

Somerset Road Accident and Casualty Locations 2011

Introduction

This paper provides countywide maps of the locations of road accidents and casualties in Somerset in 2011. It complements the Somerset Casualty Review 2011 produced by Somerset Road Safety, which focuses more on data trends.

Information is broken down by severity of incident and by age group. In addition, maps covering key road safety issues are included: accidents involving motor cycles ('power two-wheelers'), accidents involving pedal cyclists, and accidents involving car drivers aged 70 or over.

Data was supplied by Somerset Road Safety and the report was produced by the Partnership Intelligence Unit based at Somerset County Council.

Casualties and accidents are classed as slight, serious or fatal/killed. 'KSI' refers to Killed or Seriously Injured. Full definitions are available in the Appendix.

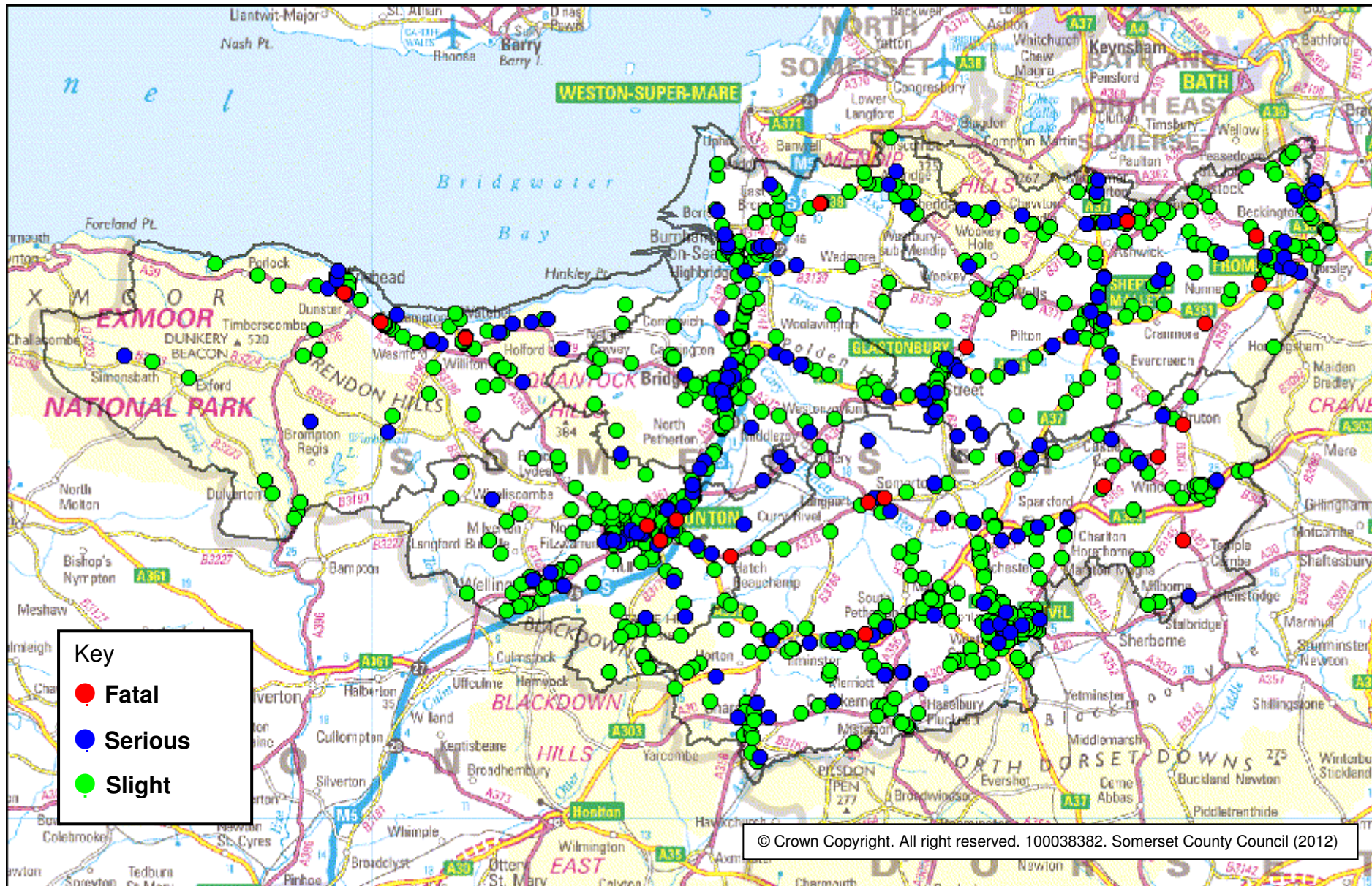
The Somerset Casualty Review 2011 is published at: <http://roadsafetysomerset.org.uk/downloads.html>

Accident and Casualty Location Maps

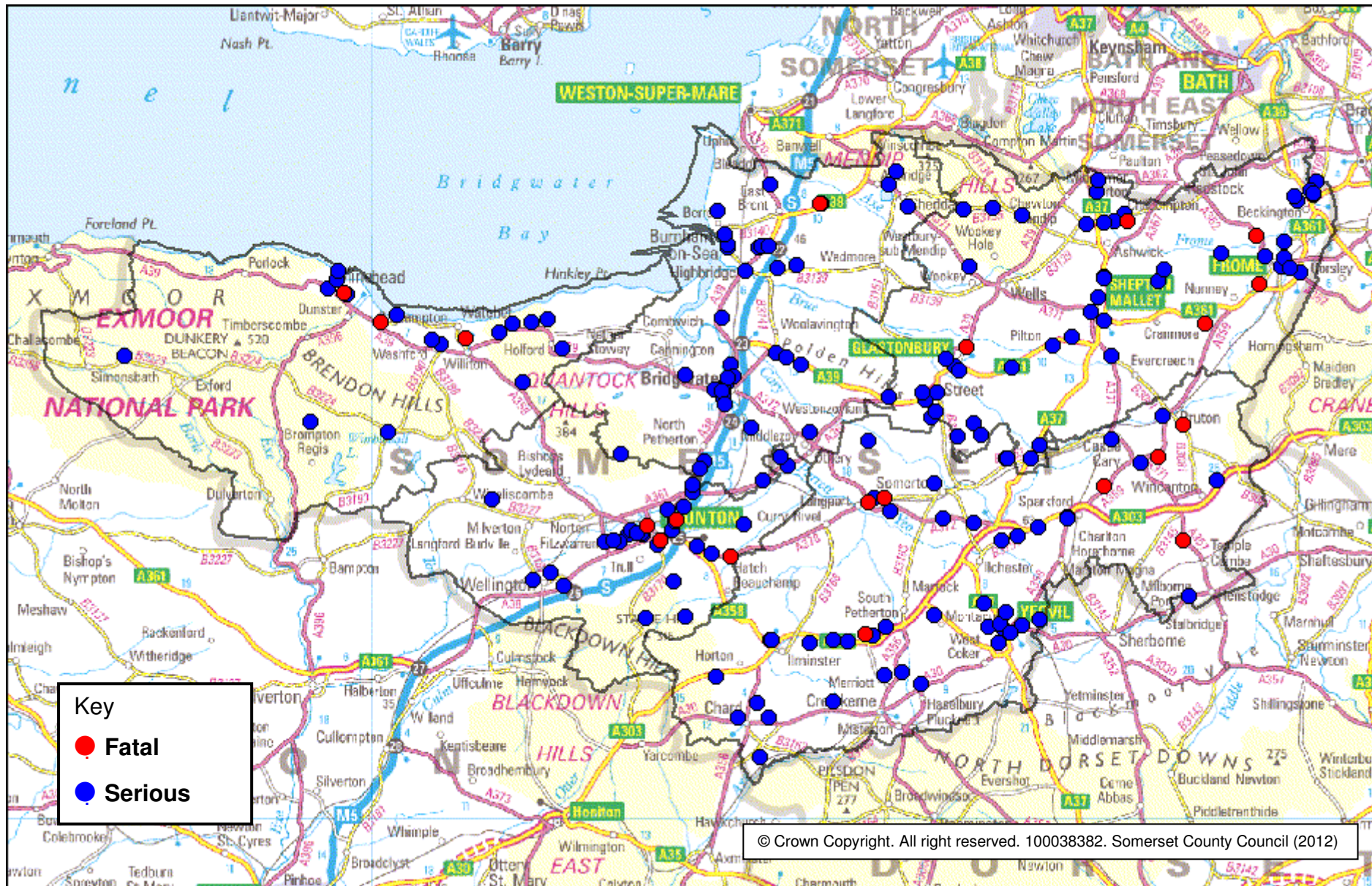
Map 1 shows all accidents occurring during 2011, broken down by slight (coloured green), serious (blue) and fatal (red) accidents. As may be expected, accidents are to be found predominantly in and around towns and on the county's main trunk roads, including the M5/A38 (Wellington to Burnham-on-Sea), A303 (Ilminster to Wincanton), A371 (Axbridge to Wincanton), A39 (Porlock to Wells) and A358 (Williton to Ilminster). Note that one accident can give rise to several casualties; for example, the well-publicised M5 incident near Taunton on 4th November 2011.

Map 2 focuses on all KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) casualties.

Map 1: All Accidents, 2011



Map 2: KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) Casualties, 2011



Maps 3 to 6 show the locations of casualties in specific age groups: children, younger adults, adults (aged 25-59) and older people. Some key observations are:

Child casualties (aged 0-15)

- The highest concentrations of child road casualties are in and around urban areas.
- South Somerset experienced the highest number of KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) child casualties in 2011; while West Somerset had no KSI child casualties.

Youth / Young Adult casualties (aged 16-24)

- KSI casualties in this age group rose in 2011, in contrast with the overall downward trend.
- Pockets of young adult KSI casualties exist around Frome/Rode and along the A38 (Taunton Road) in Bridgwater.
- A relatively high proportion of young adult casualties are serious (in comparison with other age groups).

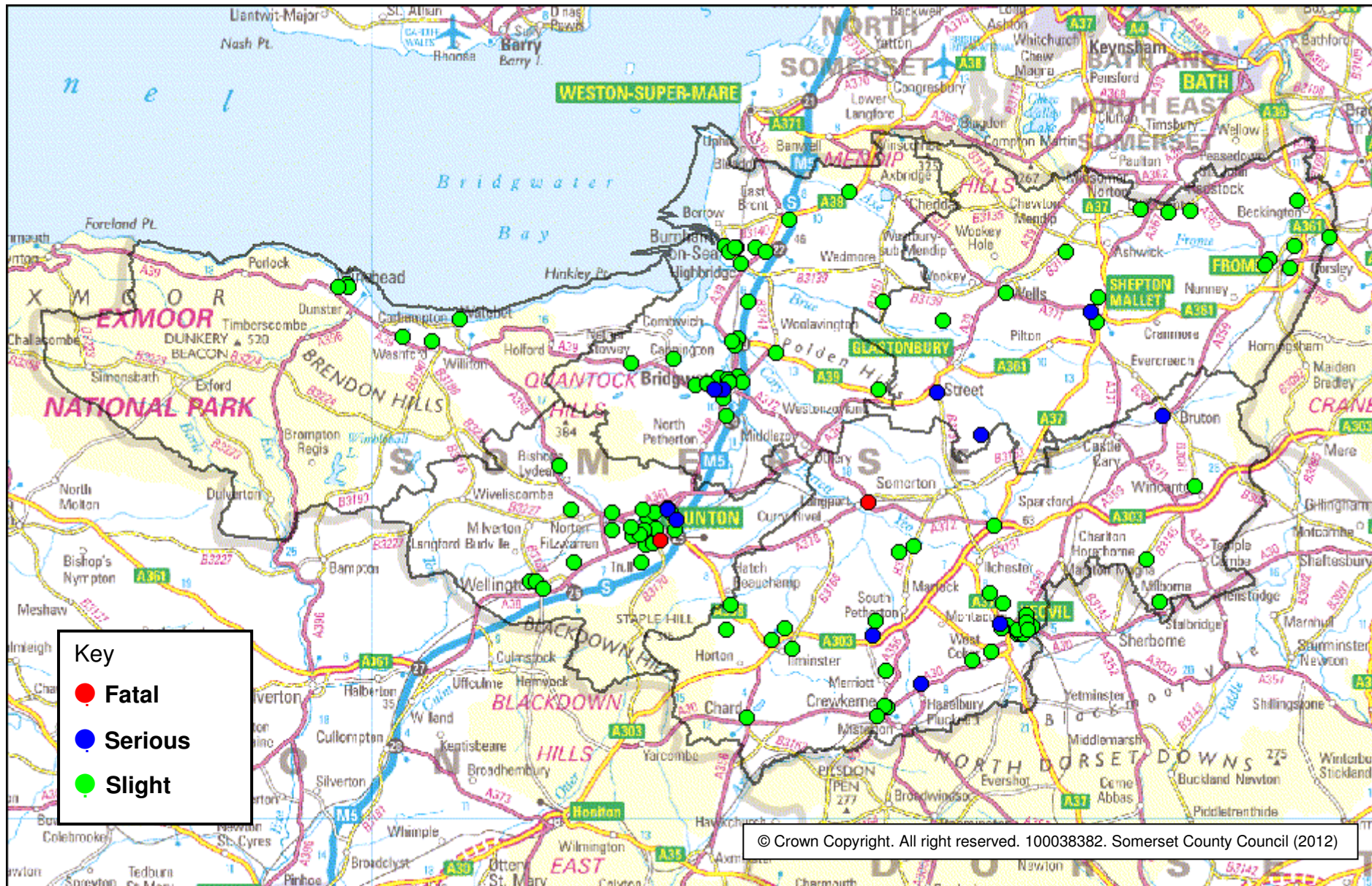
Adult casualties (aged 25-59)

- Adult KSI casualties are found throughout the county but are mainly concentrated on main roads between towns.
- Clusters of KSI casualties include the A39 between Williton and Nether Stowey, the A38 between Taunton and Highbridge and the B3135 near Cheddar

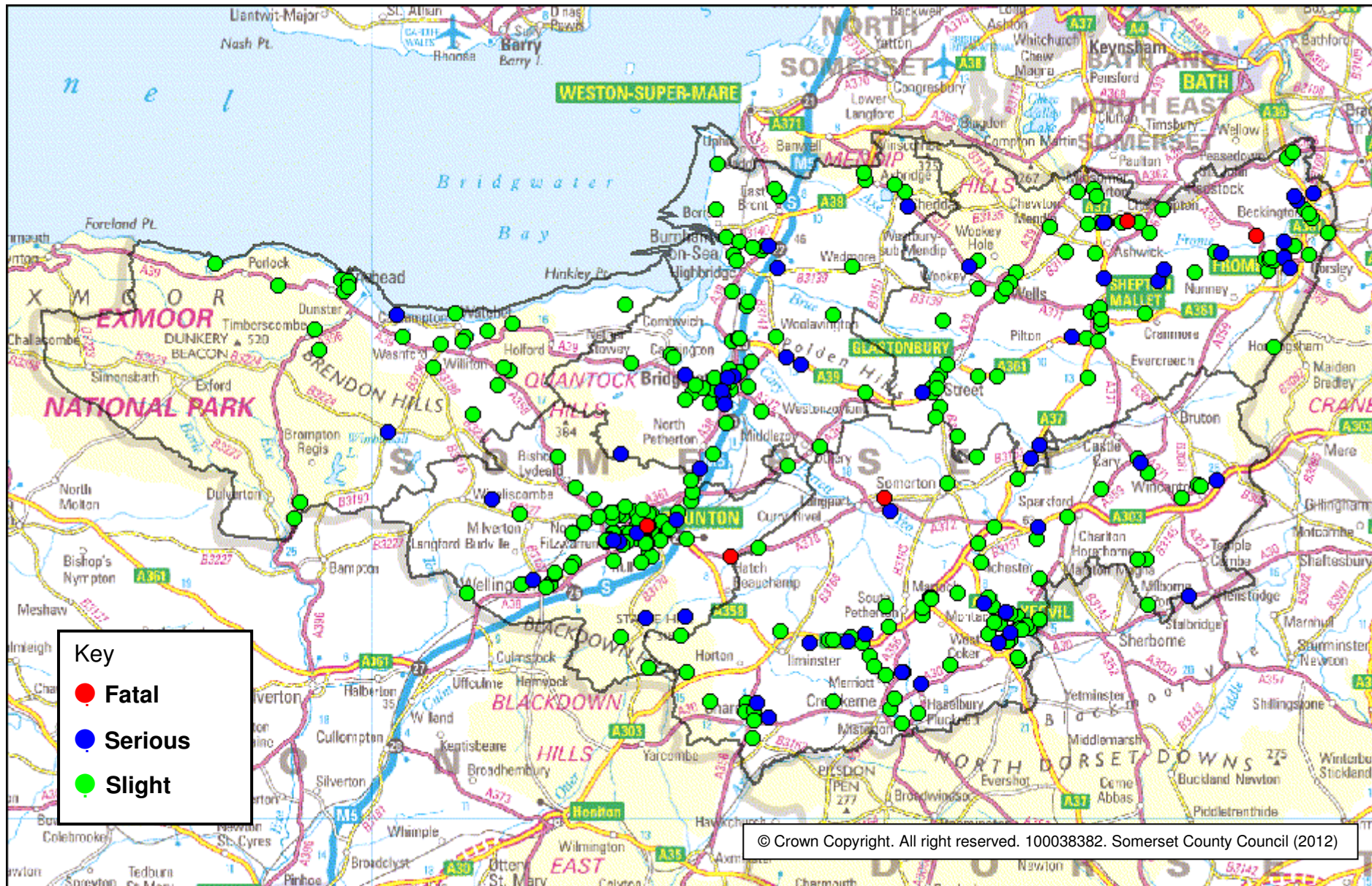
Older People (aged 60+)

- Older KSI casualties are more often found in rural areas and in communities with an older population demographic, such as Minehead and Burnham-on-Sea.

Map 3: Child Casualties (aged 0-15), 2011



Map 4: Youth / Young Adult Casualties (aged 16-24), 2011



Maps 7 to 9 show the locations of casualties relating to key road safety issues, namely accidents involving car drivers aged 70+; accidents involving motor cycles; and accidents involving pedal cyclists. Some key observations are:

Accidents involving Car Drivers aged 70+

- Serious accidents involving older car drivers are distributed throughout the county but generally outside urban areas.
- Slight casualties are more likely to be within major towns.

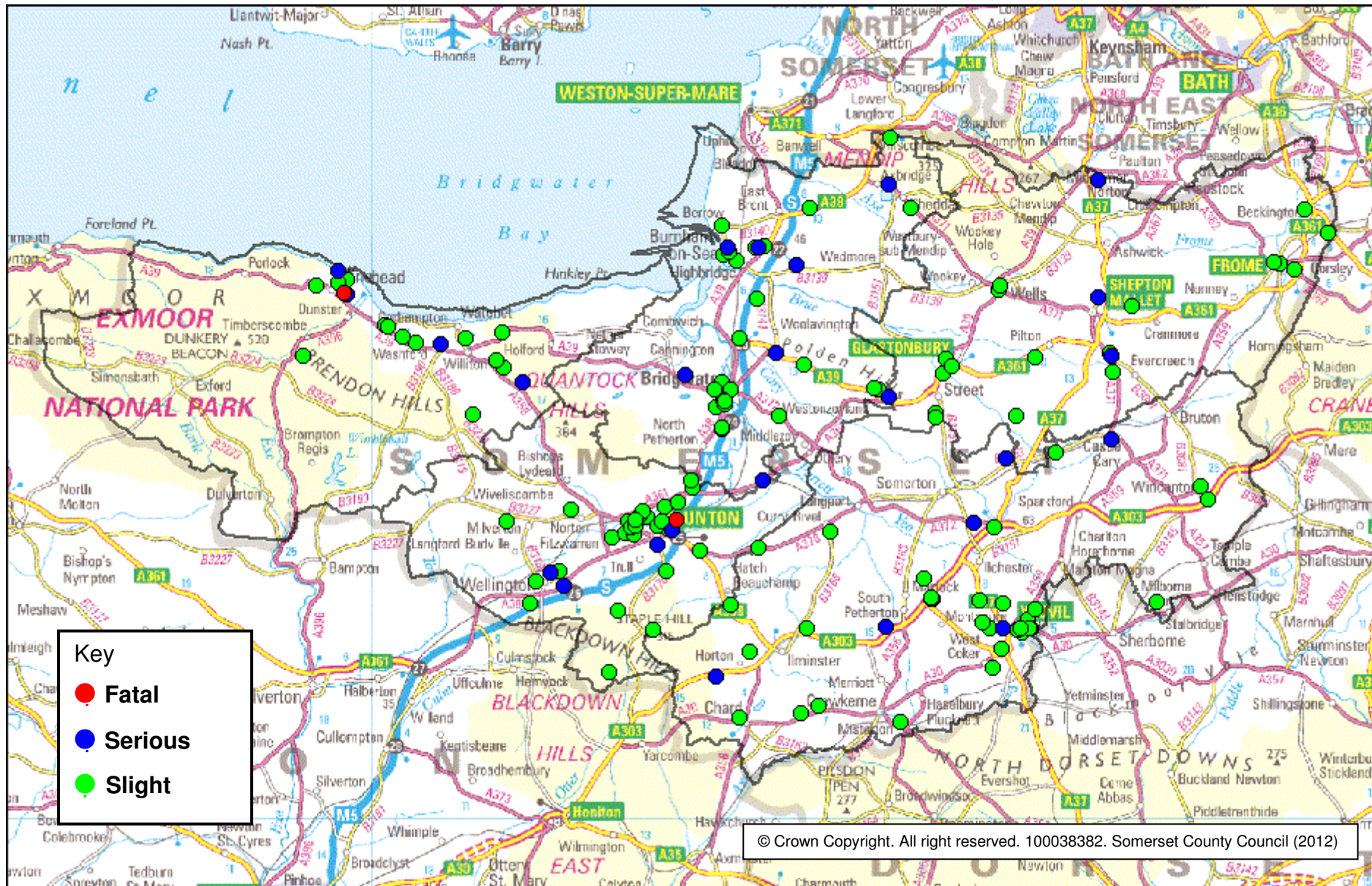
Accidents involving Motor Cycles

- A relatively high proportion of accidents involving motorcycles are serious or fatal (KSI).
- Slight injuries tend to be concentrated in urban areas, particularly Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater.
- Fatalities are confined to major A-roads between towns.

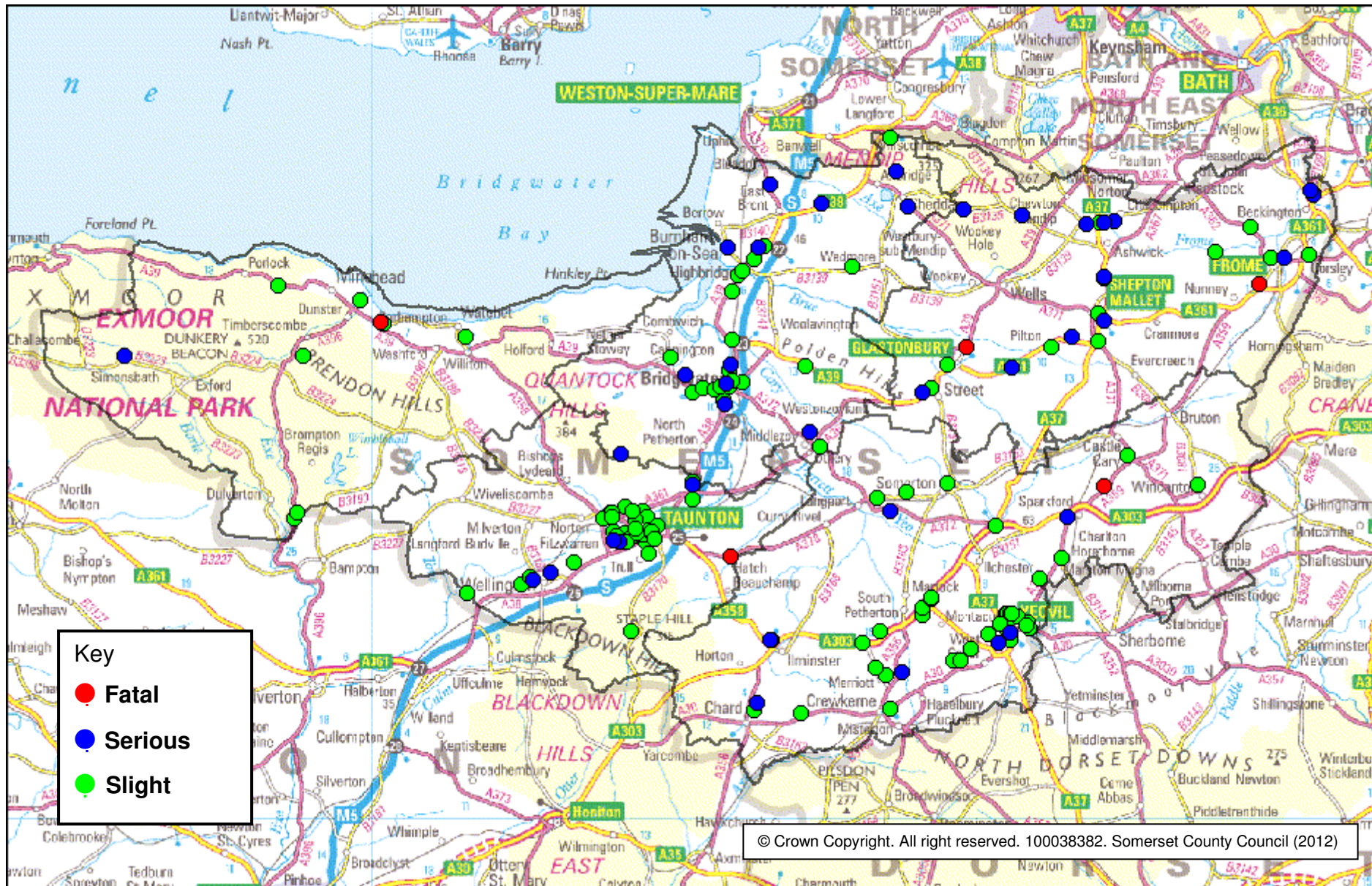
Accidents involving Pedal Cycles

- Urban areas are the hotspots for slight accidents involving pedal cyclists.
- Taunton and rural South Somerset experienced the majority of serious or fatal accidents involving pedal cyclists in 2011.

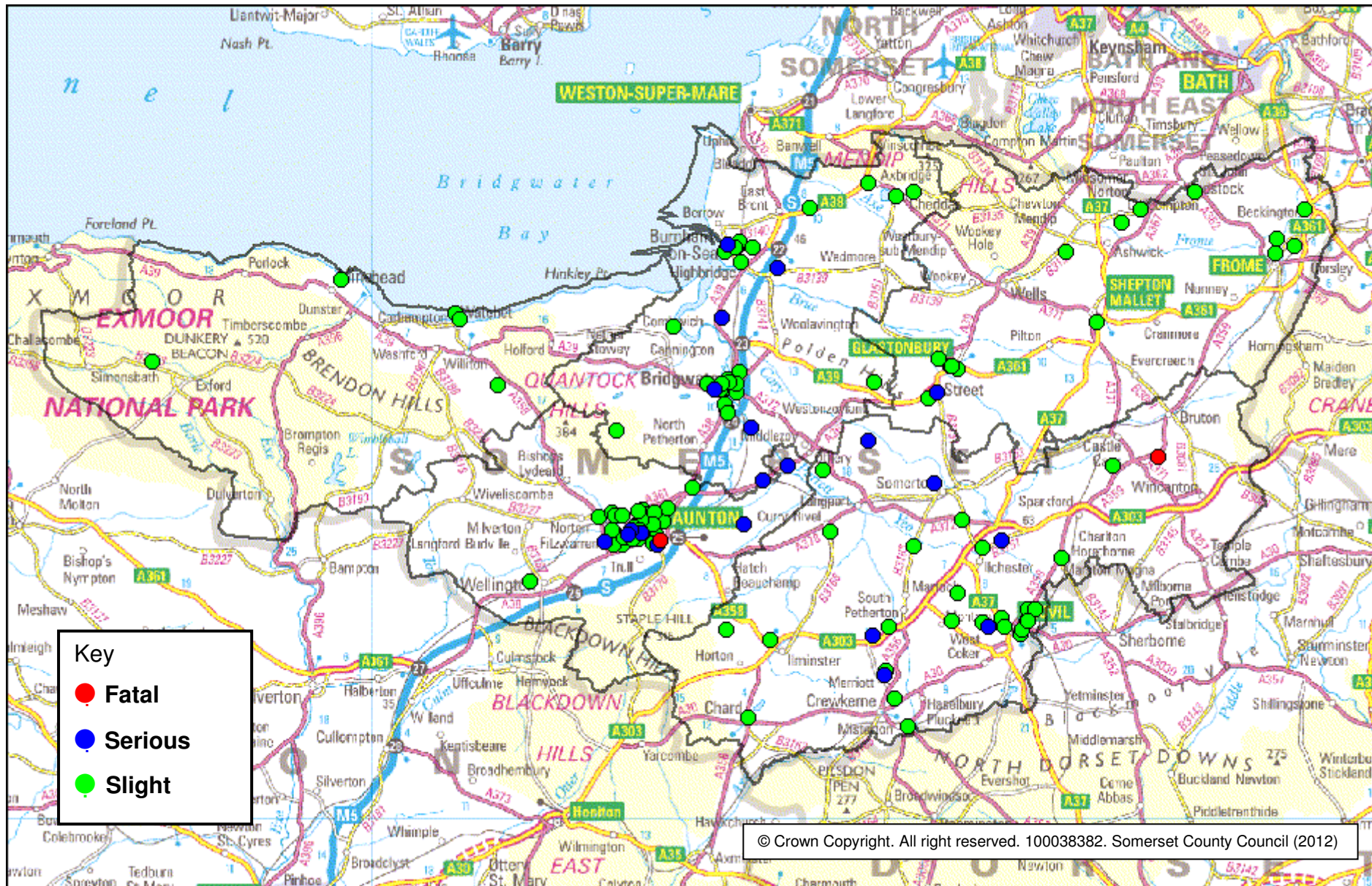
Map 7: Accidents Involving Car Drivers Aged 70+, 2011



Map 8: Accidents Involving Motorcycles, 2011



Map 9: Accidents Involving Pedal Cyclists, 2011



Appendix - Definitions

Accident	Involves personal injury occurring on the public highway (including footways) in which at least one road vehicle or a vehicle in collision with a pedestrian is involved and which becomes known to the police within 30 days of its occurrence. The vehicle need not be moving, and accidents involving stationary vehicles and pedestrians or users are included. One accident may give rise to several casualties.
Slight accident	One in which at least one person is slightly injured but no person is killed or seriously injured.
Serious accident	One in which at least one person is seriously injured but no person is killed.
Fatal accident	An accident in which at least one person is killed.
Slight injury	An injury of a minor character such as a sprain (including neck whiplash injury), bruise or cut which are not judged to be severe, or slight shock requiring roadside attention. This definition includes injuries not requiring medical treatment.
Serious injury	An injury for which a person is detained in hospital as an “in-patient”, or any of the following injuries, whether or not they are detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushings, burns (excluding friction burns), severe cuts, severe general shock requiring medical treatment and injuries causing death 30 or more days after the accident.
Fatal / Killed	Human casualties who sustained injuries which caused death less than 30 days after the accident.
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured