

I have liaised with our crime prevention department and the following actions by your members are the best course of action to prevent their cycles being taken in the first place, and secondly, to help the police in retrieving them once a crime has been committed. One of the biggest problems the police have in returning property to victims of crime is obtaining sufficient identification to prove that the item stolen is owned by the victim.

Please consider the following:

1. Photograph the cycle from both sides.(One of the recent stolen cycles was a Trek 9900 in Trek/VW team colours which were yellow on one side and blue on the other. The only photograph available did not show the yellow side).
2. Record the frame number and keep it in a safe place. The vast majority of people do not do this, even for high value bikes. (I've noted your concern about post coding bikes and the potential damage to carbon fibre frames with the stamp. The frame number already on the bike is sufficient).
3. Keep a detailed description of the bike e.g. Groupset, hubs, wheels, tyres, headset etc. In particular, make a note of any components that have been upgraded making the bike different from an off the shelf model.
4. Lock the bike to a fixed object whilst inside a secure shed/garage. Should offenders then get inside, they are often put off by further security measures.
5. When the cycle is left unattended (e.g. brew stops), use a reasonable lock to secure it, and where possible keep it in sight. I appreciate that many cyclists carry lightweight locks consisting of a very narrow retractable metal cable. These are a great deterrent, and are easy to carry, however, if a thief is intent on stealing a bike they are of little use. I understand it is not practical to carry U locks, but a happy medium can be a successful deterrent.
6. Always assume that someone is there wanting to steal your bike, rather than the opposite. Be vigilant, not only of your own bike but any suspicious activity with other bikes left unattended.

I hope this helps.

If you want any further information then please feel free to contact me.

Mark

PC 3802 Mark RYAN
Lancaster Police Station
Thurnham Street
Lancaster
01524 63333