



Bike Theft Statistics – Quarterly Update

The University of Edinburgh Transport Office

August-October 2023

Introduction

This report summarises bike theft incidents at the University of Edinburgh, so that staff and students can understand the risks and scale of the problem.

It is based on reported incidents submitted to the University’s Security section (covering incidents on the academic estate). This report covers the period from 1st August to 31st October 2023. New reports will be published quarterly.

Note that these stats only cover incidents that are *reported* to the University, or those which are noticed by patrolling Security staff. It is therefore probable that there are more incidents taking place than those detailed here – this is especially the case for unsuccessful attempted thefts, which may take place without even being noticed, let alone reported.

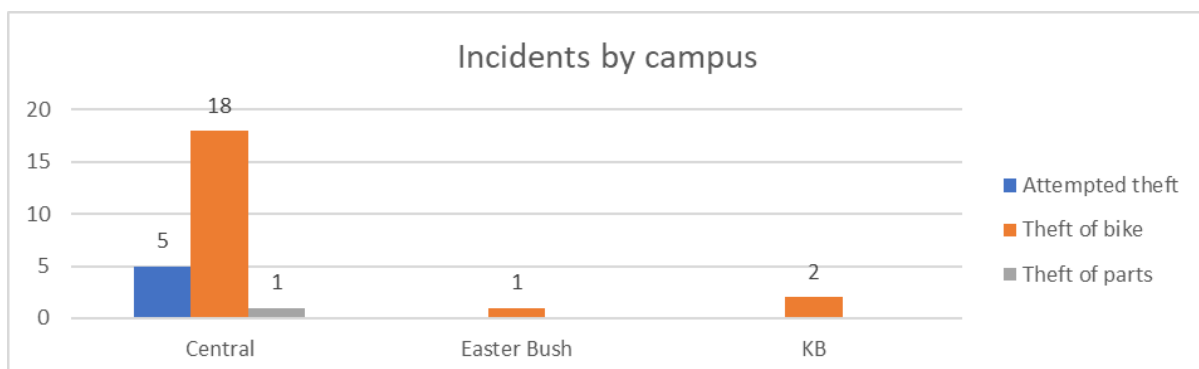
If you ever have a bike stolen, or observe a theft in progress or other suspicious behaviour on campus, please report it to University Security on 0131 650 2257 or security@ed.ac.uk.

Number and locations of incidents

In this period there have been 27 incidents reported: 21 bike thefts, 5 unsuccessful attempted thefts, and 1 theft of parts.

The average value of a stolen bike is around the £800-£1000 price point.

The vast majority of these (24 incidents - 89%) occurred in the Central Area. There were 2 at KB and 1 at Easter Bush. 0 were reported in other parts of the academic estate.¹



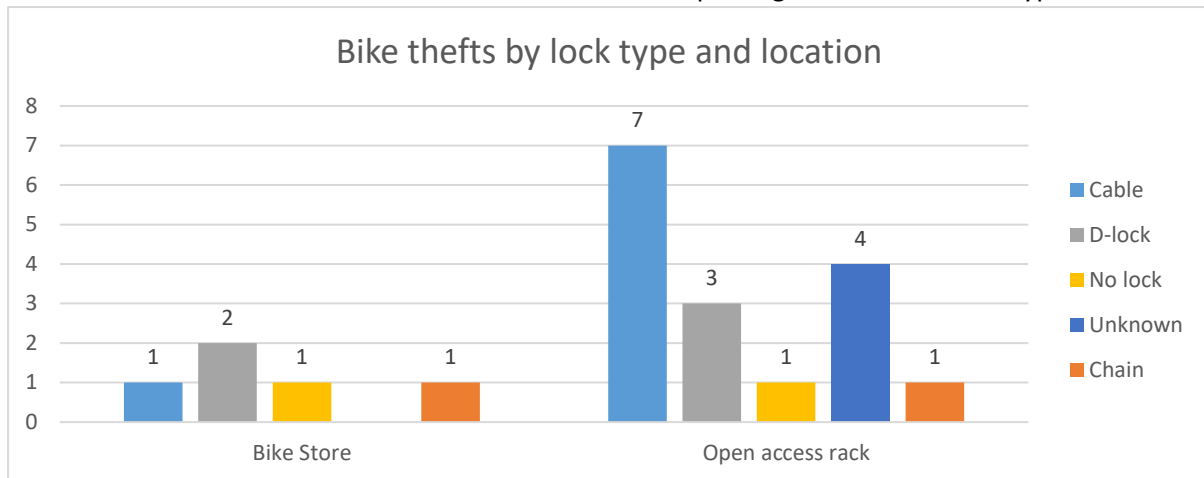
Most incidents (22 – 81%) occurred at public, open-access racks. 5 occurred in access-controlled bike stores.

¹ Incidents on University-managed student accommodation sites are covered by the Community Support Team. At time of publication, data was not available for these sites. We will update the report when it becomes available.



Type of lock and bike parking

In cases of a successful bike theft, the most common type of locks were cable locks. The chart below shows how incidents are broken down between different parking locations and lock types.



Type of bikes

3 of the bikes targeted were e-Bikes. 23 were normal push bikes. 1 is unknown.

Other factors

In 85% of cases CCTV footage of the incident was obtained. Unfortunately, thieves usually wear face coverings, making a positive identification more difficult. CCTV footage is passed to Police Scotland at their request to assist with investigations whenever possible.

81% of incidents occurred during daylight, and 85% occurred during the weekday.

The Bigger Picture

Since January 2022 we have recorded 115 incidents, of which 95 were bike thefts. Based on cycling rates reported in the March 2022 travel survey, we estimate that there are around 6100 staff and students commuting by bike as their main mode of transport, meaning that about 1.5% of cyclists on campus have experienced a bike being stolen. This suggests that the risk is being a victim of a bike theft is relatively low – although of course, the individual impact of a theft can be immense if it does occur.

Protecting your bike

Edinburgh is renowned as a bike theft hotspot, and the rate of cycle theft is almost certainly an underestimate. We have advice on protecting your bike from theft on our website [here](#).