

CCTV Half Yearly Report

Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford

1 April 2025 to 30 September 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

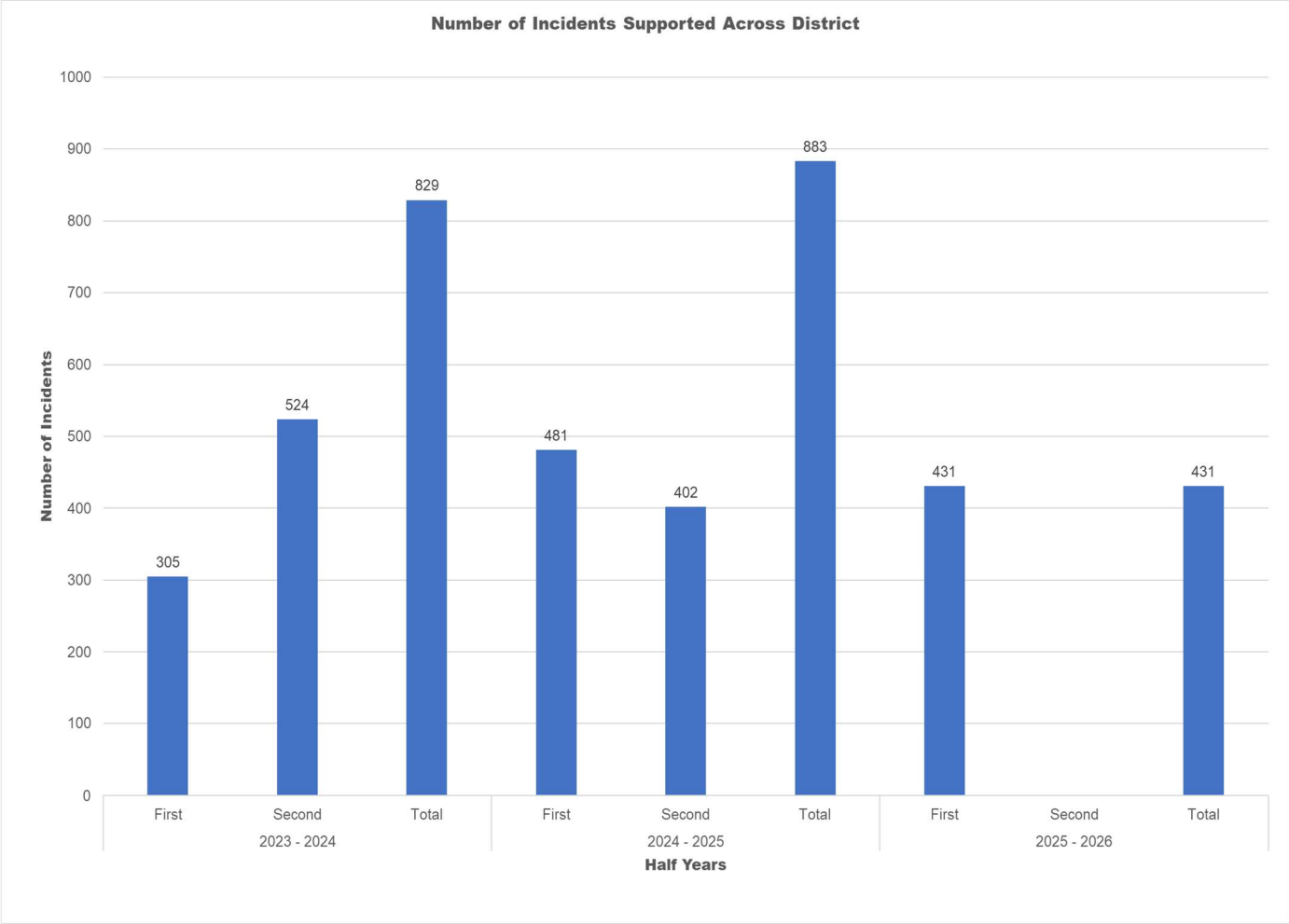
In South Oxfordshire, CCTV operators **supported 431 incidents** during the first half of 2025-2026. The operators also **produced 83 evidence packs** for possible court proceedings, carried out **116 reviews of CCTV footage** (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and **supported 53 arrests**.

The following table displays the most common type of incident monitored for each town during the first half of 2025-2026, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

MOST COMMONLY MONITORED INCIDENTS				
	Didcot	Henley	Thame	Wallingford
1	Wanted persons (21)	Fear for Welfare (13)	Fear for Welfare (14)	Antisocial behaviour (17)
2	Fear for Welfare (13)	Missing Persons (12)	Antisocial behaviour (5)	Fear for Welfare (10)
3	Assault (12)	Antisocial behaviour (11)	Fighting/Affray (5)	Fighting/Affray (9)

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:

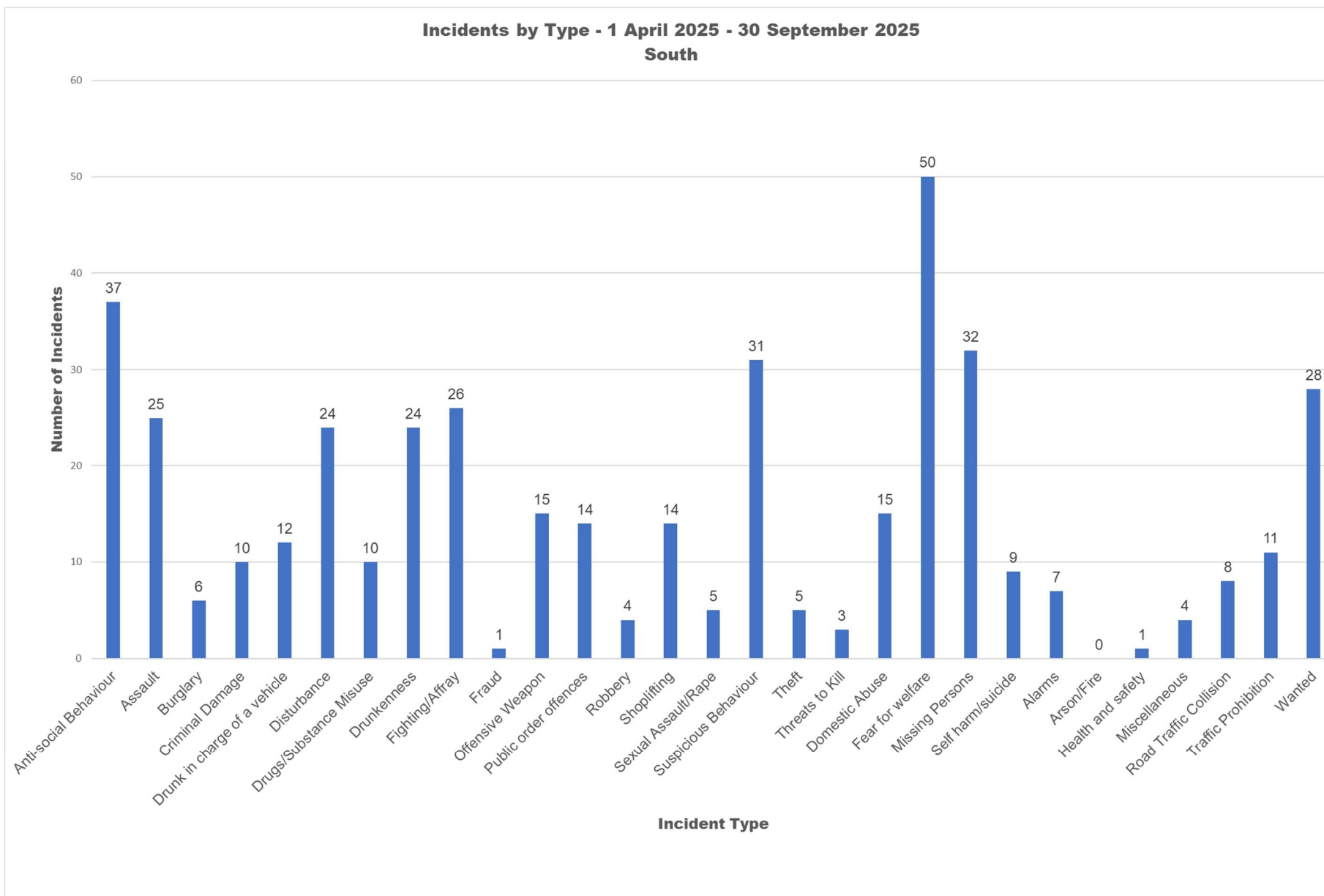


For a breakdown of monitored incidents by town, please see the table below:

	2022 - 2023			2023 - 2024			2024 - 2025		
	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total
Didcot	87	151	238	140	169	309	159		159
Henley	82	181	263	131	84	215	103		103
Thame	63	88	151	99	57	156	73		73
Wallingford	73	104	177	111	92	203	96		96
Total	305	524	829	481	402	883	431		431

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 April 2025 and 30 September 2025.

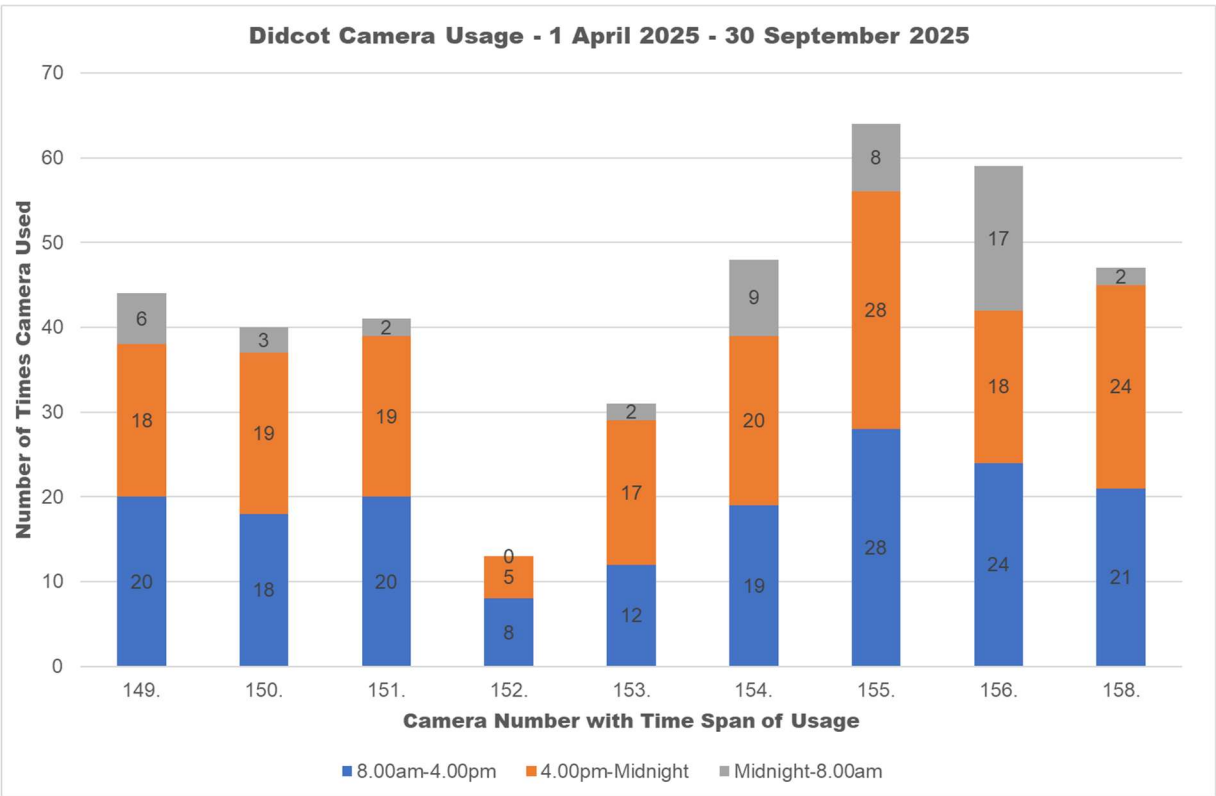


CAMERA USAGE

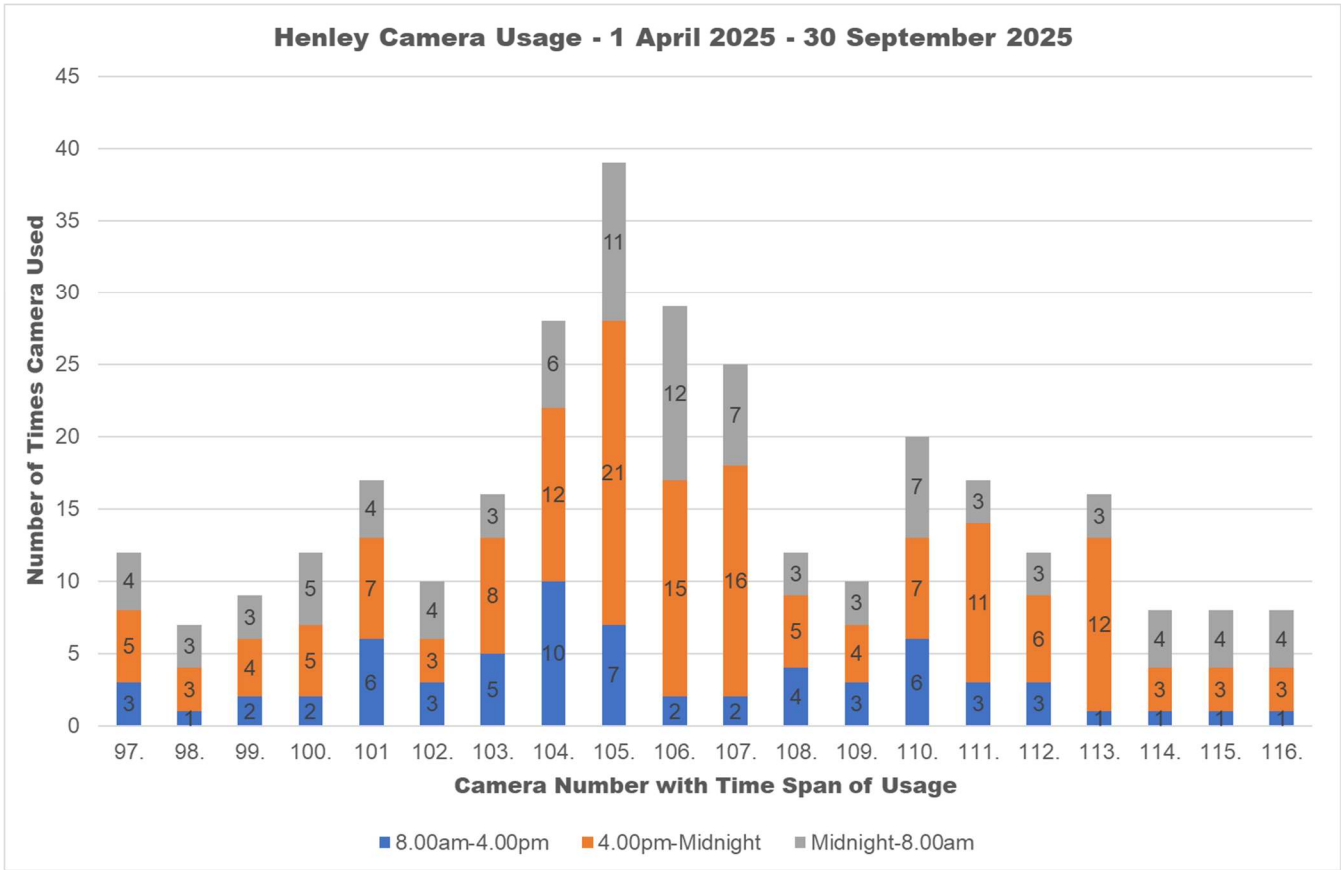
The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

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

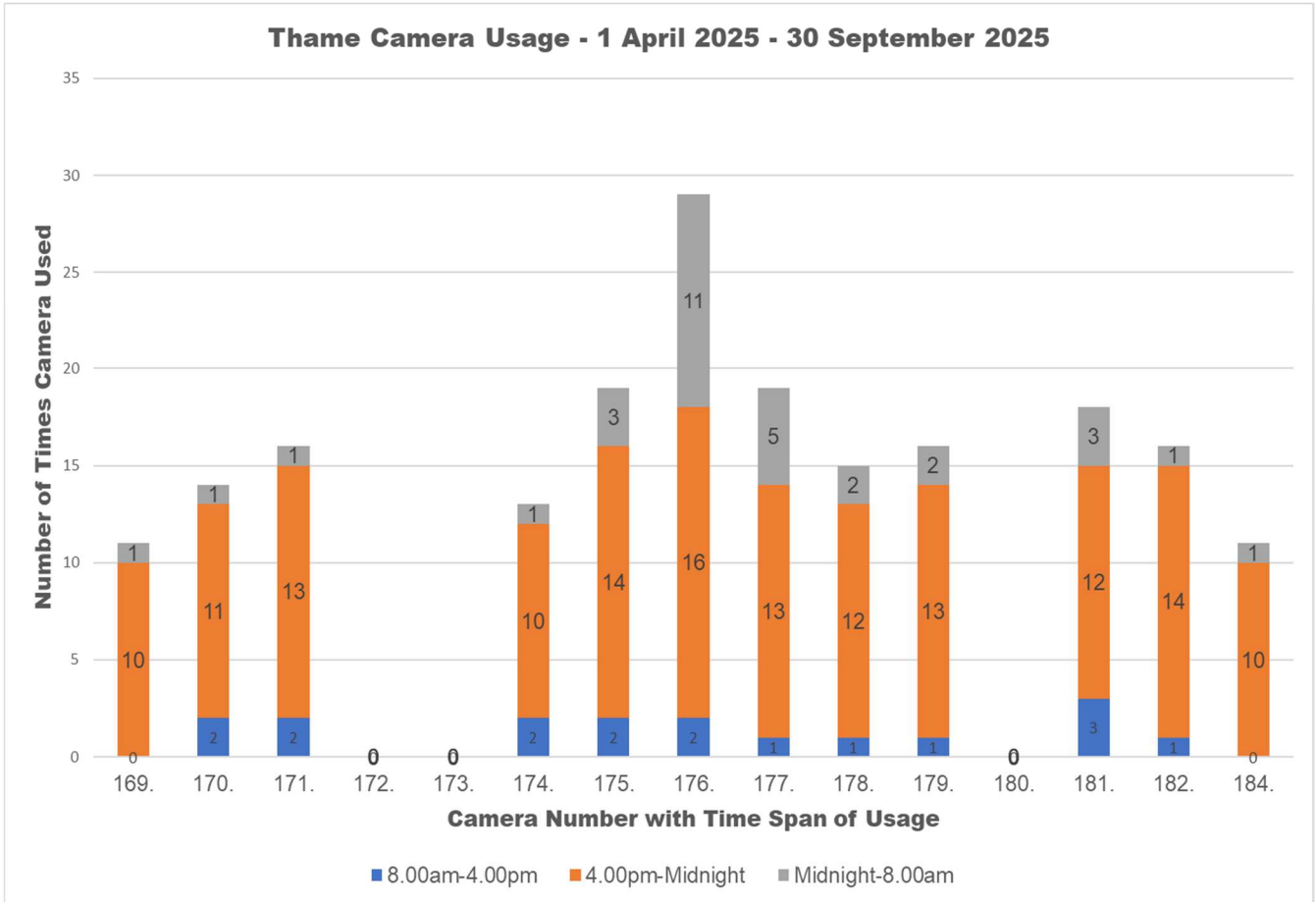
It is worth noting that for the period midnight to 8am, most of the camera usage occurred between midnight and 4am.



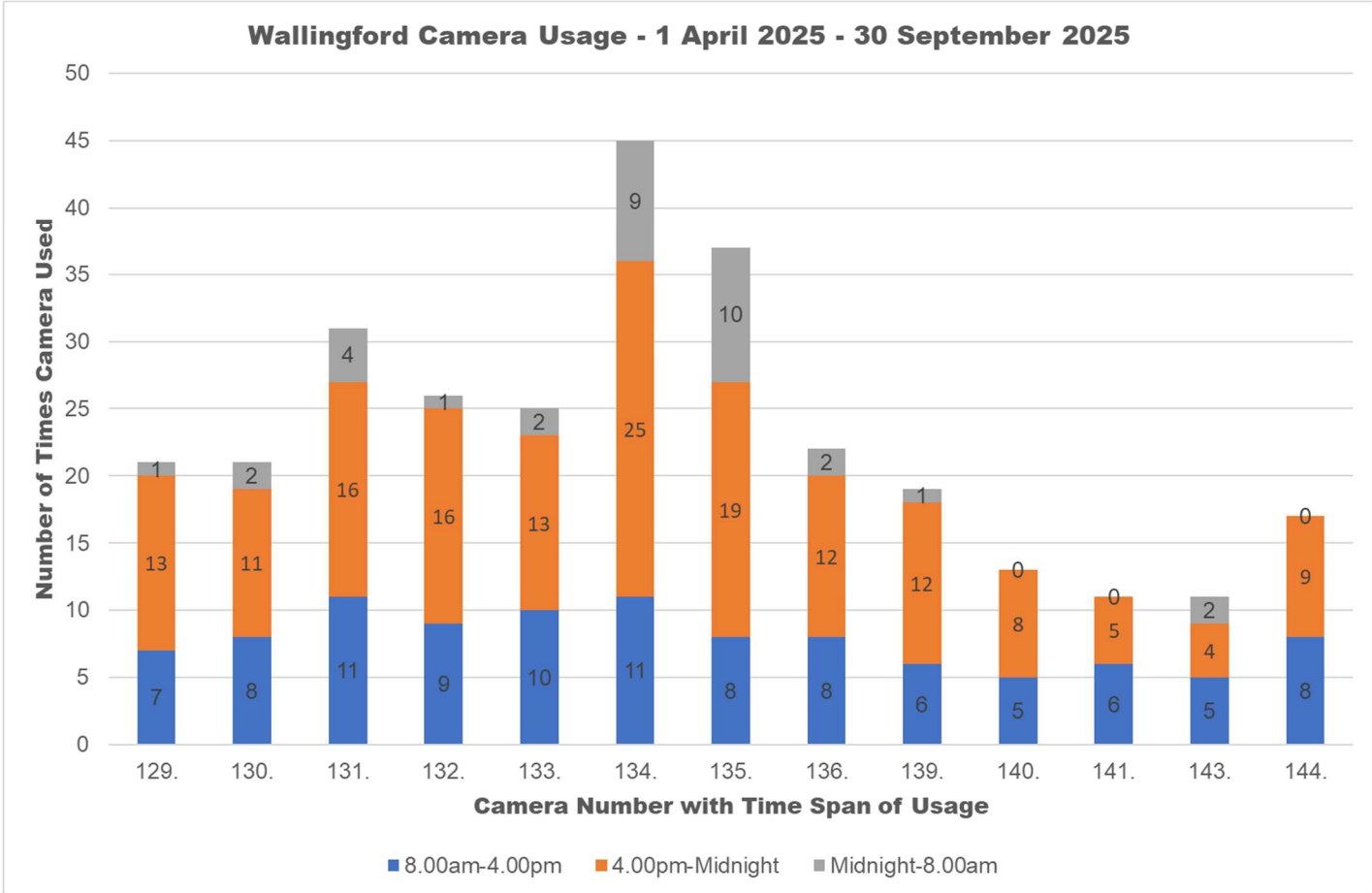
Cameras 154, 155 and 156 are crucial for monitoring nighttime economy, as well as covering a major bus stop and the entrance to one of the main shopping areas. This means they also see high usage during the daytime.



Camera 105 is situated in the town centre at the traffic lights serving a busy road junction and has the greatest number of occurrences attached to it. Camera 106 on Hart Street had the second highest usage of all the cameras, closely followed by camera 104.



In Thame, camera 176 had the highest usage due to its use monitoring the nighttime economy. Camera 175 was the second busiest camera and is predominately used to monitor daytime activity. Camera 177 also saw high use, particularly during the late evening. Works are scheduled to bring camera 180 back into operation and a replacement column for camera 172 has been installed with associated cabling work expected to be completed in the late autumn. As camera 173 is linked to 172, the cabling work should also bring this camera back into operation again.



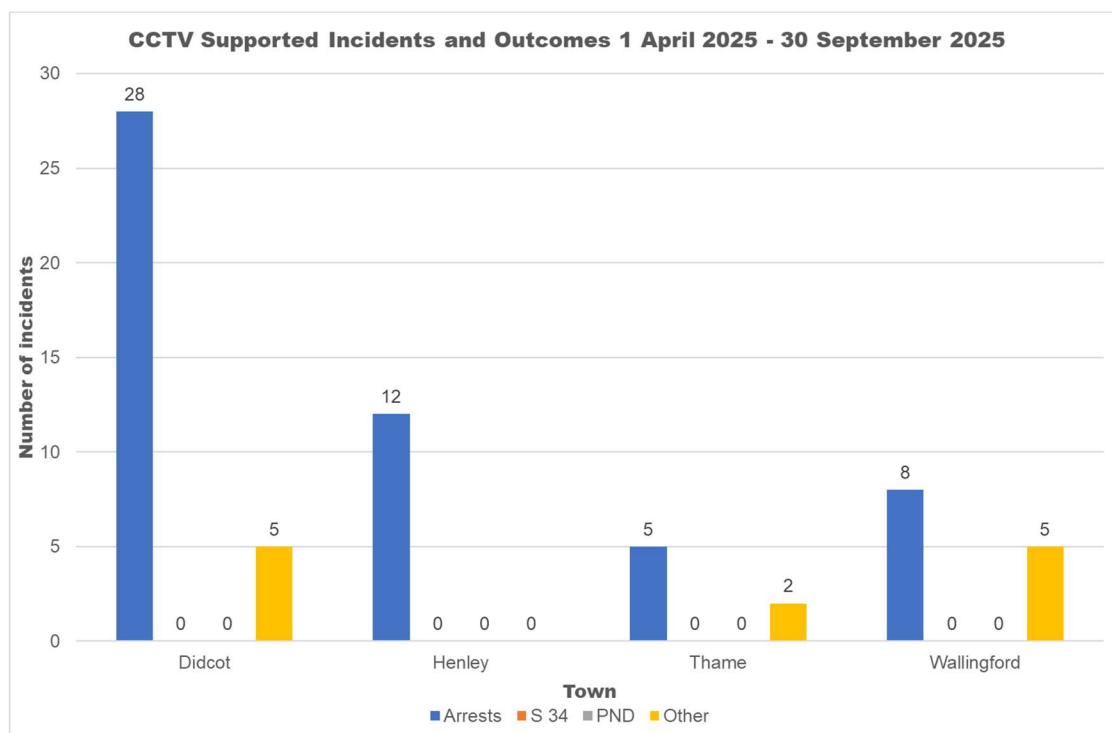
Camera 134, which is used for both nighttime and daytime monitoring, saw the highest usage of all the cameras in Wallingford. The second most utilised camera in the town was camera 135; this covers St. Martins Street and is used heavily for monitoring the nighttime economy.

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.

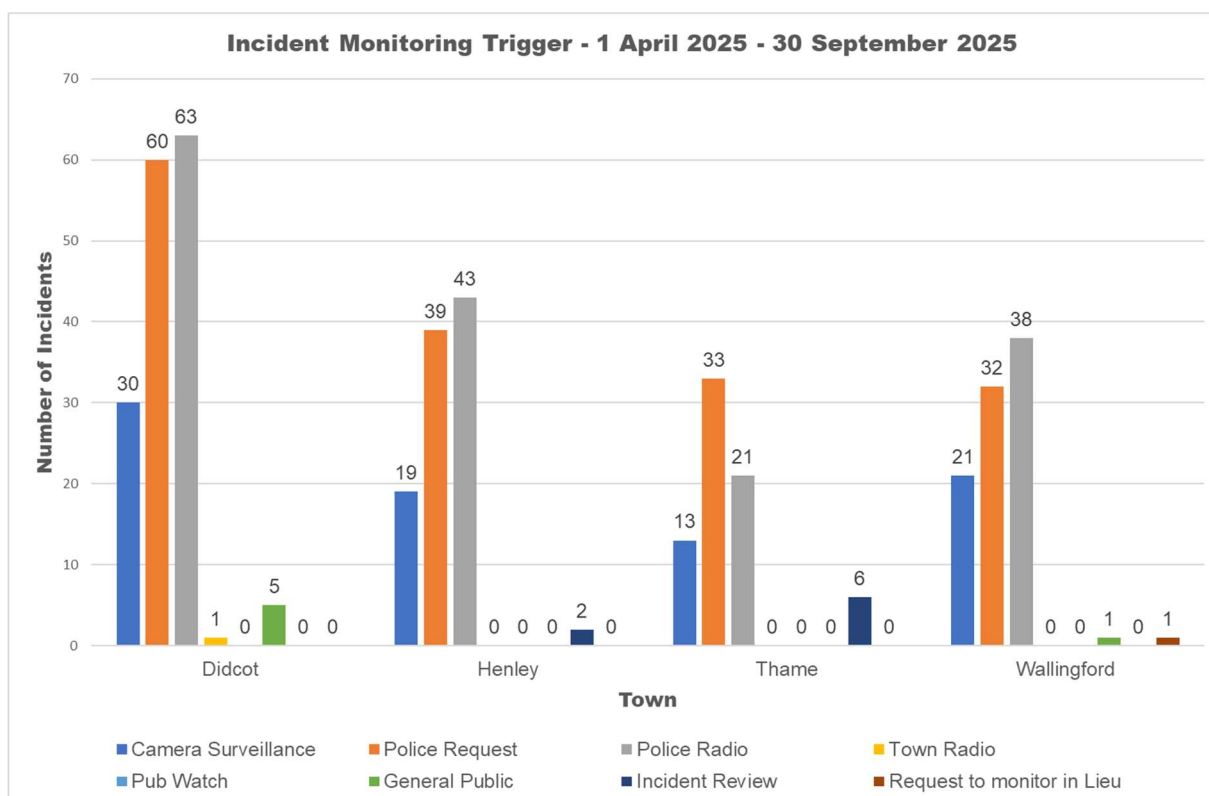
In the chart, actions designated ‘other’ usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or a non-recordable sanction.

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

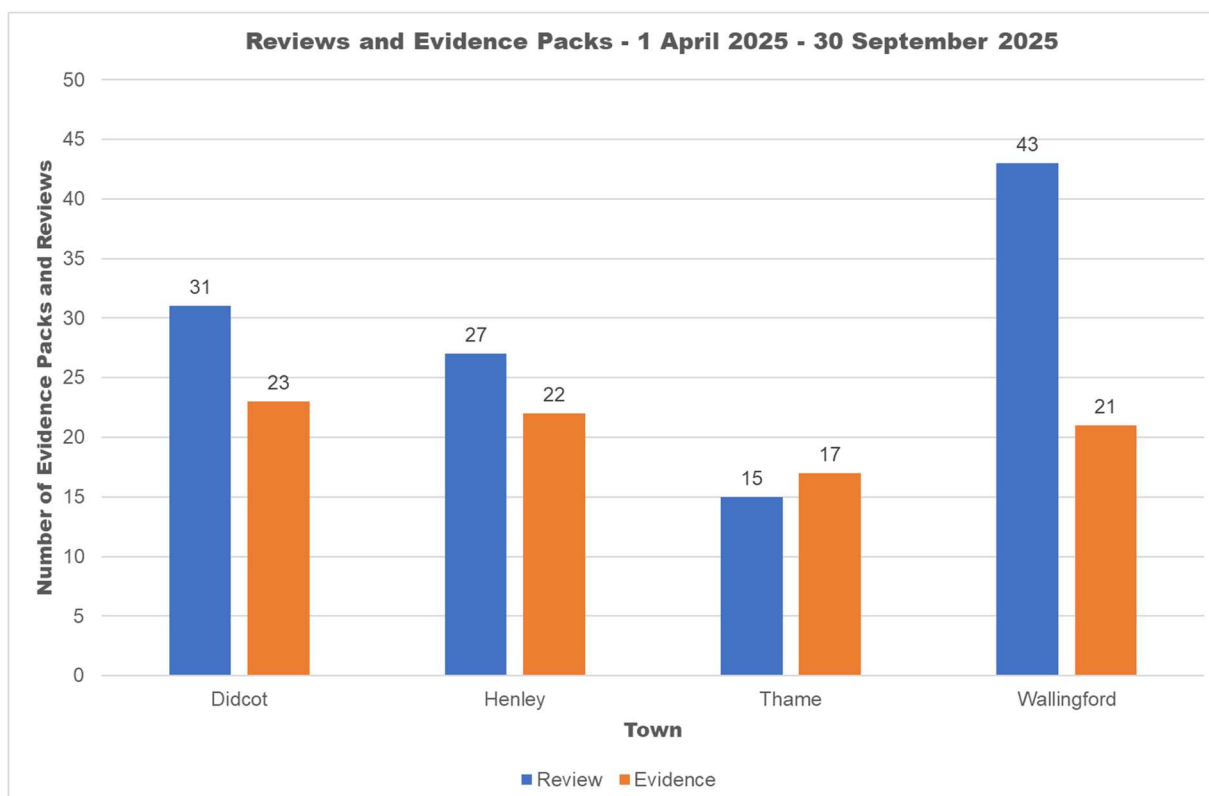
When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on 'hotspot' areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in 'default' positions where they remain whilst not being actively moved by an operator. These positions are agreed with the police and 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 eight** 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 the 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. 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 which are agreed with the police as the area most likely to experience problems.



CASE STUDIES

The following are examples of incidents dealt with by CCTV operators during the first half of 2025–26. They aim to demonstrate how our CCTV service helps to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe.

Didcot

Having spotted a man in the town centre who was wanted for a criminal offence, an off-duty police officer informed our CCTV team who were able to monitor the suspect until officers arrived and arrested him.

Having received reports of criminal damage and antisocial behaviour, the police control room asked our operator to monitor a group of young people outside a premises on The Broadway. Our operator was able to both monitor the live situation and review footage so they could advise the officers about exactly what had been happening. When they arrived on the scene, they made an arrest.

Our operator on duty was asked by the police to look out for a vulnerable young person who had been reported missing. Having spotted a someone on one of our cameras who matched the description given, the operator informed the police and continued to monitor them until officers arrived. Having confirmed that this was indeed the missing young person in question, the officers were able to safeguard them.

Henley-on-Thames

During routine monitoring, an operator noticed a lone woman who appeared to be in difficulty. She was very unsteady on her feet and had fallen over. The operator informed the police and officers attended to take her to a place of safety.

Our operator observed two young men 'squaring up' to each other and general pushing and shoving. Concerned that this could escalate into a more serious incident, the operator advised the police control room. Officers in the area quickly attended the scene and were able to diffuse the situation, advising both men being to return home.

In July, Henley hosted the annual Royal Regatta, an event that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to the town during its weeklong duration. Due to the increase in footfall both in the day and across the nighttime economy, our operators were very busy working closely with the police to help keep people safe. Due to the hard work of all those involved in the event, this year passed without major incident.

Thame

During routine monitoring, our operator became concerned about the welfare of a woman who was part of a couple in the town centre. They passed their concerns to the police and when officers attended, the woman indicated that she did not feel safe with the person she was with so relevant measures were taken to safeguard her.

The CCTV control room was informed of a missing person in the Thame area. Using the description provided, the operator conducted an area search of the town and quickly located a person matching the description on the High Street. Police officers were dispatched and the missing person was taken to a place of safety.

The police control room contacted our team to ask for details regarding a disturbance outside a premises in the town centre. Using the cameras, our operator was able to locate the incident and confirm that it appeared to be a heated argument. They continued to monitor the situation and kept the police updated until officers arrived and diffused the altercation.

Wallingford

The police informed our CCTV team about a report of somebody being assaulted in a town centre store. From the description given, our operator was able to locate the suspect and noted that he got into a taxi which left the town. They passed on this information to the police, including details of the taxi's contact number, so they could take further action.

Having received the description of a vulnerable young woman who was reportedly intoxicated and in considerable distress, our operator used several cameras to locate her and advised the police who attended and took her to a place of safety.

Our CCTV operator received a report of a theft which had taken place from one of the shops in the town. They were able to locate the likely offender at a nearby bus stop and informed the police who made an arrest.

Date of report: October 2025

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