

SECURING YOUR BIKE



Advice from Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit



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Introduction

Bicycles are often targeted by thieves because they are left poorly secured or not secured at all. It takes just a few seconds for the opportunist to steal a bike that is left unsecured.

Around 3,000 bikes are stolen in Nottinghamshire every year. Follow this advice to protect your bike from being stolen and to increase the chances of it being returned to you if it is stolen.

Securing your bicycle

- Lock 'tight' so that your bike is difficult to move around when it is parked.
- Lock both wheels and the frame to a cycle stand or another immovable object.
- Always park your bike where it can be seen clearly. Use designated parking areas or secure cycle storage.
- When possible, don't leave your bike in the same place every day.
- Make it impossible for a thief to smash the lock open. Fill the 'D' part of your lock with as much of the bike as possible.
- Never leave the lock lying on the ground where it could be smashed easily.
- Remove any items that can be taken without using tools, for example, wheels, lights, pump, computer, panniers, seat post and saddle.

Recommended lock tactic



For more information on the types of bike lock available, visit these websites

www.securedbydesign.com
www.soldsecure.com

Safe cycle parking

Look for signs like this. They mark areas where bicycles can be parked.



Secure cycle lockers

Secure cycle lockers are available in Nottingham at these places:

- Trinity Square car park
- Fletcher Gate car park
- Victoria Shopping Centre
- Phoenix Park and Rise, Nuthall Road
- Nottingham Railway Station

Bike racks are also available around Nottingham city centre and other town centres across Nottinghamshire, as well as at bus, tram and train stations.

Get your bike insured

Ask your insurer to extend your home contents insurance to cover your bicycle. Ensure it covers you for thefts outside the home. If your bicycle is particularly valuable, you may need to insure it separately.

Register with Immobilise

Immobilise is a national property database that enables police to reunite stolen items with their rightful owners.

Register your bike for free at www.immobilise.com

Marking your bicycle

Property marking

Property marking (also known as asset marking) is becoming an increasingly popular crime prevention technique and deterrent to criminals. It is cost effective and doesn't take long to carry out.

The idea is that if a criminal sees your property is marked, they would be less likely to steal it as the item is more difficult to sell or pass on, making it less desirable.

A thief is less likely to steal well marked property or break into premises where property is marked because:

- It increases their chances of being caught
- It makes the property more difficult to sell
- It will significantly reduce the price the item will obtain.

Property marking systems may not prevent your bike from being stolen, but it will improve the chances of it being returned to you if it is stolen, as you will be able to prove it belongs to you.

A number of bike marking products are available. Always ensure you use a marking scheme that is approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), and preferably use a visible marking product. Bike Register kits and Selectamark are examples.

When you are marking your bike, consider the following:

- Mark your bike so the marking can be easily seen, as a deterrent to thieves.
- Ensure the marking is securely fixed and cannot be easily removed.
- Ensure the marking is clear and concise.
- Use tamper evident material so that any attempt to remove the marking is obvious.
- Do not mark any part of the bike that is easy to remove or replace.

Follow the three Rs

Record

Always keep a record of the bike's frame number, make and any other marks that can identify your bike if it is stolen and later recovered by police.

If you can't find the frame number look:

- Near the handlebars
- Below the seat post
- By or underneath the pedals
- Towards the back wheel

Register

Ensure you register your bike's details at www.immobilise.com or www.bikeregister.com

This will help police return your bike to you if it is stolen and later recovered.

Report

If your bike is stolen, contact the police immediately.

- Give the police a copy of your Bike Passport (see next page).
- If your bike is registered on a property database, provide police with the unique code.
- Record any incident or crime reference number given to you by the police.
- Inform your insurance company.



Contact Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit for more information and advice on all of these security options.

Bike Passport

If your bike was stolen, could you describe it? Many people forget details about their bikes that could help police reunite them with theirs if it is stolen and later recovered.

Complete the sections below and keep it in a safe place, just in case you need it. It may be useful to take some photos of your bike and keep them safe too, as this could help if it is stolen.

Bike details	
Make	
Model	
Type (ladies, gents, racing, mountain, BMX etc)	
Property database reference number	
Serial number	
Location of serial number on bike	
Colour	
Frame size	
Wheel size	
Tyres (make and colour)	
Gears (make/type/number)	
Accessories	
Identifying marks	

Your details	
Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Phone numbers	

If you sell your bike after it has been marked or registered, note the new owner's name below and give them this passport.

New owner's details	
Name	
Address	
Date of purchase	

Nottinghamshire Alert

Nottinghamshire Alert is a system which allows Nottinghamshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch in Nottinghamshire and other organisations that work for the public to send community safety messages to you quickly and efficiently.

If you are interested in getting updates on major incidents, advice on crime prevention and community safety and alerts about criminals operating in your area, make sure you are registered with the system.

You can report antisocial behaviour in your area and receive responses from police about the incident you have reported and find out how to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or set up your own in your street by registering.

What do I get?

- A totally free service — you can control your message settings and choose to receive alerts via email, text message to your mobile phone or recorded voicemail. You can unsubscribe at any time.
- Information about crime trends, incidents and appeals from authorised police officers and police staff.
- Report suspicious and antisocial behaviour (not crime), receive updates and responses about them.
- Start, manage or request to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area.
- Configure how, when and which messages you'd like to receive.

If you want to know more about Nottinghamshire Alert, contact Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit.

Tel: 101, extension 800 3011

Email: nottinghamshirealert@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To register for Nottinghamshire Alert, visit www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk

If you would like a paper copy of the registration form, call **101** or visit your local police station to request one.

For more advice on crime prevention contact

Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit
Arrow Centre
Hucknall
Nottinghamshire
NG15 8AY

Tel: **101**

Tell us what priorities you want your local police to focus on with our online survey

www.neighbourhoodprioritysurvey.co.uk

If you have information about criminals operating in your area, call Crimestoppers anonymously on

0800 555 111