



Bike Theft Statistics – Quarterly Update

The University of Edinburgh Transport & Parking Office

November 2023 – January 2024

Introduction

This report summarises recent bike theft incidents at the University of Edinburgh, so that staff and students can understand the risks, 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 November 2023 to 31st January 2024. New reports are 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.

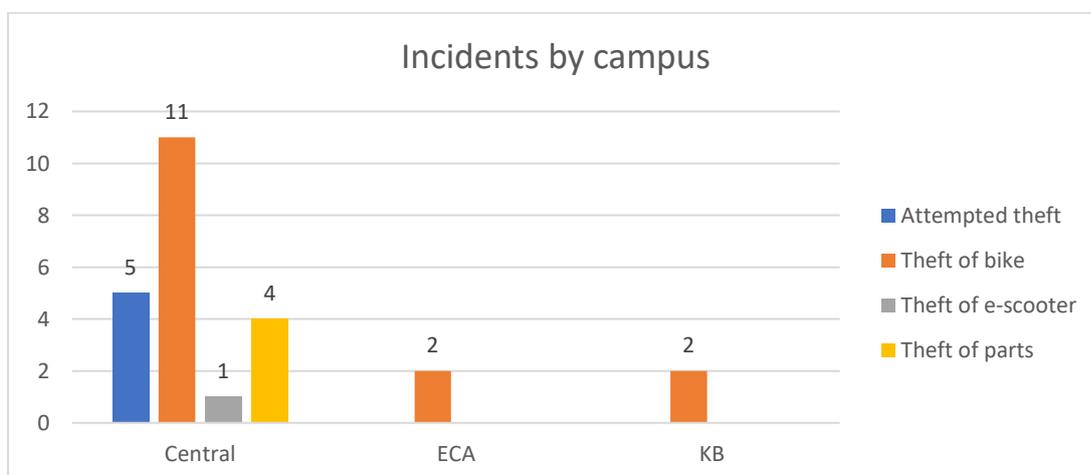
If you ever have a bike stolen, or observe a theft in progress or other suspicious behaviour on campus, please report it to University Security on 0131 650 2257 or security@ed.ac.uk.

Number and locations of incidents

In this period there have been 25 reported incidents: 15 bike thefts, 5 unsuccessful attempted thefts, and 4 theft of parts, and 1 e-scooter theft.

The average value of each of the stolen goods was £762.

The vast majority of these (21 incidents - 84%) occurred in the Central Area. There were 2 at KB and 2 at ECA. 0 were reported in other parts of the academic estate.¹

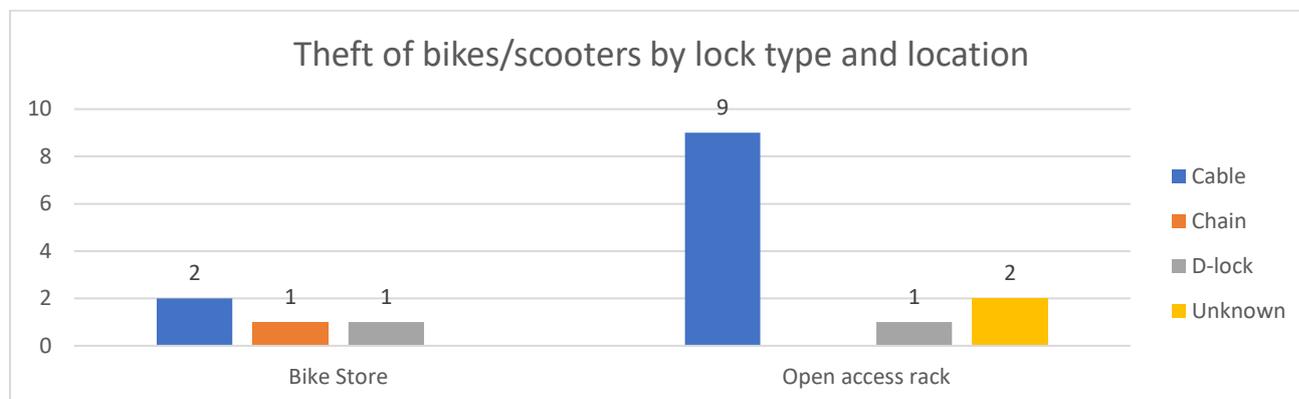


¹ Incidents on University-managed student accommodation sites are covered by the ACE Community Support Team, not central University Security. At time of publication, data was not available for these sites. We will update the report when it becomes available.

Type of lock and bike parking location

Most incidents (17 – 68%) occurred at public, open-access racks. 8 occurred in access-controlled bike stores.

In cases of a successful theft, the most common situation is that the bike was locked up to an open access rack using a cable lock. The chart below breaks this down further.



Type of bikes

All the bikes stolen in this period were normal pedal bikes. 1 e-scooter was stolen. No e-bikes were stolen, but 3 had parts stolen from them (2 batteries, and 1 set of lights).

Other factors

In 92% 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.

52% of incidents occurred during night. This is much more than in the previous report (when 19% of incidents happened at night). Because the overall number of incidents has remained broadly consistent, we would suggest that the reason for an increase in night thefts is fewer daylight hours at this time of year, rather than thieves taking advantage of the darkness – we know from previous months that they are just as willing to operate in daylight.

96% of incidents occurred on a weekday.

The Bigger Picture

Since January 2022 we have recorded 141 incidents, of which 104 were bike thefts. Since the previous report on bike theft (August – October 2023), the number of incidents has remained broadly consistent, with a slight drop in bike thefts and a slight rise in theft of parts. Central Area continues to be the main incident hotspot. The picture suggested by the above stats is that thieves are largely opportunistic – they are mostly targeting bikes in public places, secured by cable locks which can be cut quickly. They are brazen, and not afraid to operate during the working day when campuses are busy.

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](#).