



Bike Theft Statistics – Quarterly Update

The University of Edinburgh Transport & Parking Office

February 2024 – April 2024

Introduction

This report summarises recent 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 February 2024 to 30th April 2024. New reports are published quarterly.

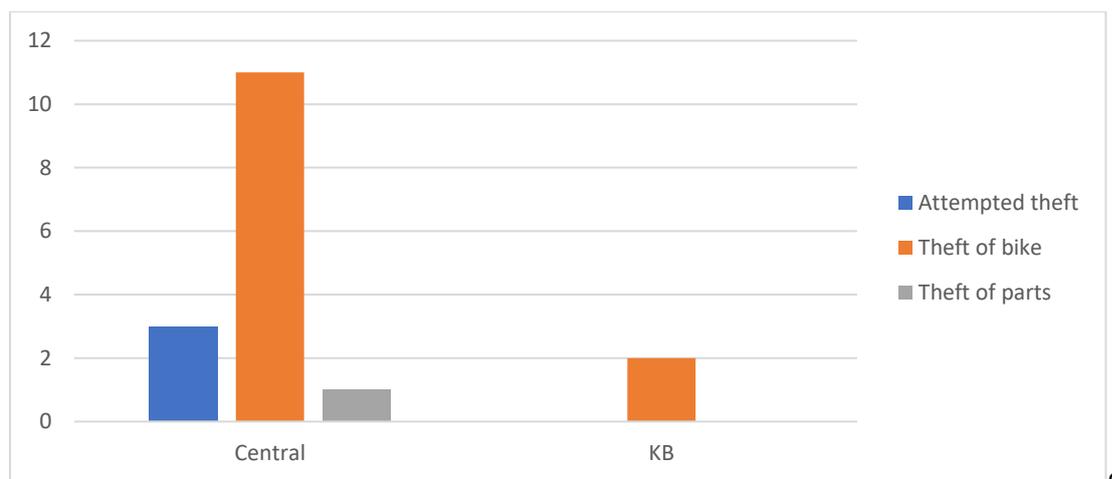
Note that these stats only cover incidents that are *reported* to the University, or those which are noticed by patrolling Security staff. It is therefore probable that there are more incidents taking place than those detailed here – this is especially the case for unsuccessful attempted thefts, which 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 17 reported incidents: 13 bike thefts, 3 unsuccessful attempted thefts, and 1 theft of parts.

The vast majority of these (15 incidents - 88%) occurred in the Central Area. There were 2 bike thefts at KB. 0 were reported in other parts of the academic estate.¹ This is fewer thefts than in the previous two reports.

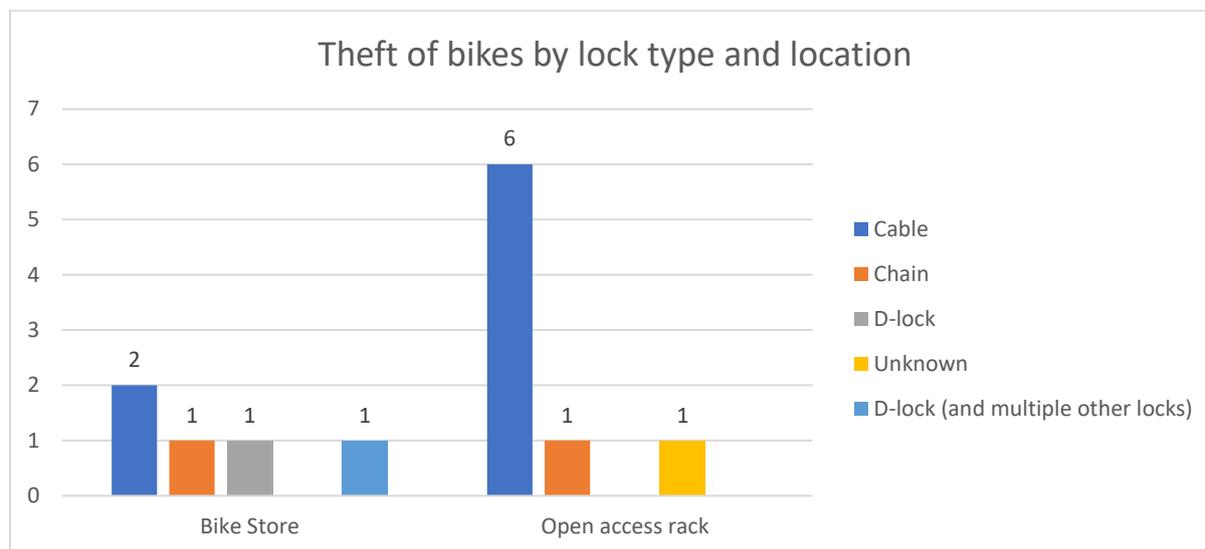


¹ Incidents on University-managed student accommodation sites are covered by the ACE Community Support Team, not central University Security. At time of publication, data was not available for these sites. We will update the report when it becomes available.

Type of lock and bike parking location

Most thefts (8 – 62%) occurred at public, open-access racks. 5 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 and value of bikes

8 of the bikes stolen in this period were normal pedal bikes. 4 e-bikes were stolen, and there was one stolen bike for which the type of bike was not recorded.

Whilst the number of bikes stolen has decreased over the past two reports, the average value of each stolen bike (where known) has increased. For this period, it was £1,489, almost double the previous reporting period. This is due to the 4 e-bikes which were stolen all being particularly high value.

Other factors

In 82% of incidents 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.

82% of incidents occurred during daylight hours, on a weekday. This is a clear indication of the brazenness with which bike thieves are operating. Your vigilance in reporting suspicious activity to University Security is needed and appreciated!

The Bigger Picture

Since January 2022 we have recorded 159 incidents, of which 118 were bike thefts. Since the previous report on bike theft (November 2023 – January 2024), the number of incidents has dropped, although there have been a few more thefts of higher-value bikes than previously. 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.

Bikes locked with cable locks are much more heavily targeted and easier to steal. You should invest in a good quality D-lock. Whilst these can be cut through by a determined thief, they are more hassle and make your bike a less obvious target.

We have further advice on protecting your bike from theft on our website [here](#).