



Bike Theft Statistics: long term summary

The University of Edinburgh Transport & Parking Office

January 2022 – November 2025

Introduction & Key Points

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. This summary report covers all known incidents since January 2022. More detailed updates are also provided quarterly.

The key findings are:

- There have been 200 bike thefts reported to the University Security since January 2022.
- The vast majority of thefts (almost 90%) occur in the University's Central Area.
- 75% of thefts are from bikes parked in public (e.g., open-access bike racks, street railings). 25% are from bike store facilities.
- Most (45%) bikes which were stolen were secured using a cable lock.
- The median value of stolen bikes was £700.
- This data suggests that most bike thefts which occur are opportunistic crimes: most thieves are taking bikes they can get away with quickly, rather than targeting specific or high-value bikes. That being said, around 20% of thefts are of high-value and/or electric bikes.

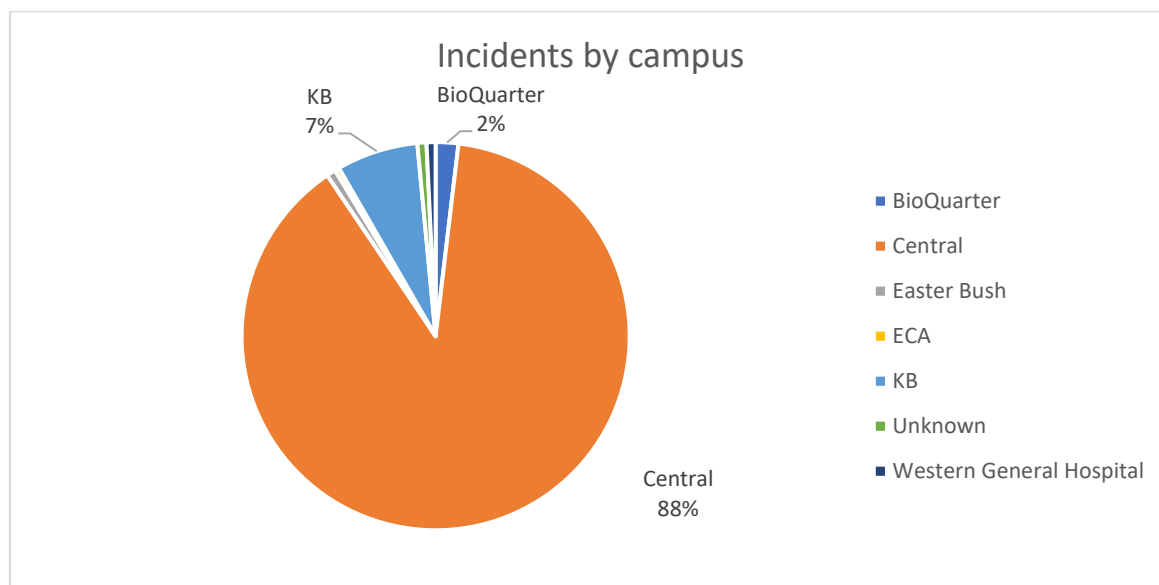
Note that these stats only cover incidents that are *reported* to the University, or those which are noticed by patrolling Security staff. It is therefore probable that there are more incidents taking place than those detailed here – this is especially the case for unsuccessful attempted thefts, which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

Since January 2022 there have been 265 reported incidents, 200 of which were bike thefts. There were also 40 reported attempted thefts, 23 theft of parts, and 2 reported thefts of e-scooters. The vast majority (88%) of these incidents have taken place in the Central Area.

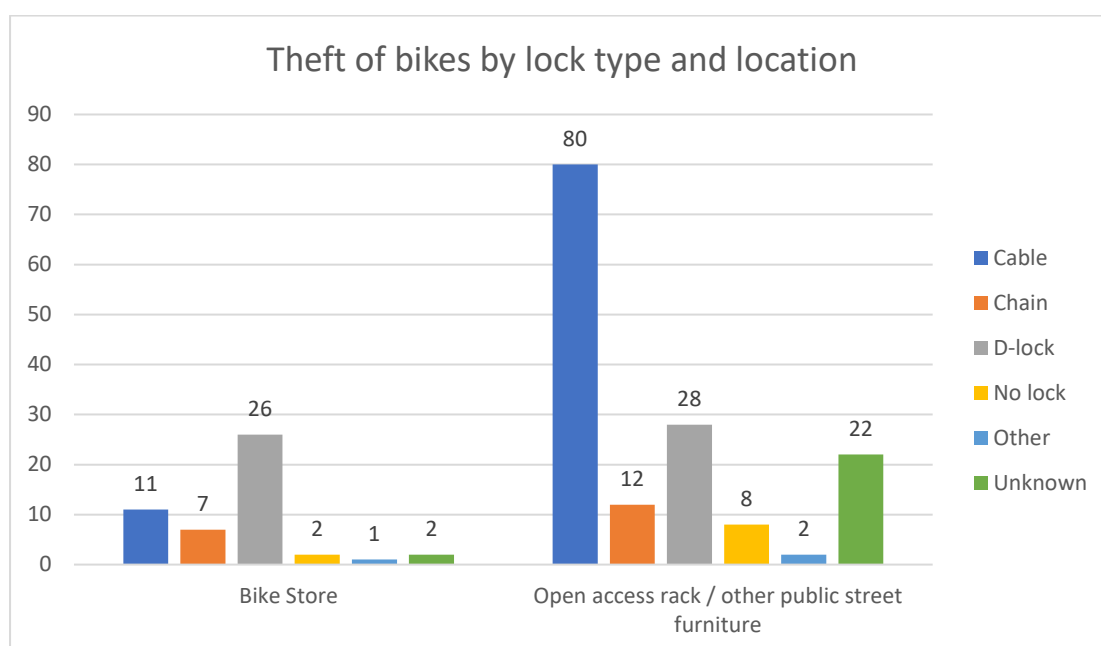
58% of incidents occurred during daylight hours on a weekday, demonstrating the brazenness of thieves unafraid to operate in public.



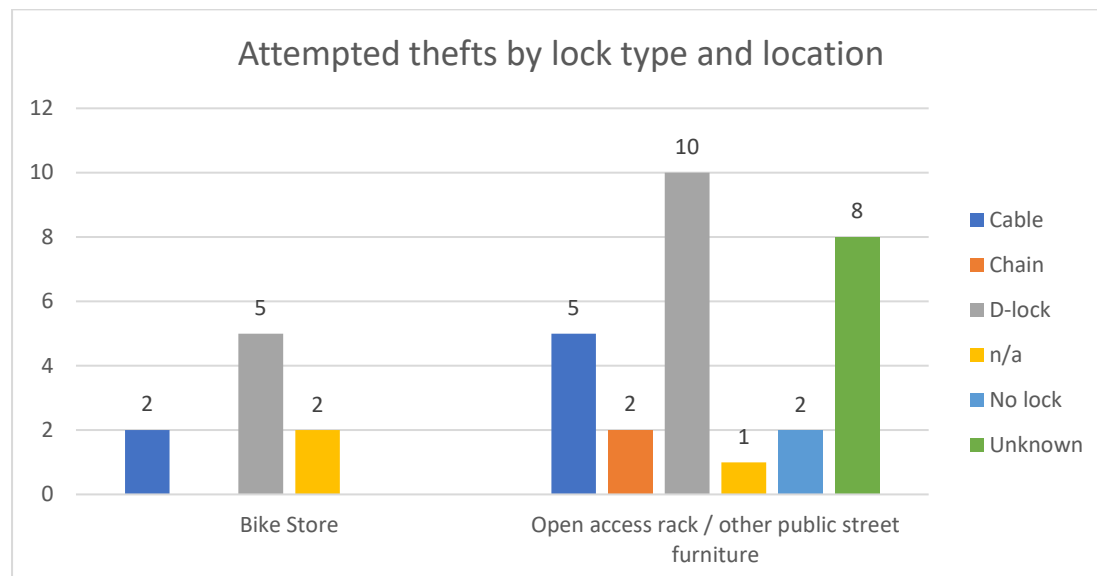
Type of lock and bike parking facility

Most bike thefts involve a bike which was left secured in public using a cable lock. These locks are easily cut in mere seconds using either a battery powered angle grinder or cable cutters, and we strongly recommend against using them.

Around 25% of thefts occurred in university bike stores. In these incidents, D-locks are the most common method of security.



Looking at unsuccessful attempted thefts, most of these involve a D-lock, showing that these locks can be effective at preventing thefts – either because the thief cannot break the lock, or they are delayed for long enough that the incident attracts public attention.



Type and value of bikes

18% of bikes stolen were e-Bikes. Where values are reported by victims, the average value of bikes stolen is around £950, and the median value is £700. 20% of bike stolen are worth more than £2000.

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 still be cut through by a determined thief, they are more hassle and make your bike a less obvious target. [The University sells D-locks at a discount.](#)

Bike stores provide an effective extra layer of protection, but cannot be guaranteed to be totally secure – maintenance faults do occasionally develop, and thieves can tailgate inside. Please report any faults to transport@ed.ac.uk.

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