

STEER CLEAR OF CYCLE THEFT



Security tips for cyclists



Protecting Communities, Targeting Criminals

DON'T ADVERTISE YOUR STUFF TO THIEVES

**LET'S KEEP
CRIME
DOWN**

PROTECT YOUR POSSESSIONS

When buying a bike, budget for security. Preferably buy two different types of quality lock and find somewhere secure at home to keep your bike.

Make sure you don't buy a stolen bike. By buying a stolen bike you are helping to support the illegal trade in bikes - the next stolen bike to be bought could be yours!

Take out adequate insurance, either by extending your home contents insurance or through a separate policy. Cycling organisations and bike shops may offer specialist cover. Do this at the time of buying the bike.

Cycle Identification Record

Victims of cycle theft rarely provide a unique description of their stolen cycle. This is needed for police to find the cycle, confirm it is stolen, deal with any possible offenders and return it to its owner. To help you we have designed a 'Cycle ID record' which has basic details plus - make, model, any stamped frame number and any added engraved numbers. The cyclist is provided with a copy of the record.

Cycle engraving with a unique number.

To help make your cycle unique the police offer a free engraving service. We will engrave a unique number on your cycle and provide a security sticker bearing the same mark. These details are added to your Cycle ID record. Contact your local policing team on 101 for your nearest cycle marking event or visit www.humberside.police.uk

Cycle records - Free National Database

www.immobilise.com is a police approved database, where a member of the public can create their own free, private account, to record property details. This system is private to the individual, but can be searched by all UK police, to help in returning your stolen property and bring offenders to justice. The web site is not just for cycles but can be used for any item and allows you to upload photos. During police cycle marking events, a duplicate copy of your Cycle ID record, with your approval, will be forwarded to [immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) to set up a new account on your behalf.



BASIC

At Home

More than half of all bicycle thefts take place from an owner's property. So as well as taking care of your bike when you are out and about, you should think about how safe it is at home.

- Keep your bike in a secure shed or garage and get into the habit of keeping the door locked. If you keep your bike in a shed, make sure you get a robust lock for the door.
- Secure it to an immovable object, or consider installing a floor or wall-mounted anchor lock for extra security.
- If you are going to keep your bike in a communal area, is there anything you can lock it to?
- Keep it out of public view.
- For extra protection, keep your bike locked wherever you leave it at home.

Out and about

- **Avoid leaving your bike in dimly lit or isolated places.** Leave your bike where a potential thief can be easily seen.
- **Always lock your bicycle**, even if you are just leaving it for a couple of minutes. Think about using two different types of lock.



SECURITY

- **Lock your bike to an immovable object** - where possible use a proper bike rack and if not available, suitable street furniture. Bikes locked to lampposts, railings or anything else not designed for this purpose are more vulnerable to theft, so only use these if you really have to. Remember that thieves can remove drainpipes and lift bikes off signposts.
- **Lock both wheels and the frame of your bike to the bike stand or other immovable object.**
- **Secure removable parts.** Lock both wheels and the frame together. Take smaller components with you and accessories that can be removed without tools (for example, lights, pumps, computers, panniers and quick release saddles). Consider replacing quick release fittings for the permanent variety. Ask a bike shop for specialist advice.
- **Make the bike and lock hard to manoeuvre when parked.**
 - Keep the gap between bike and lock small
 - The smaller the gap, the harder it is to insert levers or other tools
 - Keep the lock or chain away from the ground; never leave them lying on the pavement - a lock can be 'sledge-hammered' easily when it's resting on the ground.
 - Locks can also be picked, so face the lock to the ground (but not resting on it) so it can't easily be turned upwards for picking.



LOCKS

Invest in good quality locks. Hardened steel D-shaped locks and sturdy chain locks are recommended. Be prepared to spend 10% of the value of your bike on locks.

It is always best to use two different types of lock, for example a strong D lock and a sturdy chain lock. This means that a thief will need different tools to break each lock, making theft less likely.



What to look for when choosing a lock

- You should look for products that have been **tested against attack and select locks that resist attack for the longest time.** Check out www.soldsecure.com for certified locks, or ask your local bike shop for advice. If you don't know if a lock has been tested, check the packaging.
- There is a grading system used by Sold Secure to assess locks, based on how long they withstand attack. The Gold Standard locks resist longest; Silver and Bronze resist proportionately less well. They may be lighter and cheaper than Gold Standard locks, and still offer a good level of protection. Consider your likely risk and invest accordingly. Bronze standard is recommended as the minimum standard.



PROACTIVE POLICING AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Proactive security patrols

Tag Strips

Parked unattended cycles in the city are randomly checked by Neighbourhood Police patrols. All cycles on the racks are assessed in relation to their level of security. The grading of the security is highlighted by the circling of a letter on a tag strip left secured to the cycle. The returning cyclist is encouraged to visit www.humberside.police.uk to find out how their security has been graded. On some occasions visiting the site will enter the cyclist into a free prize draw.

Cycle securing

The Police are working with partners across the city who are actively grading cycle security racks under their control. If they feel the cycle is at a risk of theft due to no or low security, they will apply a high grade security lock and warning tag explaining where to attend in order to release the cycle. Whilst the cyclist is arranging the release, they are offered security advice and supporting information.



Cycle retailers working in partnership

Many retailers offer property marking on new cycles bought from their shops. Ask your retailer for details. Often Neighbourhood Policing Teams carry out cycle marking events within the store and are available to offer security advice. Visit www.humberside.police.uk for your next event or contact your Neighbourhood Team on 101.



SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Cycle safety

Clothing

Make sure your clothing is light coloured preferably with reflective strips and will not get tangled in the cycles' wheel or chain. Avoid wearing heavy rucksacks which might make you unstable.

Helmets

These can help prevent serious head injuries should you fall from your cycle. Make sure they fit, are replaced after five years and conform to BS EN 1078: 1997

Accessories

Fit a bell to provide warning to other road users.

Compulsory lights - If you use a cycle at night or in poor visibility you must fit:

- White front light
- Red rear light
- Red rear reflector
- Amber pedal reflectors front and rear

Stay Alert

Distractions cause accidents.

Always show drivers what you plan to do and try to anticipate a driver's actions.

Ride positively and decisively without any erratic changes in direction or speed.

Look and signal before you start, stop or turn.

Ride well clear of the kerb and any parked cars.

Consider getting some cycle training and follow the Highway Code.

Visit www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Cycling/DG_10026401 for more details.



ADVICE ON BICYCLE THEFT PREVENTION

More and more people are cycling, and this means more bicycles are in use. Unfortunately, more bicycles mean more opportunity for theft. The British Crime Survey reports that more than half a million bicycles are stolen each year. You can help to keep your bike secure by following the advice in this leaflet.

Contacts

For more information visit:

Bike off

www.bikeoff.org

Cyclists' Touring Club

www.ctc.org.uk

Immobilise

www.immobilise.com

Why Cycle?

www.whycycle.co.uk/safety_and_security/bicycle_locks

Humberside Police

www.humberside.police.uk

We are not responsible for the content of external websites

Do not leave your bike unlocked and never rely on a cheap lock to protect it.

If you think you have been offered a stolen cycle contact the police. If you wish to remain anonymous you can ring Crimestoppers and in doing so may qualify for a reward. For more info go to: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

