

CCTV Half Yearly Report

Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford

1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information on how the district council's CCTV cameras¹ contribute towards deterring crime, reducing the fear of crime, increasing crime detection and protecting vulnerable people in the district.

The report is produced using information provided by the CCTV monitoring suite based in Abingdon. It is based on information drawn from the record of occurrences. A record of occurrence is completed by the operator on duty, each time a CCTV camera is used proactively to monitor a specific incident.

The report covers the four towns that have had CCTV installed: Didcot (nine cameras), Henley-on-Thames (20 cameras), Thame (15 cameras) and Wallingford (13 cameras). Reports are provided on a half yearly basis to each town council and other stakeholders in order to share information and help publicise the positive outcomes of CCTV to residents and businesses.

DATA SUMMARY

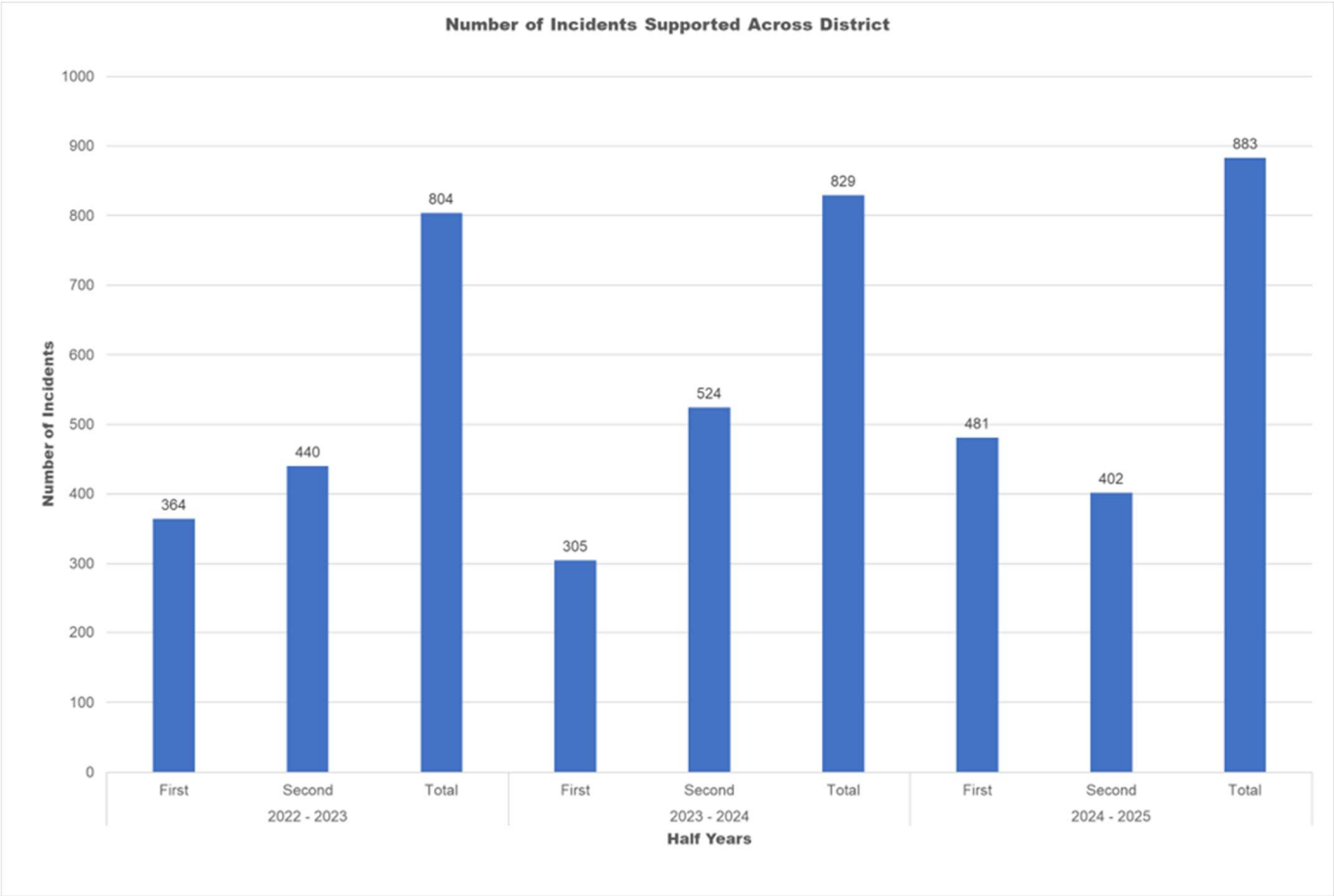
In South Oxfordshire, CCTV operators **supported 402 incidents** during the second half of 2024-2025. The operators also **produced 69 evidence packs** for possible court proceedings, carried out **100 reviews of CCTV footage** (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and **supported 35 arrests**.

The following table displays the most common type of incident monitored for each town during the second half of 2024-2025, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

MOST COMMONLY MONITORED INCIDENTS				
	Didcot	Henley	Thame	Wallingford
1	Missing persons (48)	Shoplifting (14)	Missing persons (16)	Anti-social behaviour (14)
2	Fear for Welfare (17)	Fear for welfare (10)	Anti-social behaviour (6)	Missing persons (13)
3	Anti-social behaviour (16)	Drunk-in-charge (5)	Fear for welfare (5)	Offensive weapon (5)

¹ The report covers the district council cameras plus three which Henley Town Council installed in Mill Meadows as these are managed under the same scheme.

The chart below compares this half yearly total with previous half years:

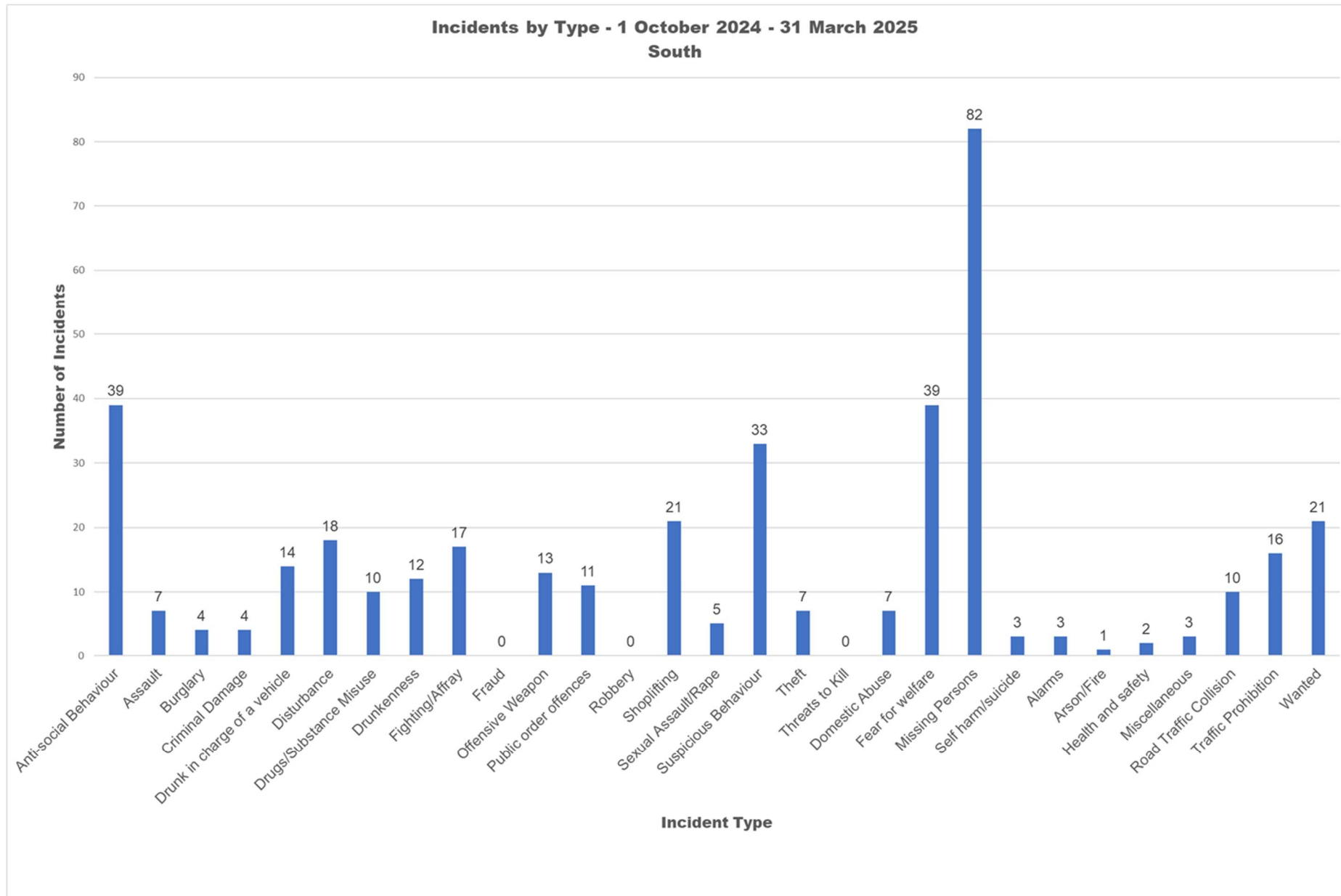


For a breakdown of monitored incidents by town, please see the table below:

	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total
Didcot	126	146	272	87	151	238	140	169	309
Henley	69	113	182	82	181	263	131	84	215
Thame	76	87	163	63	88	151	99	57	156
Wallingford	93	94	187	73	104	177	111	92	203
Total	364	440	804	305	524	829	481	402	883

TYPE AND NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The chart on the next page shows the amount and type of incidents the CCTV operators have monitored and supported across all four towns, between 1 October 2024 and 31 March 2025.

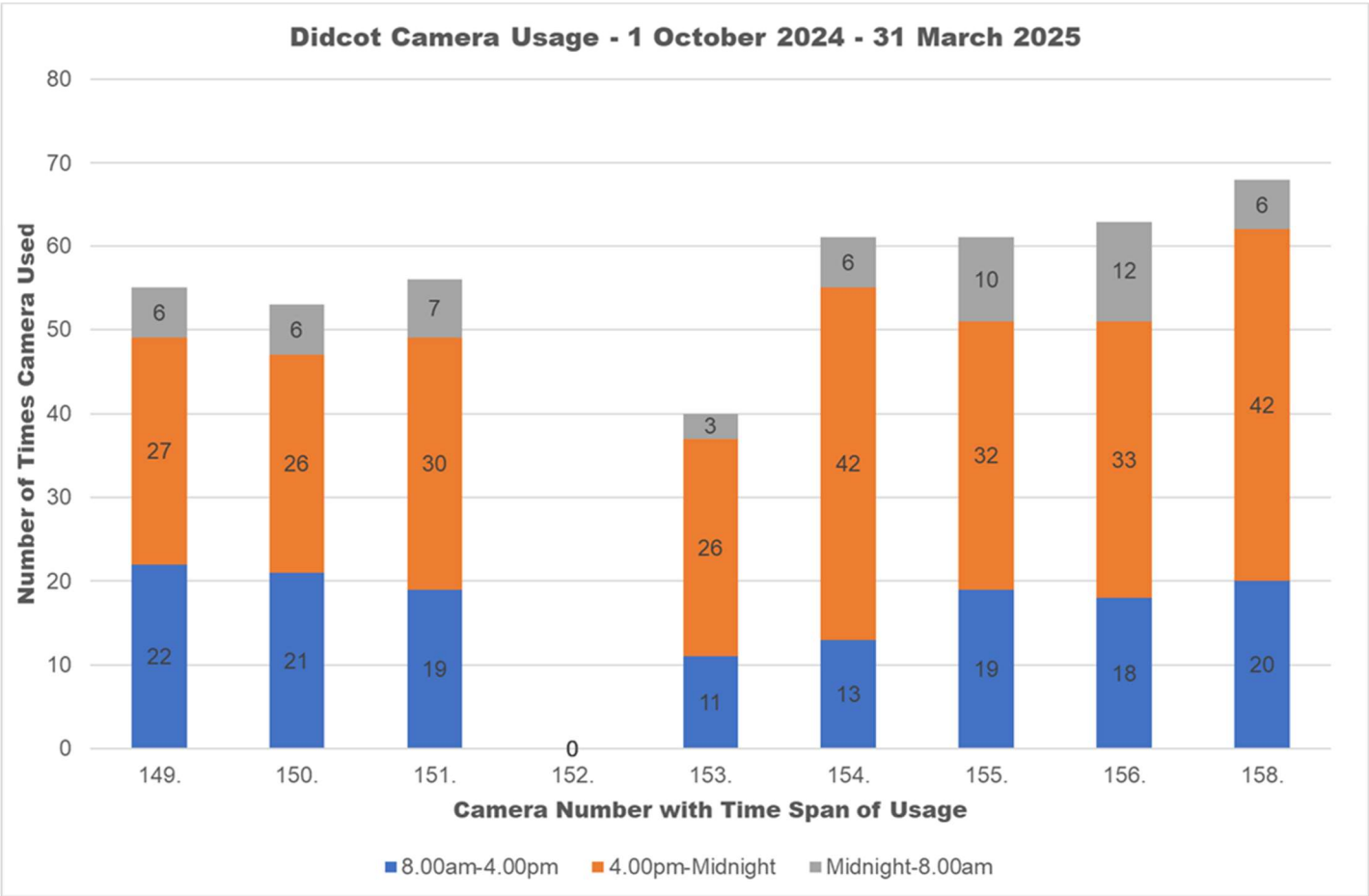


CAMERA USAGE

The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

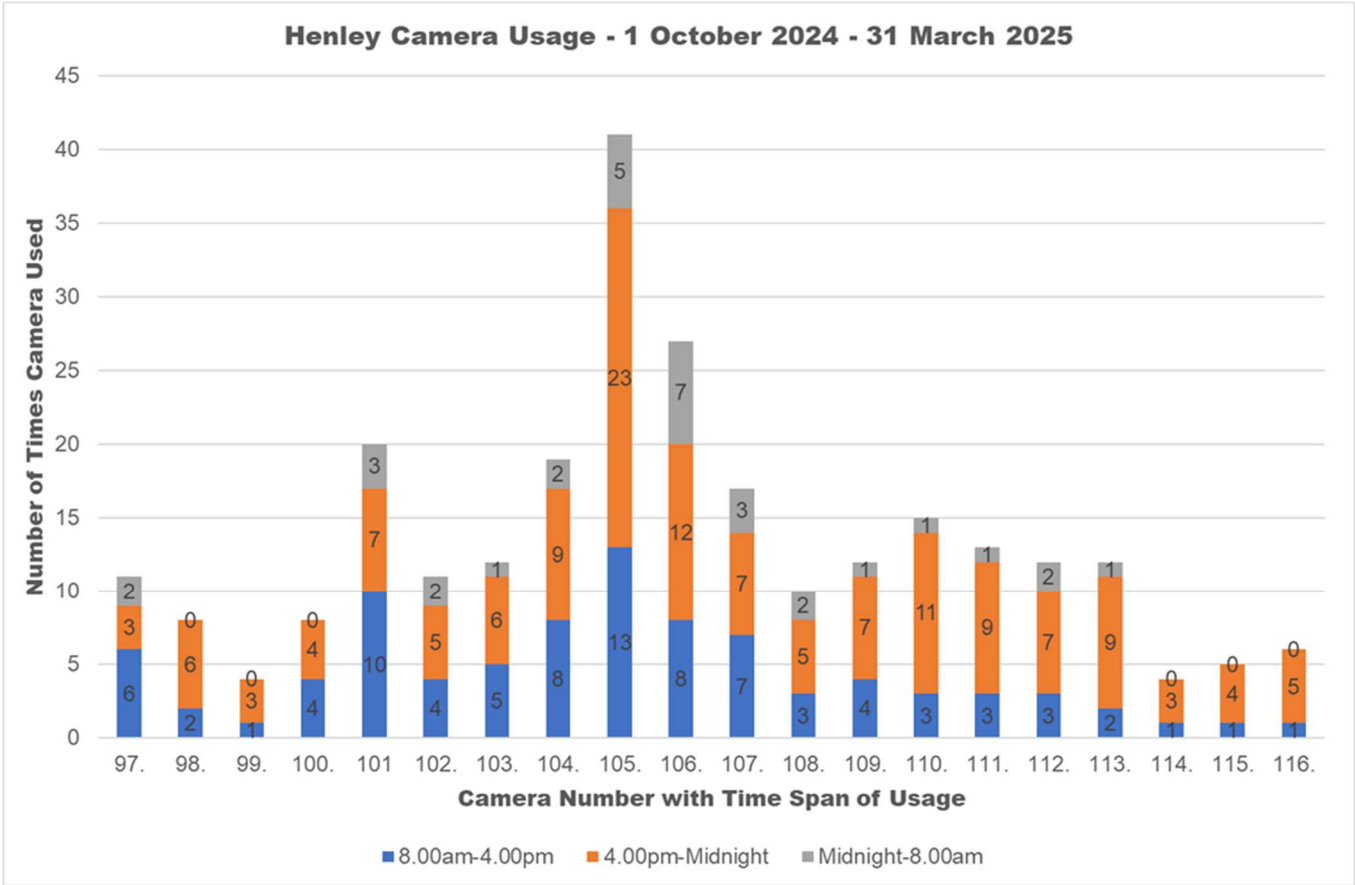
The number of times that each camera was used has been divided into three sections, covering a 24-hour period.

It is worth noting that for the period midnight to 8am, the vast majority of camera usage occurred between midnight and 4am.

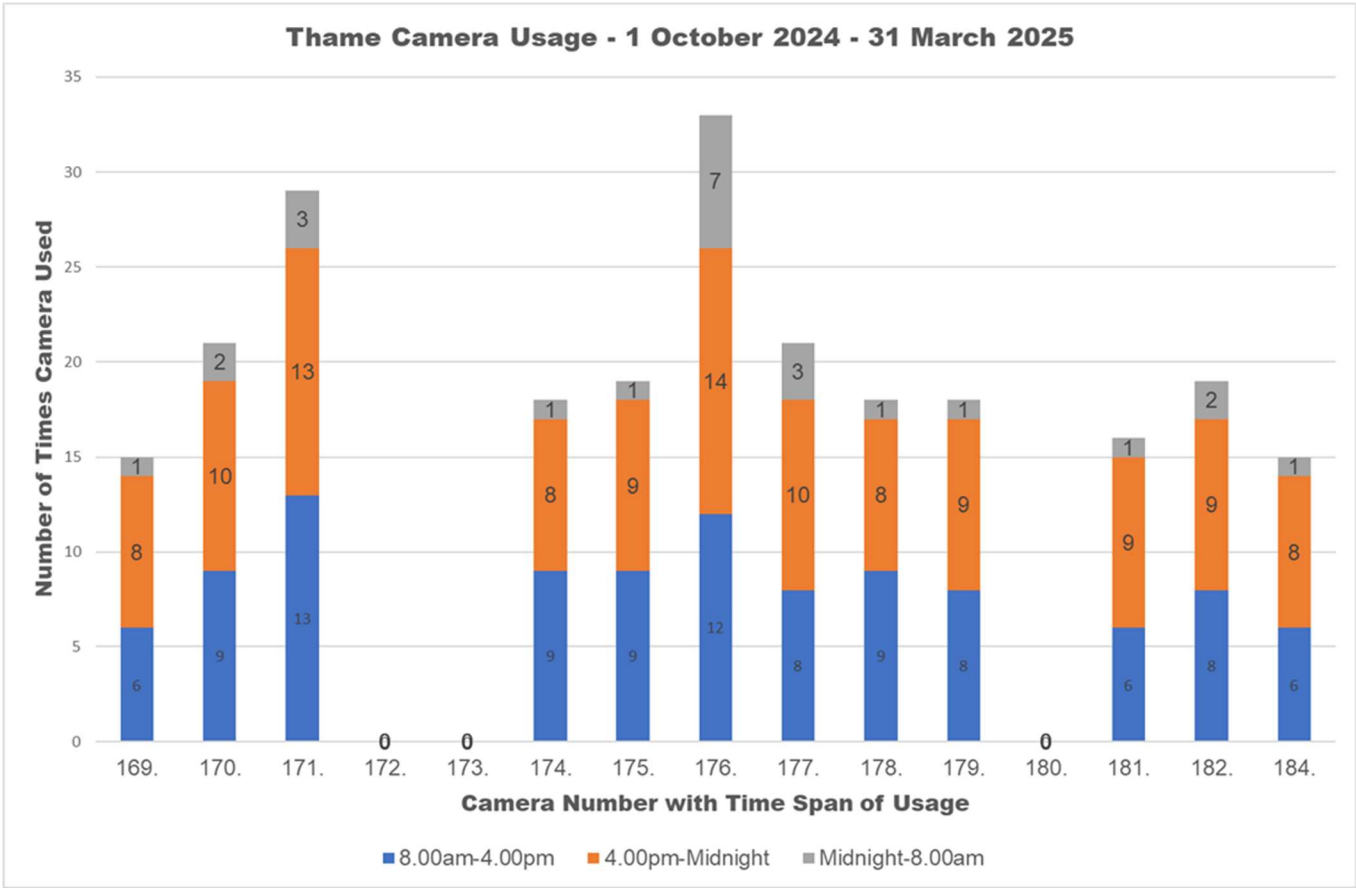


Camera 158 which monitors the junction of High Street and Broadway (and covers part of the Orchard Centre) recorded the most usage. Cameras 154, 155 and 156 are instrumental in monitoring nighttime economy which explains their high levels of use during this period.

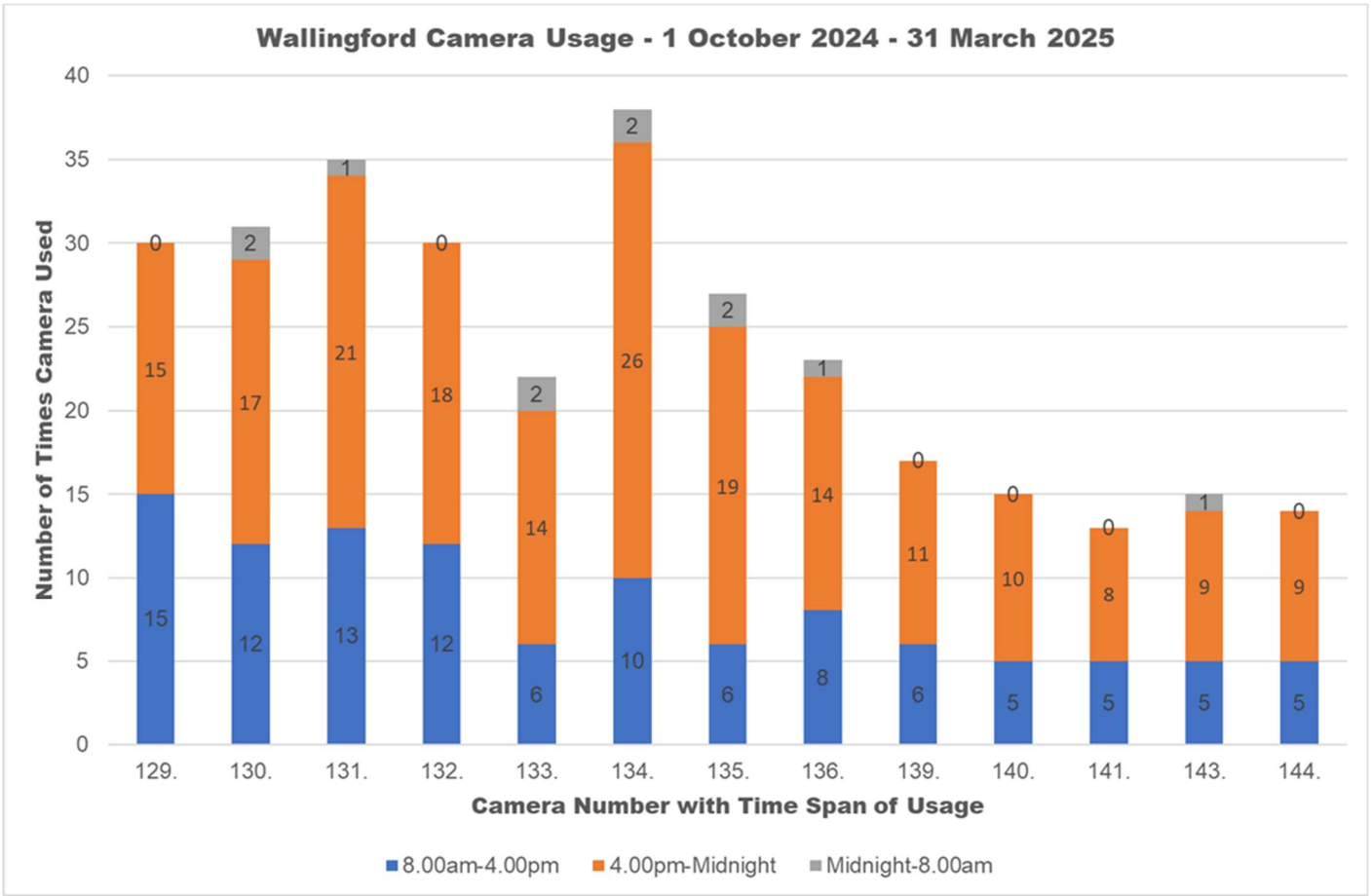
Camera 152 was not operational during this period as it had become engulfed by tree foliage which could not be cut back. In consultation with the town council, we have decided to relocate this camera to the other side of the Broadway and this will be done in the final stage of our camera upgrade project.



Camera 105, situated in the centre of Henley, is used to monitor both daytime and nighttime economies and has the greatest number of occurrences attached to it. Camera 106 which is on Hart Street, had the second highest.



In Thame, camera 176 had the highest usage due to its use monitoring the nighttime economy. Camera 171 was the second busiest camera as it covers the High Street. Cameras 172, 173 and 180 are currently out of operation due to damage and plans are in place to bring them back online.



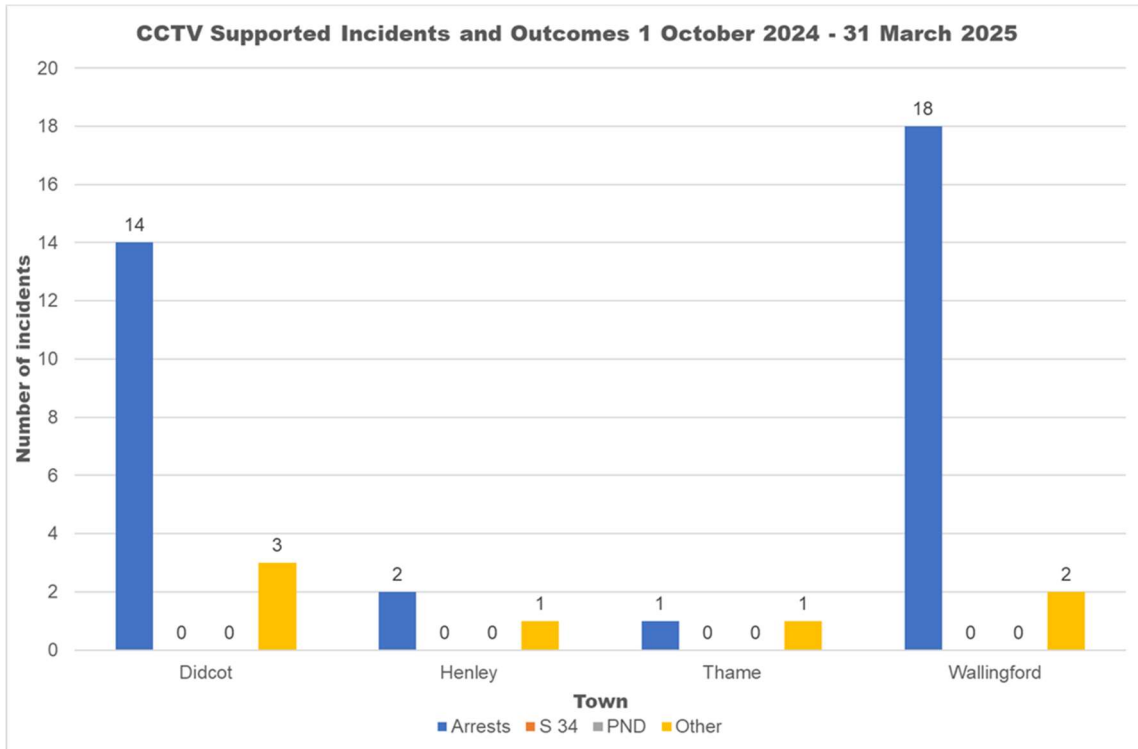
Camera 134, which is used for both nighttime and daytime monitoring in Wallingford, saw the highest usage. Camera 131 covers the junction of High Street and St. Martins and saw the second highest usage in the town.

ARRESTS, SECTION 34S AND OTHER OUTCOMES

The chart at the top of page seven shows the outcomes the CCTV operators supported while involved in monitoring an incident. The police use their discretion on how an incident is resolved based on experience, the gravity of the offence, the resources that are available to them at that time and so on. While we cannot always be certain whether CCTV was solely instrumental in an arrest or the serving of a Section 34² or a Penalty Notice for Disorder³ (PND), we do know the cameras alert police to incidents they may not have known about. CCTV also gives the police the ability to assess and allocate resources and prioritise in real time e.g. leaving CCTV to monitor incidents or offenders while officers attend other incidents.

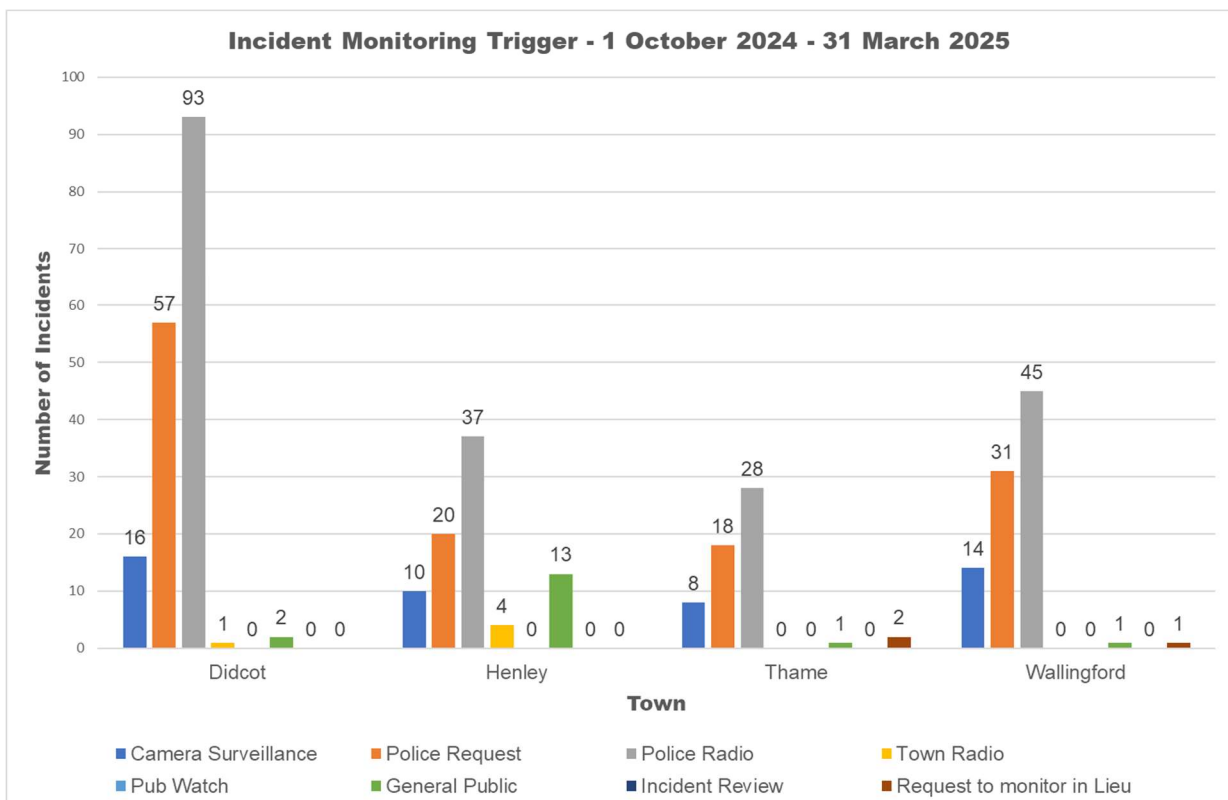
In the chart, actions designated ‘other’ usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or a non-recordable sanction.

² A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social related disorder.
³ A PND is the ‘on the spot fine’



HOW CCTV MONITORING WAS INITIATED

The chart below shows how many of the incidents monitored were as a result of the following: a direct request from the police (police requests); the CCTV operator hearing about an incident on a police radio (police radio); the operator proactively patrolling the cameras (camera surveillance); request from officers to review footage at the time of an incident e.g. to clarify details of a reported incident while they are on scene (incident review). Only Henley-on-Thames has a town radio scheme.



REVIEWS AND EVIDENCE PACKS

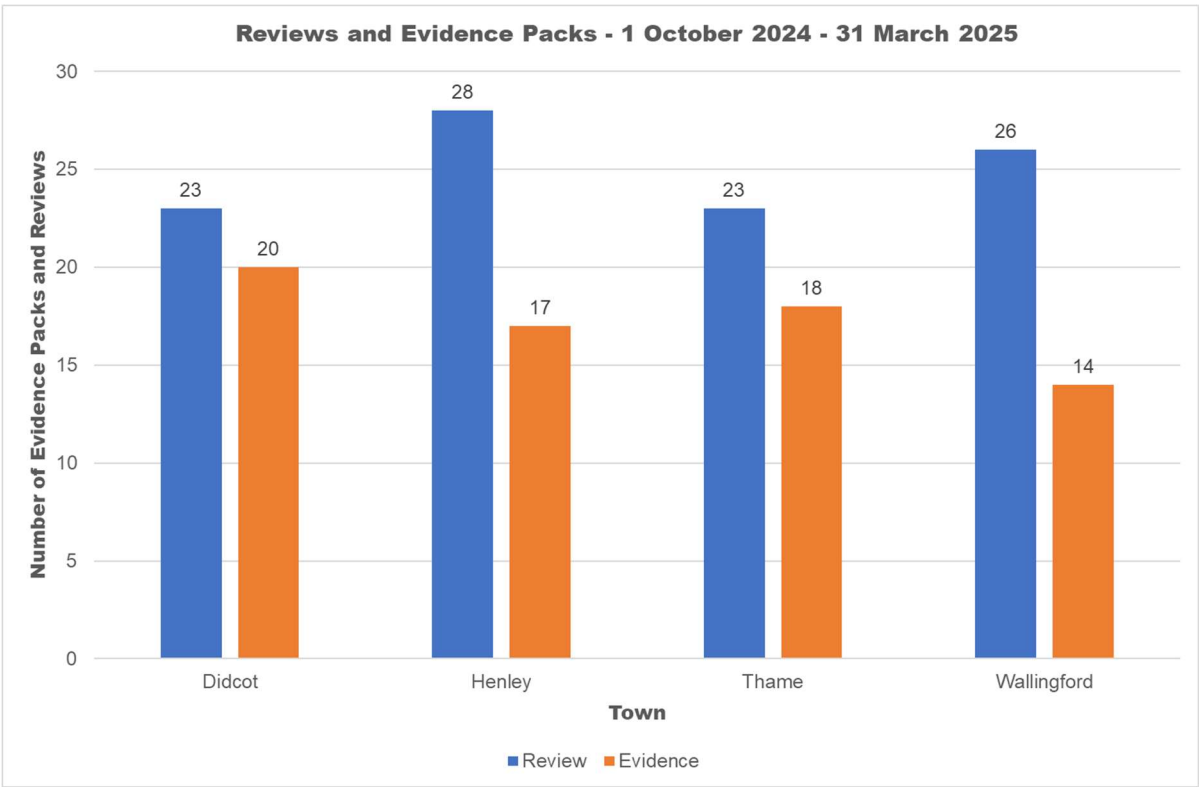
When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on ‘hotspot’ areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in ‘default’ positions where they remain whilst not being actively moved by an operator. These positions are agreed with the police and town councils as covering those areas that are most likely to experience community safety issues

CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under data protection legislation and subject access requests (SARs). The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of ‘non-stop road traffic collisions’ in which the complainant’s car has been damaged. Altogether we received **twenty-three** such requests during this half of the year.

The chart below shows the number of evidence packs the CCTV operators put together and the number of evidence reviews they undertook as a result of formal written requests:

- The evidence packs are the recordings and statements which the CCTV operators produce for police, solicitors and the Crown Prosecution Service.
- Activity that monitors past footage but does not result in an evidence pack being produced is termed ‘a review’. This may be, for example, where the footage does not show an event clearly enough to warrant making a permanent copy for evidential use.

One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of a full trial at either magistrates or crown court.



CASE STUDIES

The following are examples of incidents dealt with by CCTV operators during the second half of 2024–25. They aim to demonstrate how our CCTV service helps to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe.

Didcot

Our team observed a group of young people causing damage to street furniture near to the Orchard Centre and Station Road. Our operator passed detailed descriptions to police before the group left camera view; officers attended to conduct an area search and made an arrest.

During the monitoring of the nighttime economy, our operator saw a fight break out between several men. They alerted the police and directed officers to both the main suspect and the victim. One arrest was made.

The CCTV team was informed about a man who was wanted for various offences and known to regularly visit Didcot. Using the description given to them, the CCTV operator on duty conducted a proactive search and was able to locate the man. They told the police who attended and arrested him.

Henley-on-Thames

After receiving a phone call from the manager of a local store reporting a shoplifting, our operator managed to locate the offender and direct police officers to their location. Due to the quick actions of the store, our CCTV operator and the police, the offender was caught with the stolen goods in their possession.

Whilst on shift, our operator received a report from police that a man had been seen with what looked like a firearm. Using the descriptions given, they were able to locate a group of men and passed this information to the police. Officers attended and quickly detained the group; one imitation firearm was recovered and arrests were made.

Our CCTV team regularly receives information from the police about missing people which we use whilst proactively monitoring to try and locate them. On one of these occasions, our operator on duty located a missing elderly woman in Henley who was deemed as extremely vulnerable due to dementia. We informed the police who quickly attended and safeguarded the individual.

Thame

Our operator observed a man riding an E-scooter in the road and on pavements, riding at speed and close to both pedestrians and vehicles. Our team obtained footage and images of the incident and passed this to the police which enabled officers to seize the scooter.

One of our team received a report of a potential drunk-driver in the Thame area. They were given the vehicle registration and used this to proactively monitor the town. After a short period of time, they spotted the vehicle heading into town and informed police. Officers were able to stop the vehicle safely and an arrest was made.

One of the skills that our operators develop, through experience, is an ability to notice behaviours that stand out or are not the norm. It was this expertise that enabled one of our team to spot an elderly woman who appeared to be lost and confused in Thame town centre. They passed these concerns to police who attended and conducted checks. Officers discovered the woman had left a care home alone and could not remember where she was and they were able to take appropriate actions to protect her.

Wallingford

Whilst conducting a late-night patrol of the cameras, our operator spotted several people who appeared to be tampering with vehicles in one of the car parks. Immediately relaying this to police, the operator continued to monitor and directed officers to the location. As a result, four men were arrested, a stolen vehicle was recovered and drugs were seized.

During the second half of 2024-25, our team worked closely with police to deal with an increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB) around the town centre. This included monitoring hotspot areas and proactively reporting ASB to the neighbourhood policing team. All this resulted in several arrests and other measures being taken, leading to a decrease in incidents.

Our CCTV team received a report that a man had been seen with a knife in the town centre. Despite a limited description, our operator quickly reviewed camera footage and was able to identify the suspect with the weapon. They subsequently directed the police to the man and although he ran off, our operator quickly located the offender's hiding spot and directed units to the location where the weapon was hidden.

Date of report: May 2025

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