

Road Collision Investigation Project

Safety Advice Notice 2021-03: Road safety considerations for the Fowey Royal Regatta

Issued: 18 July 2021

1.0 Safety issue

There has been a serious or fatal collision in or near Fowey during the final weekend of 3 of the last 5 Fowey Royal Regattas.

This accounts for 38% of all KSI collisions in or near Fowey during that 5 year period.

Cornwall Council, the Peninsula Road Safety Partnership and Devon & Cornwall Police are advised to consider the information in this safety advice as part of their planning for the Fowey Royal Regatta, in order to minimise the likelihood of a KSI collision occurring during the event.

3.0 Issued to:

- Cornwall Council
- The Peninsula Road Safety Partnership
- Devon & Cornwall Police

4.0 Background

4.1 Project background

The Road Collision Investigation Project (RCIP) is funded by the Department for Transport and coordinated by the RAC Foundation. The project seeks to establish whether there is a business case for putting more resource into the investigation of road crashes, based on a comparison with the approach to crash investigation used for other modes (Rail, Air and Sea) and safety critical industries (Oil & Gas) which suggests there could be a critical gap in the feedback cycle from the investigation of individual incidents through to the development of policies and strategies to reduce the incidence of crashes and mitigate the severity of those still happening.

[RAC Foundation - Road Collision Investigation Project \(RCIP\)](#)

RCIP safety advice notices are intended to draw attention to potential collision trends or safety issues identified from RCIP investigations of recent historical collisions, that a relevant group or organisation may wish to consider. Safety advice notices focus entirely on safety learning and do not in any way suggest or infer culpability or blame.

4.2 Safety issue background

An ongoing RCIP in-depth investigation of a collision has identified the following area of concern.

A fatal or serious collision has occurred in or near Fowey on the final weekend of 3 of the last 5 Fowey Royal Regattas. These 3 collisions account for 38% of all KSI collisions that have occurred in or near Fowey during the entire 5 year period.

5.0 Supporting information/evidence

5.1 The regatta

The Fowey Royal Regatta takes place each August and according to the regatta website attracts thousands of visitors. It takes place from a Sunday to the following Saturday when it concludes with a fireworks display. The regatta website also describes a number of land based events.

Traditional land-based events include the Carnival procession, fireworks displays, the crab-catching competition and Fowey harbour swim, the Giant Pasty ceremony and pasty-eating competition, flora dance and, of course, Fowey Town Band. Plus live music every night on Town Quay¹.

5.2 Collision data

From 2015 to 2019, a total of 8 fatal or serious collisions have occurred in or near² Fowey (figure 1). 3 of the 8 collisions (38%) have occurred during the weekend that concludes the regatta.

The 3 relevant collisions are:

New Road Hill. 1330, Sunday 23/08/2015.

A pedestrian was walking with his back to the traffic on a section of New Road Hill which has no pavement. The pedestrian was struck from behind by a goods vehicle and seriously injured.

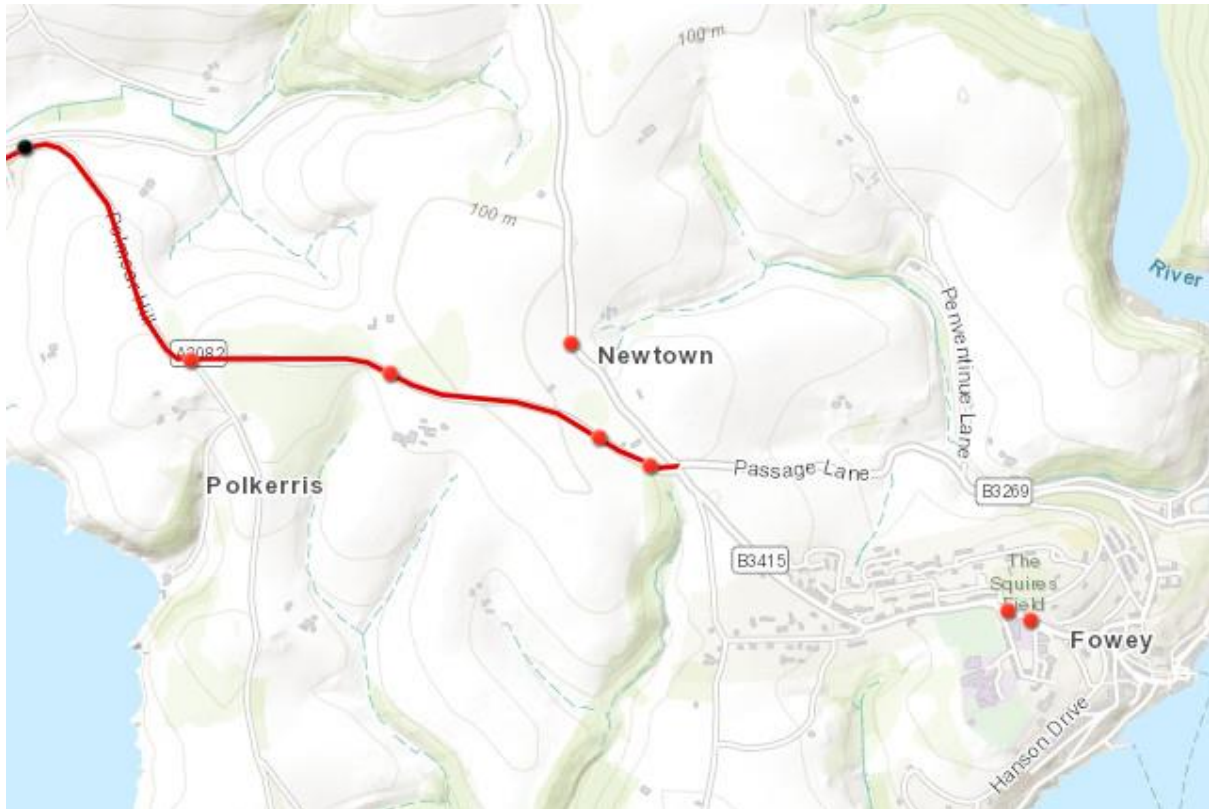
A3082 near Polmear. 2121, Saturday 20/08/2016

A car driver was travelling home from the regatta when he lost control of the car. The front seat passenger, a 17 year old girl was killed. The driver pleaded guilty to causing death by careless driving.

A3082 near Four Turnings. 2323, Saturday 25 August 2018

Two pedestrians who had attended the regatta were walking on the A3082 with their backs to the traffic. A car whose driver had also attended the regatta hit both pedestrians causing life changing injuries. The driver failed to stop but was traced and subsequently pleaded guilty to drink driving.

Figure 1. Fatal (black circle) and serious (red circle) collisions that occurred between 2015 & 2019 within 3 miles of Fowey Town Quay. The A3082 is shown as a red line as it has a RSF EuroRap risk rating of medium-high. Note this does not include collisions on the Polruan side of the estuary.



Source: Crashmap Pro

6. References

¹ <https://foweyregatta.co.uk/> accessed 14/07/2021

² Within a 3 mile radius of Fowey town quay and on the Fowey side of the estuary.