



CCTV Annual Report

2022-2022

Sedgemoor - Bridgwater,
Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge



This document has been produced to provide details of the CCTV surveillance system in operation in the towns of Bridgwater, Burnham on Sea and Highbridge, monitored by Sedgemoor District Council. It also assists in demonstrating compliance with the Home Office's "Surveillance Camera Code of Practice" (the Code).

The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV system has been notified to the information Commissioner registration number Z5968381

Sedgemoor District Council currently operates 167 CCTV cameras which are a mix of Public

Open Space and internal cameras. These are monitored in Bridgwater. The scheme is supported by Somerset West and Taunton Council, South Somerset District Council and Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

There are currently 82 cameras in Sedgemoor monitored from the control room. 13 of these are internal within Bridgwater House and 1 within Westfield House lobby. The details and locations of these are set out below, including the amount of incidents each camera has been utilised in - recorded to date in 2022;

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Incidents 2022
1	Bridgwater - Bath Road/New Market	Digital	58
4	Bridgwater - Dampiet Car Park	Analogue	33
5	Bridgwater - Fore St/Binford Place	Digital	102
6	Bridgwater - Fore Street	Digital	104
8	Bridgwater - High Street	Digital	80
9	Bridgwater - St Mary St	Digital	45
10	Bridgwater - St Mary St/Broadway	Digital	46
11	Bridgwater - West Quay	Digital	75
12	Bridgwater - Northgate Car park	Digital	44
13	Bridgwater - Cornhill	Digital	58
14	Internal - Reception	Digital	7
15	Bridgwater - Rhode Lane	Analogue	11
16	Bridgwater - Rhode Lane	Analogue	24
17	Bridgwater - Rhode Lane	Analogue	1
18	Bridgwater - The Abbey – Due late 22	Digital	
19	Bridgwater - Parkway Shops	Analogue	28
20	Bridgwater - Parkway/Fairfax Road	Digital	7
21	Bridgwater - Coronation Park	Analogue	1
22	Bridgwater - Back of Parkway Shops	Digital	2
23	Bridgwater - Longstone/Fairfax	Digital	1
24	Bridgwater House Layby	Digital	42
25	Bridgwater House Rear Carpark	Digital	1

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Incidents 2022
26	Bridgwater - Church Street	Digital	45
27	Bridgwater – New Road	Digital	52
28	Bridgwater - Penel Orlieu	Digital	152
29	Bridgwater - Rear of Town Hall	Digital	76
30	Bridgwater - Angel Crescent	Digital	18
31	Bridgwater House Front/Kings Square		15
32	Bridgwater - Kings Square	Digital	26
33	Bridgwater - St Johns St	Analogue	88
34	Bridgwater - Retail Park/McDonalds	Digital	96
35	Bridgwater - Docks	Digital	29
36	Bridgwater - Broadway/West/North St	Digital	125
37	Bridgwater - Laciota House	Digital	10
38	Bridgwater - Penel Orlieu/Cinema	Digital	109
39	Bridgwater - Colley Lane Main Gate	Digital	2
40	Bridgwater - Prezzo/Cornhill	Digital	169
41	Bridgwater - YMCA	Digital	11
43	Bridgwater - Blake Carpark Due Oct 22	Digital	
46	Kings Down	Digital	23
47	Campus Way	Digital	21
48	College Way	Digital	17
49	Cross Rifles Roundabout	Digital	16
50	Barclay Street	Analogue	11
52	Quantock Road	Digital	3
53	Bridgwater - Indoor Market	Digital	77
54	Bridgwater - St Mary St/Church	Digital	57
57	Bridgwater – Kendale Road	Digital	11
59	Internal Rear doors Entrance A	Analogue	0
60	Bridgwater House Entrance B	Analogue	3
64	West Street	Digital	49
65	Blake Gardens	Analogue	37
66	Blake Gardens	Analogue	0
68	St Johns Street	Analogue	47
69	Victoria Park Community Centre	Analogue	0

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Incidents 2022
70	Westfield House lobby	Analogue	0
71	Internal - outside Control Room	Digital	0
72	Internal - Ground Floor Corridor	Digital	0
73	Internal - Lower Ground Corridor	Digital	1
74	Internal - Exit A on Lower Ground	Digital	1
75	Bridgwater - Colley Lane/ Pedestrian Entrance	Digital	
76	Bridgwater - Colley Lane	Digital	0
77	Bridgwater - Colley Lane	Digital	0
78	Bridgwater - Colley Lane	Digital	0
79	Bridgwater - Colley Lane/ Main Reception	Digital	0
80	Bridgwater - Colley Lane	Digital	1
83	Internal - ICT Server Room, Inside	Digital	0
84	Internal – ICT Server Room, Outside	Digital	0
87	Internal - Members Entrance	Digital	0
88	Internal - Control Room	Digital	0
89	Internal Control Room	Digital	0
90	Internal - Outside Control Room Door 2	Digital	0
92	Internal – Duncan McGinty Room	Digital	1
93	Internal - Reception	Digital	7
137	Burnham - Pier Street Car Park	Digital	13
140	Burnham - Esplanade	Analogue	0
141	Burnham - Pier	Analogue	0
142	Highbridge - A38/Market Street	Analogue	11
147	Burnham - Manor Gardens	Analogue	
148	Burnham - Pier Street	Digital	15
149	Burnham - Apex Park	Digital	7
150	Highbridge - Market Street	Analogue	8

The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.

This document also reviews the camera locations and highlights some of the good work CCTV assists with.

Introduction

Sedgemoor District Council has operated public open space CCTV cameras in Sedgemoor for over 20 years.

The cameras are permanently monitored 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year and the operatives are in close contact with the Police at all times via airwave radio, over 3 district channels.

The control room has a video wall with six large HD slim profile monitors.

Each monitor can display one, large image for dealing with major incidents or hot spot areas, or up to 4, 6, 9, or 12 images from separate cameras at any time, and this is all controlled by the new Genetec VMS equipment, which was installed in February 2022.



Sedgemoor District Council CCTV Monitoring Office

Background

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent;

- Crime and disorder in their areas (including anti-social and other behavior adversely affecting the local environment),
- The misuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances, and
- Re-offending in their areas.

This will lead to improvements in people's quality of life as a result.

Management responsibility for the monitoring, operation and technical maintenance of the CCTV scheme is undertaken by Sedgemoor District Council and it's approved installation and maintenance contractor CDS (Computerised Data Systems).

The CCTV Operations team consist of 1 Team Leader and 10 CCTV Monitoring Officers, all of whom are SIA licensed. Two members of staff, depending on operational requirements, undertake the 24-hour monitoring on a shift/rota basis. The scheme is operated in compliance with the internally approved CCTV Code of Practice, which has been agreed with the Police and has been prepared as guidance for Council staff and the operators of the system.

This internal Code of Practice also reflects the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and associated regulations. This was reviewed in 2021 and is refreshed bi-annually.

Purpose of the CCTV System

The Code details that the use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need.

It states that such a legitimate aim and pressing need might include national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, the prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

The scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.

The CCTV scheme is operated within applicable law/guidance and only for the purposes identified above. The scheme will be operated with due regard to the privacy of the individual.

The scheme will not be used, for example, for traffic management or minor enforcement issues (including parking offences).



List of Priorities

A list of priorities have been agreed with Avon and Somerset Constabulary, through monthly partnership meetings and fortnightly priorities meetings; The priorities are not listed in any particular order. They are all equally important and assist in evidencing the pressing need for the continued investment and use of CCTV to deter and prevent crime and disorder.

- Hate Crime
- Victimisation (including repeat victimisation)
- Vulnerability and Exploitation
- Anti-Social Behavior (nuisance)
- Reducing Re-offending
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Road Safety
- Use of drugs
- Missing persons (adult and minors)

Highlights from the Operation of the System - Bridgwater

Since the installation of the Genetec VMS System in February 2022 The key highlights are as follows:-

CCTV staff were involved in 501 incidents/ observations broken down as follows;

103 ASB Incidents

28 Missing Persons – Adults

44 Traffic Offences

35 Theft Offences

26 Concern for Welfare

32 Suspicious Activities

71 Assault Incidents

16 Public Order Offences

33 Drugs Offences

93 Other/Observations

20 Police Observations



CCTV staff were directly involved in 311 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Bridgwater throughout this period for the following offences;

32 ASB Incidents	22 Public Order Incidents
16 Wanted Persons	51 Traffic Offence Incidents
16 Suspicious Activity Offences	15 Weapons Incidents
43 Other Offences	16 Criminal Damage Offences
29 Theft Offences	50 Assault Offences

Number of arrests by month – Bridgwater

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22
	30	42	57	37	32	46	29	28	10

Highlights from the operations of the system – Burnham On Sea

Since the installation of the Genetec VMS System in February 2022 The key highlights are as follows:- CCTV staff were involved in 18 incidents/observations broken down as follows;

2 Missing person – Adults	2 Other Offences
2 Missing person – Minors	2 Police Observations
1 Robbery Offence	5 Assault Incidents
2 Public order Incidents	4 ASB Incidents
2 Suspicious Activity	4 Traffic Offences

CCTV staff were directly involved in 4 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Burnham On Sea throughout this period for the following offences;

1 Traffic Offences

2 Assault Offences

1 Police Observation

1 Public Order Offence

1 ASB Offence

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22
	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0

Highlights from the operations of the system – Highbridge

Since the installation of the Genetec VMS System in February 2022 The key highlights are as follows:- CCTV staff were involved in 18 incidents/observations broken down as follows;

4 Concern for welfare incidents

3 ASB Incidents

4 Traffic Incidents

2 Missing person - Minors

1 Theft Incident

2 Assault Incidents

1 Police Observation Incident

5 Suspicious Activity Incident

CCTV staff were directly involved in 4 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Highbridge throughout this period for the following offences;

2 Concern for welfare incidents

1 Traffic Incidents

1 Suspicious Activity Incident

Number of arrests by month – Highbridge

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22
	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0

Monitoring details

The images from the Council's CCTV cameras are monitored in a specifically designed secure monitoring suite in Bridgwater.

The images from all the cameras are being permanently recorded and these recordings are kept for 28 days before being deleted. Footage can be archived within a storage vault on the VMS if it is being used by the Police in relation to a specific case, however, when the footage is no longer needed it is deleted.

The Code details that access to retained images and information should be restricted and that there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted. The disclosure of images or information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.

Future Plans

Bridgwater - After securing funding from EDF, Sedgemoor District Council are overseeing a project to install 4 new digital cameras in the following locations within Bridgwater –

- Taunton Road
- Bristol Road/Wylds Road
- St Matthews Field
- High Street, Bridgwater

Funding has also been successfully approved from the Police Crime Commissioner to upgrade the 3 existing cameras in Rhode Lane, Bridgwater from Analogue to Digital. This project will be completed by the end of 2022.

Cranleigh Gardens in Bridgwater will also benefit from having a new digital public space camera installed in the central footpath and this has also been approved and ordered.

The monitoring office now has a link between Bridgwater House and Bridgwater Police Centre which will allow police communications operators a live, real-time view of what operators are monitoring. This will allow improved dispatch times across the areas we cover and a greater understanding of our role.

Burnham on Sea - A new digital camera has been ordered will be installed on Pier Street in the coming months, this will enable a full digital upgrade of all existing analogue cameras within the town, ensuring greater quality in coverage and evidence.

Directed Surveillance

- The law and our Code of Practice permits the use of the CCTV system to monitor or observe individuals covertly via CCTV (i.e. 'directed surveillance') at the request of 'Public Authorities' (i.e. law enforcement bodies).
- Targeted operations employing directed surveillance will only be carried out where other methods of investigation are not appropriate or not likely to be effective and where they are considered 'proportionate' to the suspected criminal activity or problem posed. The law and rules relating to covert surveillance are contained in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Failure to obtain the necessary authorisations under this Act could invalidate any subsequent evidence obtained by virtue of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- Local authorities are required to obtain judicial approval prior to using covert techniques. Local Authority authorisations and notices under the Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) will only be given effect once an order has been granted by a Justice of the Peace in England and Wales.

Complaints

The Code details that system operators should also record and publish information in relation to any complaints it receives about CCTV. For the period of this report 0 complaints were received.

Regulation of investigatory Powers

During the period in question no covert surveillance took place.

Future reports

- The Council will continue to be transparent regarding its use of CCTV and produce an annual report moving forwards as required.
- Sedgemoor District Council is committed to community safety and helps with the prevention and detection of crime. The council is exploring new ways to improve and develop our partnership working with neighbouring councils and partner agencies, to ensure a safer community to live, visit and work in.



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