

ATLAS (Animal Threat Level Assessment System) Merseyside L & CH postcodes Report.

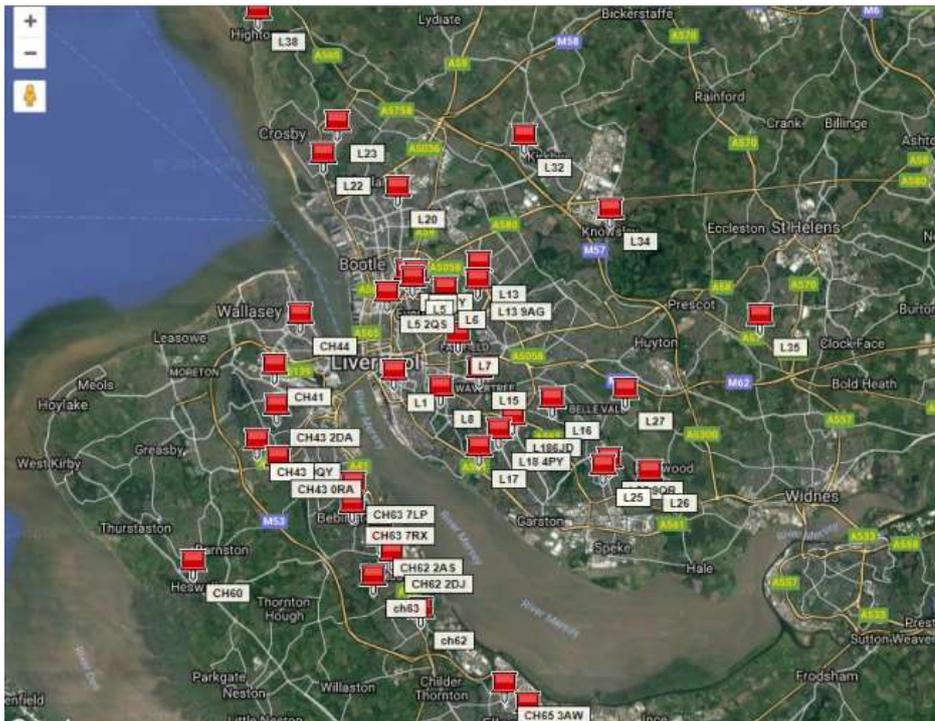


Dog Awareness week report 2020 CWU/MDSP ATLAS system now being introduced in North Wales.

Following on from the successful trial of the CWU/MDSP ATLAS system in Merseyside is now being introduced as a reporting system For dangerous dogs in the North Wales geographical area through joint work with Royal Mail & the CWU.

The impetus to develop ATLAS (Animal Threat Level Assessment System)

Throughout our previous partnership work with Merseyside Police, MDSP and local councils it was decided a collaborative 'innovative' approach should be encouraged and consultation with other like-minded organisations was warranted. This was based on the level and likelihood of risk in the Merseyside area and a chain of very sad local dog attack events. See dog attack Heat map (below) of dog bites in the UK. The map shows hospital admission rates per 100,000 populations for dog bites and strikes. In May 2015 Merseyside was named the 'dog attack capital of Britain', which further highlighted the need for a collaborative 'innovative' partnership approach. In Merseyside we (CWU) have used the comprehensive level of local survey research to try and evaluate the level of commitment required to combat this serious issue that blights our community. Our own RMG dog attack map is also detailed below.





Before launching the ATLAS trial, we also looked at feedback from frontline RMG staff (over 900) who took part in the Liverpool University evaluation survey in 2017, this showed **many staff wanting earlier interventions**.

It was our suggestion (after speaking with members of the MDSP and RMG/CWU dog safety joint working group) that we needed an intervention tool that can be shared **earlier** (before attack) with enforcing authorities. The authorities then have the evidence and of course the statutory power to intervene on our behalf when acting in the best interests of the community.

What ATLAS allows for is an earlier intervention when we have pre bite & near bite events. These are in fact still potential 'section 3' offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act and should be reported to police teams and local enforcing agencies. From a business perspective ATLAS creates a huge responsibility shift once the document is completed and forwarded to interested parties and enforcing agencies.

It can also be saved and revisited should any future attack occur; Postal workers are part of the community and therefore community and public health risks should naturally follow an escalation route to allow for any of the many protection systems that exist. These benefit not just the community, but also postal workers once implemented. ATLAS has been fully shared via MDSP meetings and feedback was positive.

ATLAS would be best described as a **dangerous** dog hazard mapping system and we have proved it is **very easy to introduce**.

On average ATLAS takes just 5-7 minutes to complete

ATLAS (Animal Threat Level Assessment System) - example scenario.

- Postman/woman identifies an animal threat, reports it via a QR coded report form for their delivery office.
- A nominated person (for that postcode sector) receives the notification of a submitted ATLAS report via email, which in some cases would score lowly & be dealt with in house. if it was a medium to high score, the ATLAS report can be immediately emailed to the relevant agency to deal with the hazard
- At this point Royal Mail can prove it has taken positive steps, along with visits, letters & informing delivery staff of the hazard. A delivery suspension will often occur.
- The enforcing agency will now have the information needed to take positive action, to control the animal. It also puts the onus on the agency to do something, because a paper trail is being produced.

For an example of how ATLAS can work to protect the community see below



Low level letterbox was being accessed by aggressive dog when mail deliveries occurred. The postal worker reported this via the ATLAS reporting system. Solution was external post box being fitted. Action completed with 72 hours of ATLAS report.

External box fitted within 24 hours of visit from the Dog Technical Officer (Wirral Council, Environmental Services) and only 72 hours from the ATLAS report first being submitted.

We have now proved that ATLAS encourages a multi-agency partnership approach, ATLAS also benefits local communities by providing information which then allows enforcing agents to give advice and support to dog owners about the likes of dog welfare, dog micro chipping, dog behaviour and the current law

ATLAS also provides vital information for police in working with other organisations – providing documentary evidence that’s sufficiently robust to be presented as evidence in Court if need be.

So far in Merseyside we have seen over 60 ATLAS reports submitted with a 90% intervention rate from local councils/Police. It is pleasing to report that thankfully we have so far not suffered any subsequent dog attack at those addresses where an intervention visit or letter from local enforcing authority occurred. Long may this partnership work continue.

Trial of the AMAP tool



The Amap tool is a **multi-purpose** tool designed primarily for cross contamination reduction from Coronavirus, however it is now being trialled for use on delivery reducing

- 1-Cross contamination Covid 19 risk reduction (when used for Gate /door opening)
- 2-Needlestick/sharps injury reduction (when used for Scoop Clearing post boxes)
- 3-Dog hazard finger injury reduction (when used as Alternative to post it peg)

When used for the above tasks, a fist position is created thus protecting both the palm of the hand and fingers. This year in Merseyside we have seen 3 partial finger amputations caused by letterbox dog attacks.

Design summary

A 3D printable Multi-purpose tool designed originally at Sunderland University as a door opener to avoid touching door handles during Covid 19-

The Test tool is printed on a Ultimaker S5 in Plastic filament. This gives a print that is quick to run and strong enough for the task. the same tool can be manufactured using 3D printing or laser cut with alternative material such as nylon, carbon fibre.

License - AMAP Pocket Door Opener by [AMAP](#) is licensed under the [Creative Commons - Attribution](#) license.

WE NEVER KNOW WHO IS WAITING FOR US BEHIND THE LETTERBOX



THE USUAL SUSPECTS



PLEASE HELP PROTECT ROYAL MAIL KEY WORKERS IN MERSEYSIDE- INVEST IN A LETTERBOX CAGE

LETTER CATCHER



LETTER SNATCHER

