

# University of the Arts London

## CaMden Stands by Bikeoff

In 2004 the Bikeoff Research Initiative was set up by the Design Against Crime Research Centre at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, to explore how *design improvements* could reduce cycle theft and promote cycle use. Also to create benchmark anti theft advice services and cycling products, including the Bikeoff CaMden bike stands.

## How Bikeoff Research led to new design?

The Bikeoff team understood the greatest deterrent to cycling in Britain, after fears about road safety, is cycle theft. They made 8,500 visual observations of cycle parking before creating six secure cycle stands. The new stands (See Figs 1&2) were designed to encourage cyclists lock their bikes more securely thus reducing the risk of theft.

The graph on the right shows a comparison between locking practice used on the CaMden anti theft bike stand and those used on standard Sheffield (n) stands (See Fig 3), evaluated by the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science. The CaMden stands developed with Broxap Limited were found to improve locking practice.

## Why it's a social design

The aim of the design activity was to increase the security of parking and locking to promote safe cycle use and reduce cycle theft. Research showed that a majority of cyclists locked their bikes by only securing the top tube of the bicycle to a stand, making them vulnerable to common theft techniques, such as levering the lock apart or unbolting the wheels of the bike.



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[www.bikeoff.org/design\\_resource](http://www.bikeoff.org/design_resource)  
[www.designagainstcrime.com](http://www.designagainstcrime.com)



Fig 1. CaMden bike stand



Fig 2. Front wheel enclosure stand

## What is its design aspect?

The CaMden bike stands promote more secure locking behaviour because they make it easier for cyclists to keep their bicycles upright and lock both wheels and the frame to the stand. The M stand is designed for short-stay parking. Its shape helps prevent cyclists from locking insecurely.

## Conclusion

Bikeoff encourages cyclists to 'lock both wheels and the frame to the stand' through the design of new cycle stands and also stickers that can be retrofitted to Sheffield (n) stands to promote best advice. Also, Bikeoff's free on-line design resource helps designers, architects and police to get smart quick about bike theft and how best to design against it.

The project was funded by the AHRC/EPSRC Design for the 21st Century Initiative and Transport for London, and conducted in partnership with Camden Borough Council and the Metropolitan Police with advice from the Camden Cycle Campaign.

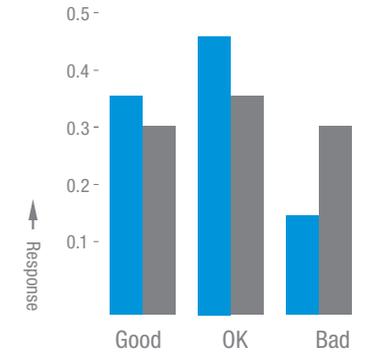


Fig 3. Comparison between bike locking practices

■ CaMden anti theft stands  
■ Sheffield (n) stands

