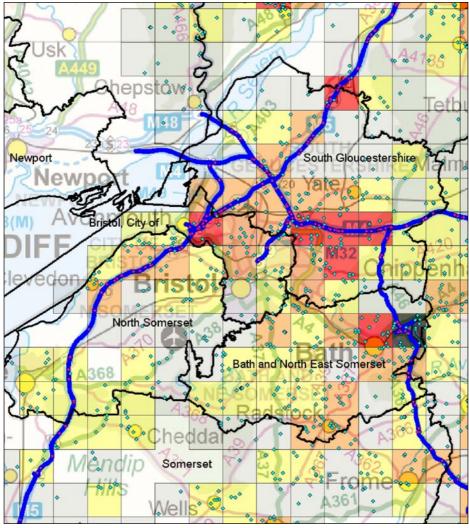


Distribution of known Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVC) 2010–2019



13

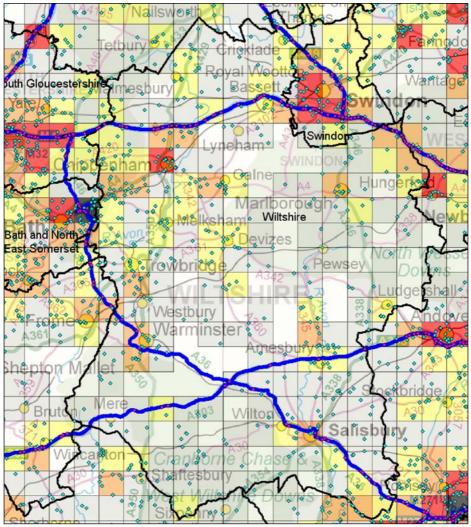
14 North Somerset, Bristol, Bath & NE Somerset, S Gloucestershire



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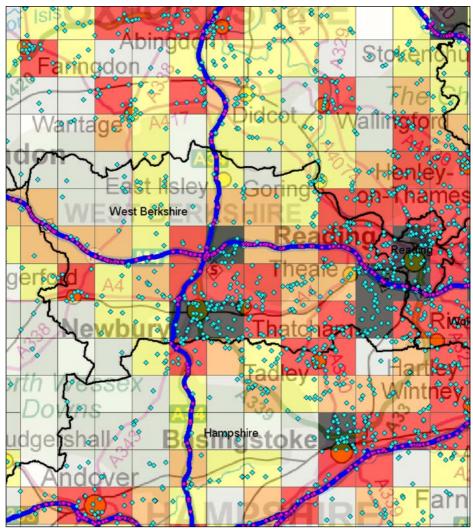
Wiltshire and Swindon



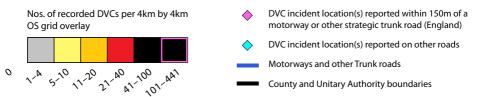
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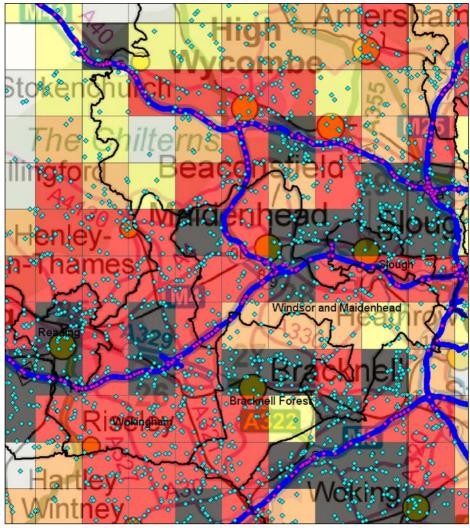
West Berkshire and Reading



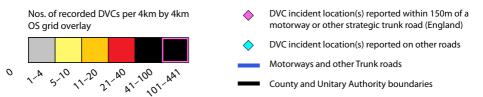
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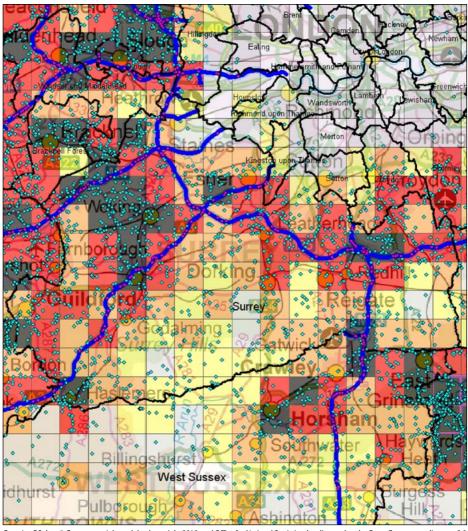
17 Bracknell Forest, Windsor & Maidenhead, Wokingham, Slough



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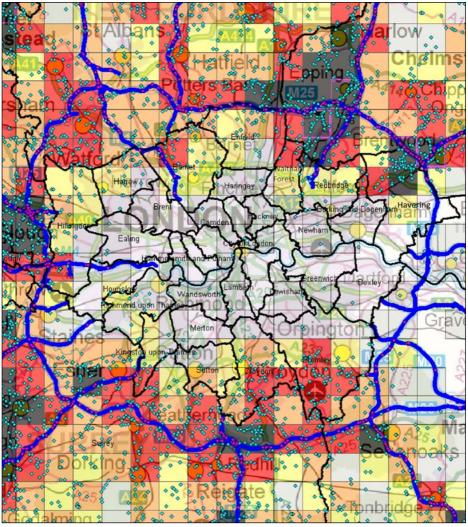
Surrey County



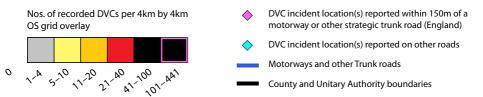
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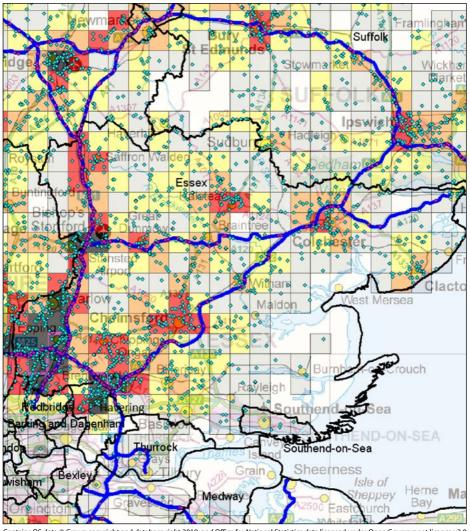
Greater London Boroughs



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Essex County and Southend

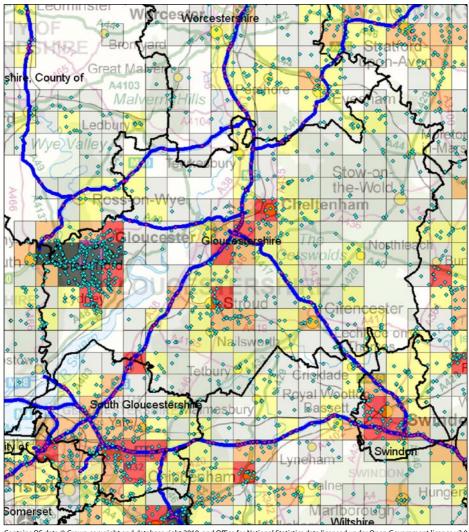


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Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Swindon

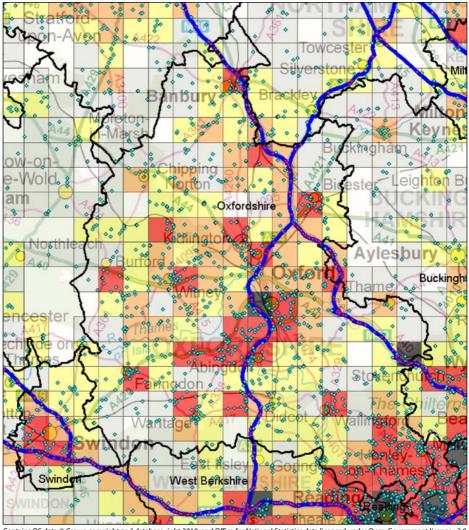
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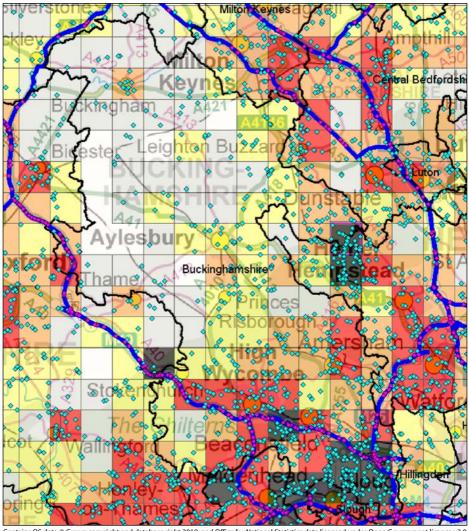
Oxfordshire and Swindon



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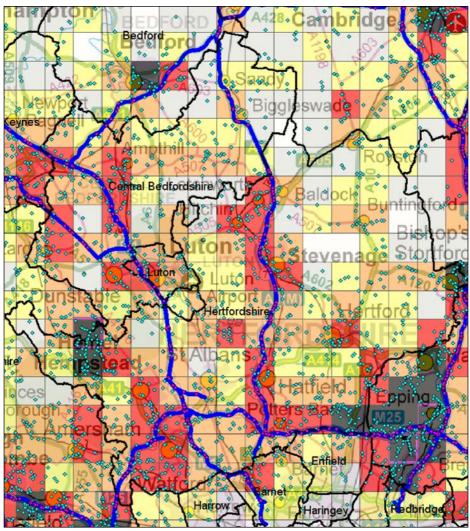
Buckinghamshire



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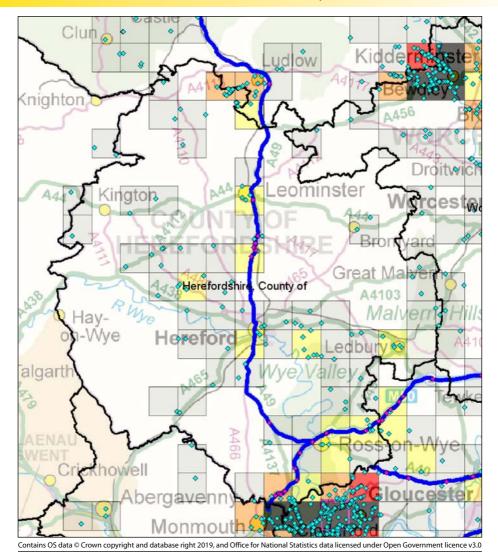
Hertfordshire, Luton and Central Bedfordshire



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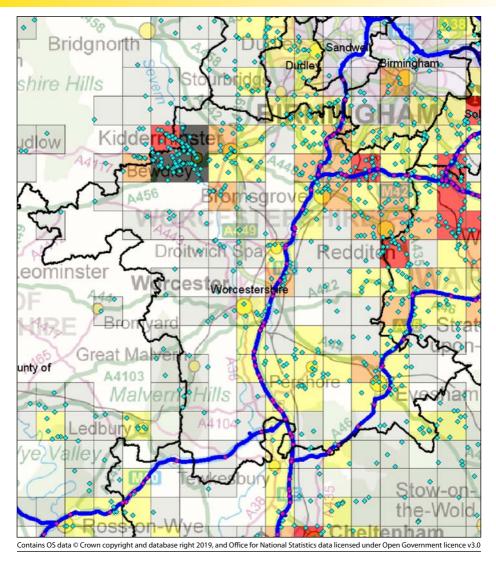


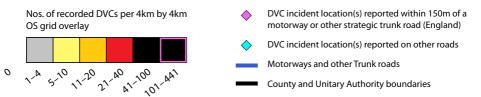
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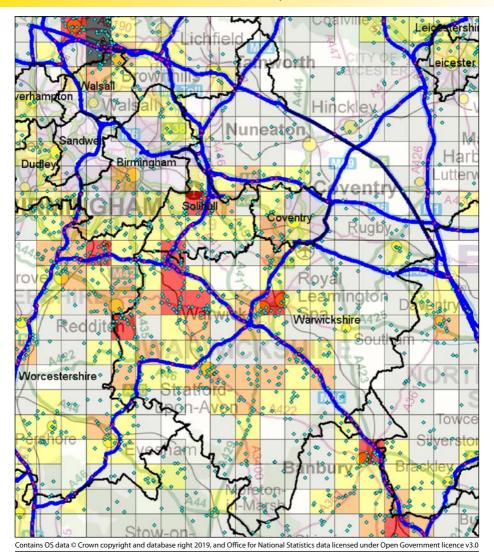


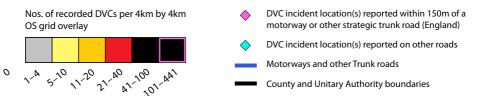
Worcestershire



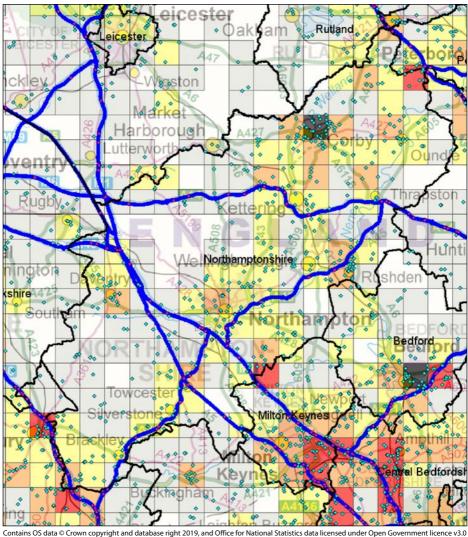


Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull



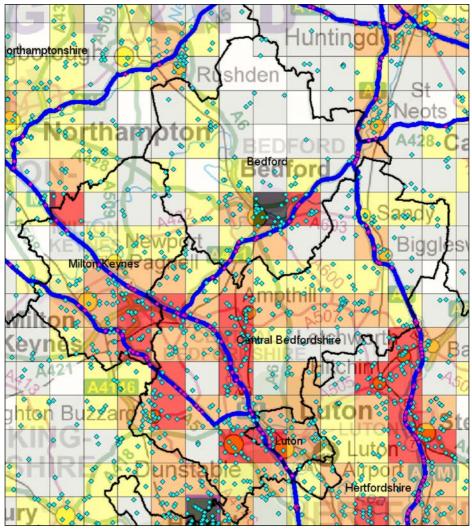


Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes





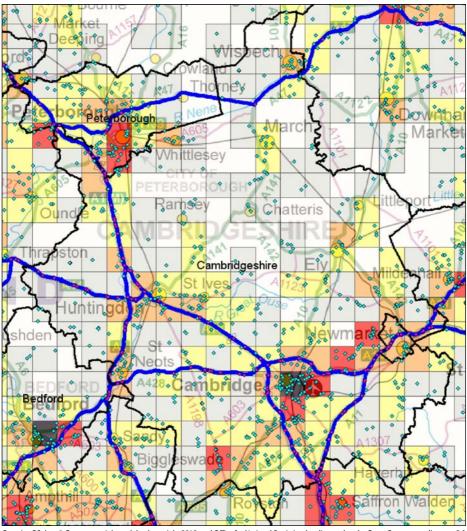
29 Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes and Luton



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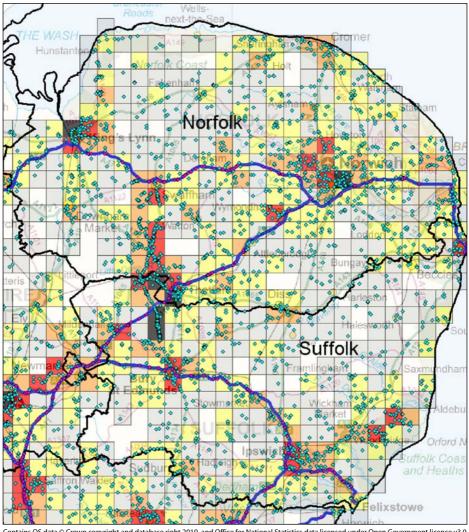
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough



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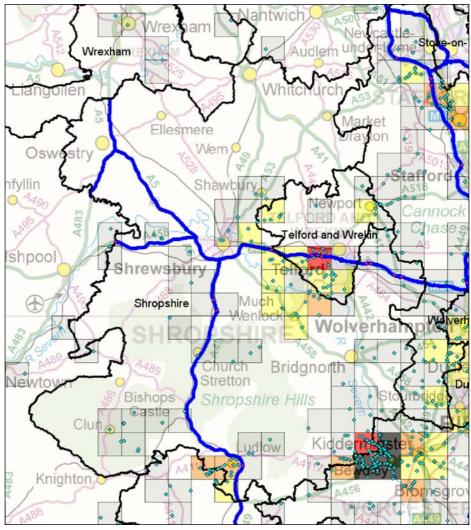
Suffolk and Norfolk



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Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin



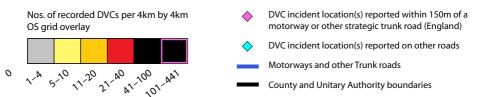
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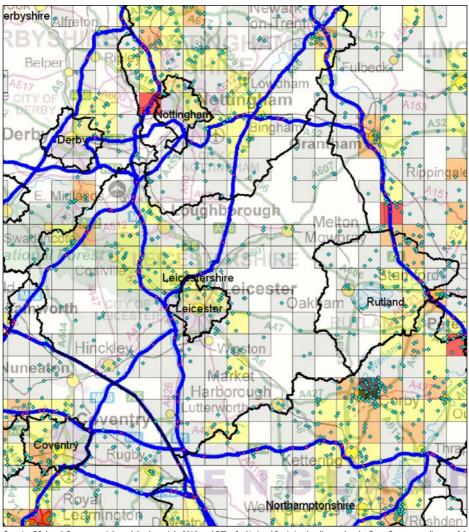
Walsall Volverhampto Sandwell 281 Birmingham Dudley Solif

33 Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Solihull, Dudley and Sandwell

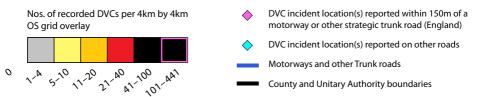
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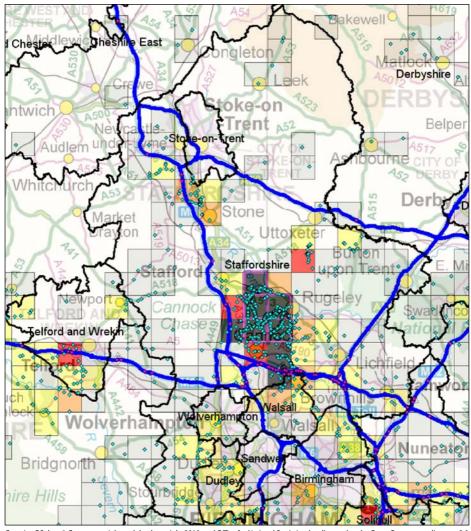
Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland



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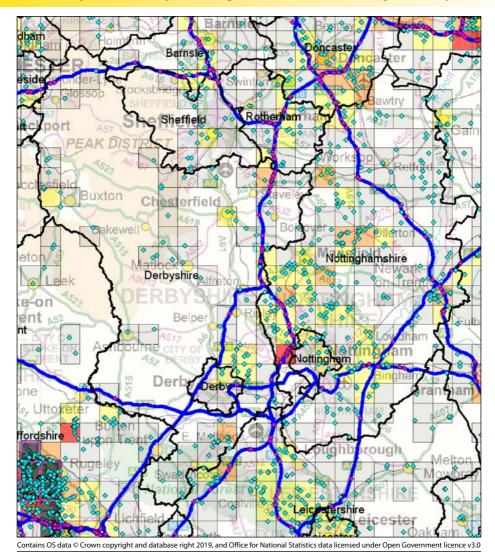
35 Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton and Walsall



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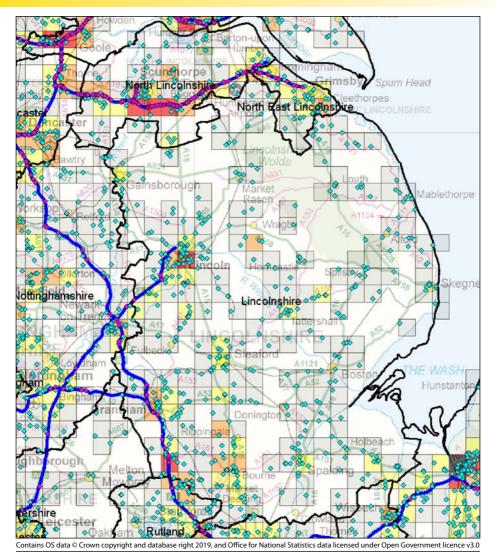


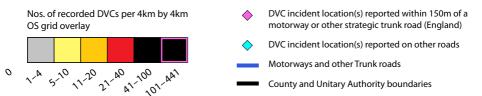
36 Derbyshire, Derby, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City

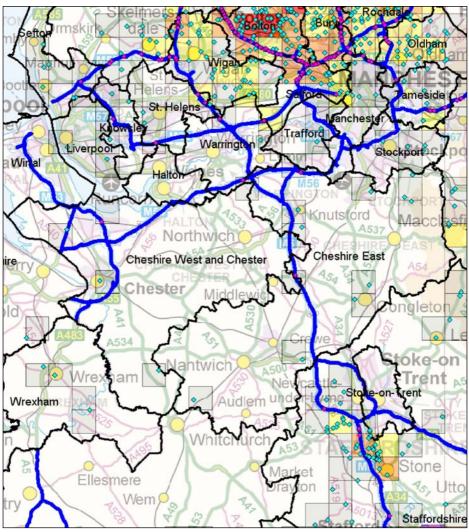




37 Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire



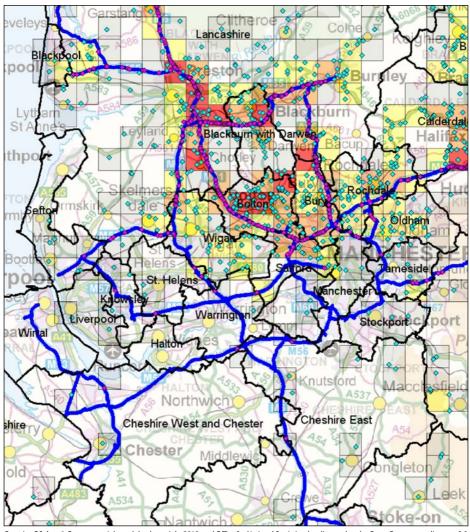




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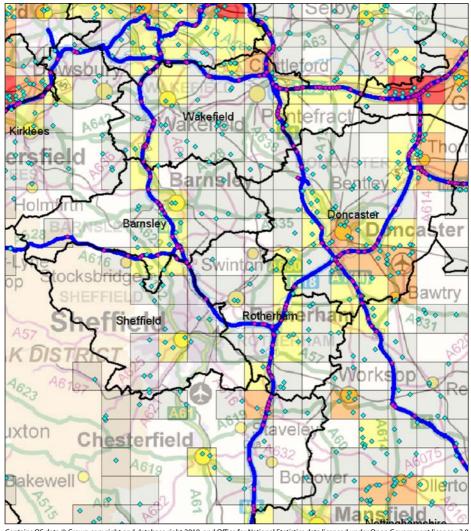
Liverpool, Manchester and surrounding areas



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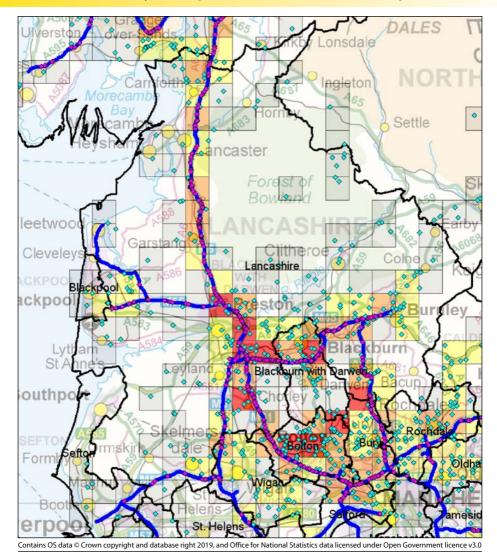
40 South Yorkshire – Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster

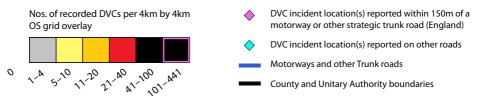


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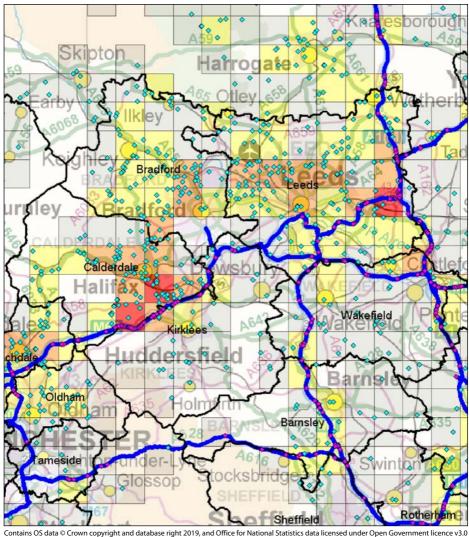


41 Lancashire County, Blackpool, Blackburn, Bolton, Bury, Rochdale



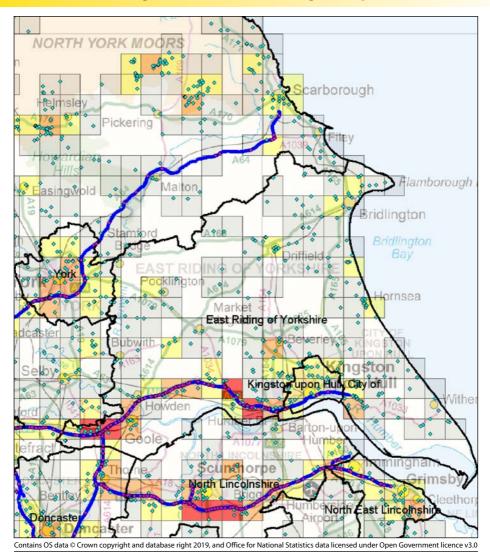


Bradford, Leeds, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield



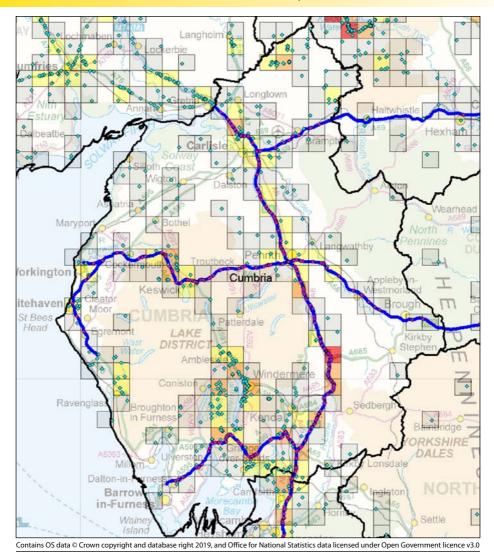


East Riding of Yorkshire, York, Kingston upon Hull



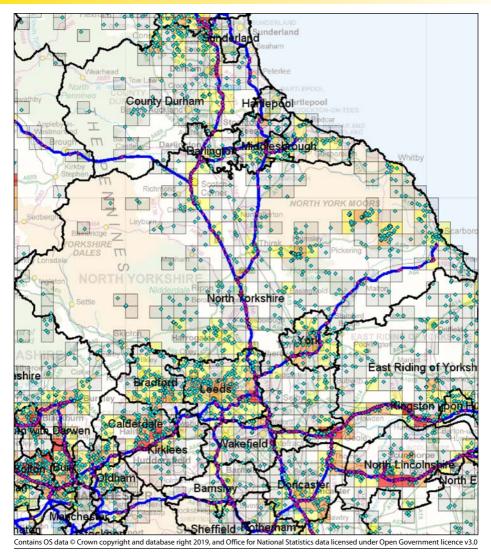


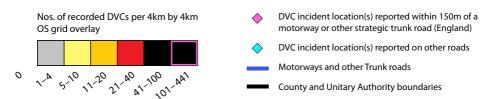
Cumbria County





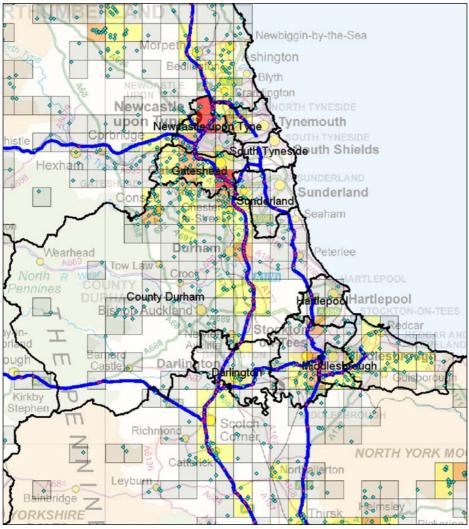
North Yorkshire County and York





County Durham, Newcastle & Tyneside, Hartlepool, Darlington and Middlesborough

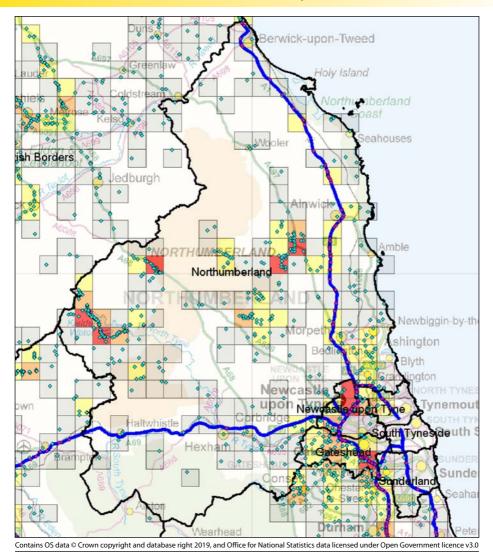
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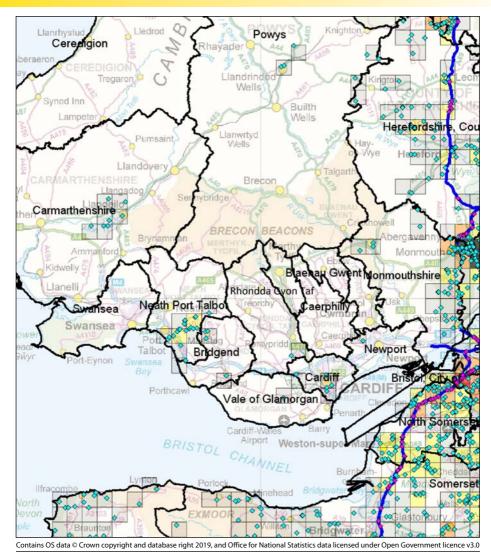


Northumberland and Tyneside





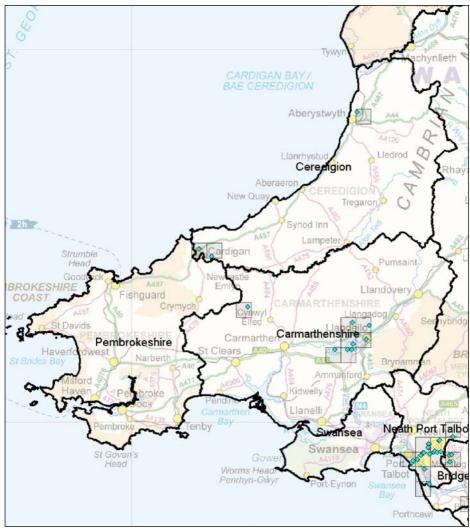
South Wales





Wales: Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion

49

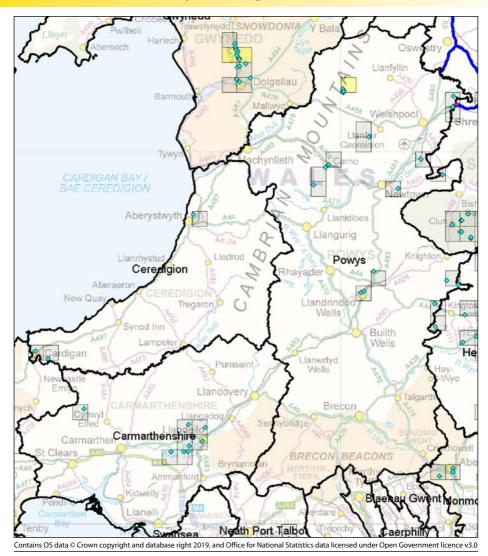


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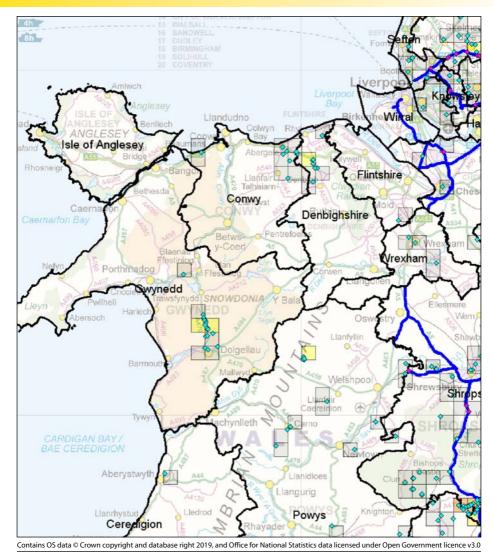
Central Wales: Powys, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire

50





North Wales





DEER VEHICLE COLLISIONS WHO SHOULD YOU CALL?

If you have been involved in a deer vehicle collision and require assistance, please contact the police.

The police will deal with road safety issues and have access to specialists who will know the best course of action for the animal if it is alive.

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