

A GUIDE TO CHOOSING CYCLE SHELTERS AND BIKE STORAGE



INTRODUCTION

Whether for transport, recreation, exercise, or sport - cycling is a hugely beneficial activity for all, from novices through to professionals. From a social, health and economic point of view, cycling offers a host of benefits for individuals, businesses and organisations around the country.

In this guide, you will find all the information you need to successfully identify and implement the right solution for your cycle storage requirements.

Let us explore...

- ✓ The important facts and statistics of cycling in the UK.
- ✓ How commuting to work on a bike and cycle-to-work schemes can be a win-win situation for employer and employee.
- ✓ The criteria that should be met and the questions that need answering before installing a storage facility.
- ✓ What types of facilities are available.

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Part 1:

The Benefits of Two Wheels

Before we discuss what types of cycle storage facilities are available and which is right for your organisation's needs, let's look at the facts about what cycling has to offer, along with the potential benefits of cycling to work.





Parking the Facts

As shown in the 2021 National Travel Survey for residents of England, there has been a gradual increase in the average cycling miles travelled from 2002 to 2019. In 2021, the overall average miles cycled (55 miles per person per year) was 43% higher than in 2002 (39 miles per person per year)¹. Categorising the trips by purpose; leisure ranked as the most common purpose for cycling with 46%, whilst commuting followed second with 27%.

With many of us feeling the pinch right now, making any amount of savings we can on travel and commuting would be hugely beneficial. According to research conducted by Blackhawk Network, commuters can save an average of £750 a year by travelling to work on a bike. This rises to £1,400 in higher-density areas like Greater London². During the lead-up to a Cycle to Work Day, the cycling technology company, See.Sense, tested their cycling companion app and discovered that its community of cyclists collectively saved £185,104 in fuel costs³, in just one week!

Looking at environmental factors, in 2020, the transport industry was the largest emitting sector of greenhouse gases in the UK with 24% of the country's total emissions, mainly derived from the use of petrol and diesel in road transport⁴. Findings by the cycling magazine, Bikeradar, highlighted that cycling is among the lowest carbon-per-kilometre modes of transport, with around 21g of CO₂ per kilometre produced. That's less than a tenth of the emissions caused by driving⁵.

For health, cycling can strengthen the immune system, help with weight loss, and even reduce the risk of developing heart disease⁶, and cancer⁷. Whilst the benefits of supporting physical health are undeniable, cycling can be just as positive for our mental health. It can relieve stress⁸, improve navigational skills and sleep cycles and, even develop social bonds through joining cycling clubs⁹.

With these facts and figures, hopping on two wheels seems like a logical and rewarding change of lifestyle for people to make and an effective practice for businesses to implement.

CYCLING BENEFITS



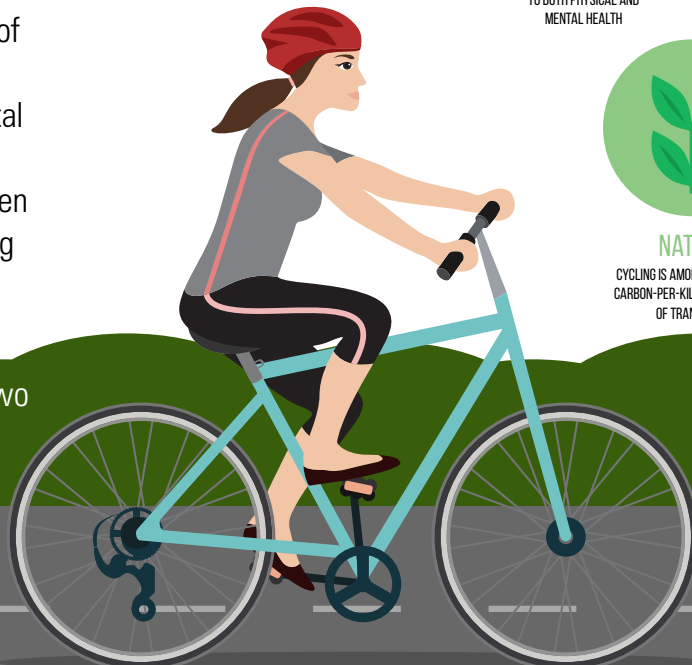
HEALTH
NUMBER OF HEALTH BENEFITS
TO BOTH PHYSICAL AND
MENTAL HEALTH



SAVE ON FUEL
STUDIES FOUND AN AVERAGE
SAVING OF £750 PER YEAR ON
TRAVELLING TO WORK



NATURE
CYCLING IS AMONG THE LOWEST
CARBON-PER-KILOMETRE MODES
OF TRANSPORT



¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2021/national-travel-survey-2021-active-travel>

²<https://blackhawknetwork.com/uk-en/cycletoworkday-2022>

³<https://bikebiz.com/see-senses-cycling-community-saves-185000-in-fuel-costs-in-one-week/>

⁴https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1051408/2020-final-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistical-release.pdf

⁵<https://www.bikeradar.com/features/long-reads/cycling-environmental-impact/> & <https://discerningcyclist.com/is-cycling-real-green-environment/>

⁶<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/keeping-active/activities/cycling>

⁷<https://www.cyclinguk.org/briefing/case-cycling-health#F1> & [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30079-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30079-6/fulltext)

⁸<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/6/e013542>

⁹<https://www.cyclingweekly.com/news/latest-news/benefits-of-cycling-334144>



The Win-Win of Cycling to Work

As discussed, cycling can be a money saver, an ally against climate change and an invaluable source of health and fitness.

Employees with a [healthy lifestyle](#) can display increased levels of morale, productivity and engagement at work. Encouraging employees to cycle to work can help contribute to their overall physical health and wellbeing. A happy and healthy workforce is something that all employers should aspire to have.

In relation to the environmental costs associated with commuting via bike, this method of transport should be supported as a vital tool to [meet the UK's NET Zero targets within businesses](#). This, in turn, could potentially attract new customers and investors through the promotion of sustainable practices.

Analysing the savings that the average worker could accumulate by swapping motor for pedal is further reinforced during the current cost of living crisis. [The cost of travel to work is cited as a top concern for almost two-thirds of employees, second only to utility bills¹⁰](#). There is even the potential to save time, as cycling in areas of high congestion is often quicker than motor transport.

With cycling offering so many advantages to both employer and employee, now more than ever seems like the ideal time to jump on two wheels. [But how can employers do more to accelerate this?](#)

A study commissioned by Direct Line Group, shows that one-fifth of the cyclists surveyed commute to work by bike less frequently than they'd like to. Over half (56%) continue to use their bike to commute daily, however 2.1 million (20%) cycle less due to the lack of facilities available in their workplace. Multiple reasons were discovered as to why the 20% feel discouraged to commute by bicycle, but the most common cause was due to storage space, with 14% stating their business doesn't have enough areas to store bikes¹¹.

Before investing in cycling facilities though, employers can do a few simple things to encourage the commute on bicycle. Sharing information through your work channels is an effective way to showcase the benefits of cycling, such as sending emails or displaying infographics around the workplace. Senior leaders can influence employees' habits by leading by example.

If Directors and CEOs are seen commuting on bicycles, employees could follow suit.



¹⁰<https://blackhawknetwork.com/uk-en/cycletoworkday-2022>

¹¹<https://www.directlinegroup.co.uk/en/news/brand-news/2022/british-commuters-p1-billion-bike-storage-problem-.html>



Setting Up a Cycle to Work Scheme

Whilst cycling to work can over time lower travel expenses for employees, the initial cost of purchasing a modern bicycle can prove to be costly for some. Below we'll delve into the basics of a Cycle to Work Scheme and how employees and employers can alleviate the initial cost of purchasing a bike.

A Cycle to Work Scheme is a [tax-efficient, salary sacrifice initiative](#) introduced in the 1999 Finance Act*. It allows employees to obtain a commutable bicycle, e-bike and/or various cycle accessories, which are paid for initially by their employer. The employee then makes salary sacrifice payments back to their employer over periods of 12, 24, or 36-months. This not only makes accessing a brand new bike and equipment more affordable for employees but also provides them with [savings on their tax and national insurance contributions](#), while of course, saving them hundreds of pounds on the annual cost of commuting.

As part of the Government's Green Transport Plan, employers have the option to register and provide bikes and e-bikes for their employees through the Cycle To Work Alliance¹². A policy coalition consisting of five leading providers including; [Cyclescheme](#), [Cycle Solutions](#), [Evans Cycles](#), [Halfords](#), and [Vivup](#). Through this initiative, an employer can initially pay for the bike and/or accessories tax-free and organise monthly payments from the employee's salary. Each partnered provider offers different savings but all include the chance for employers to eventually recoup the full costs, it really is a [win-win solution](#).

Whilst each Cycle to Work Scheme provider follows individual methods for application, they all follow these general guidelines to ensure the scheme can be fluidly implemented into a business with ease.

STEPS TO TAKE AS AN EMPLOYER



Sign up and apply to your chosen initiative to receive a unique employer code.



Choose your value package and how much you would like to spend on each employee & approve a salary sacrifice agreement.



Promote the newly introduced scheme to your staff.



Once the employee receives their bike, an invoice will be sent for the first payment.

As mentioned, each provider follows its own individual methods for application. So, it's worth spending some time familiarising yourself with their guidelines before you or your business choose the ideal cycle to work package.

STEPS TO TAKE AS AN EMPLOYEE



Receive the company's unique employer code, this will be needed when applying for your certificate or letter of collection.



Next is the fun part – choosing what bike to get! Depending on your employer's desired package choose from local or online retailers.



Once your purchase application is approved by your employer, your certificate or letter of collection will be emailed to you.



Redeem your certificate in store, online, or over the phone within the next 3 months.



The employee receives their bike and starts their salary repayments.

¹²<https://cycletoworkalliance.org.uk/>

Part 2: Specifying the Right Cycle Storage

Before choosing your storage solution, some criteria should be met and a few key questions asked. Address questions that will identify what will suit your organisation and employees, and criteria that can be used to ensure your chosen storage will be effective.





Criteria to Meet and Questions to Ask



In general, the following criteria should try to be met before choosing your cycle storage:

Convenient

Visible

Secure

Weather Protection

Well Designed

Ask the following questions:

■ What Shape and Size Will be Required?

Storage comes in all shapes and sizes. There are plenty of contemporary and stylish solutions on the market to choose from. Whilst the shape can be a personal choice, deciding the size is imperative. There are multiple factors to consider in this situation.

Identify such things as; the volume of expected cyclists within the business or organisation, how often people will use it over the course of a day, whether it will be available for external visitors and even understanding if the surrounding area is high-risk. We recommend accommodating more bicycles than initially expected, allowing room for extra workers to make the change to cycle in the future.

If you're unsure about the number of cyclists, send out an internal survey to determine how many people you need to cater for now, and in the future.

■ Where Do I Position It?

After understanding the required capacity of storage, analysing the site in which you intend to install it is vital. Evaluating the available surrounding space, nearby flora, buildings and even roads will determine the storage's practicality and safety. Additionally, optimising the convenience and visibility of the storage can greatly improve its use, which means placing it as close as possible to entrances or exits and in an accessible and illuminated area.

Measure the area, noting down the height, width and depth of the space you have to work with. More space doesn't just mean more bike storage, but a greater level of safety for those that need to navigate around the shelter.

■ What's Your Budget?

Analysing your budget and deciding how much you intend to spend is a preliminary task in determining the type of shelter to start searching for. With varying budgets come different styles, sizes and of course capacities. Although, one thing remains a constant – the quality.

A smaller budget can provide cost-effective solutions such as cycle hoops and racks. These economical options are classic and practical facilities that are both inexpensive and easy to maintain. Meanwhile, larger budgets can look towards incorporating gated compounds, providing extra security for the storage of large volumes of bicycles.



Types of Shelter & Storage Available

From straightforward bike stands to enclosed compounds, the world of cycle storage is vast.

A great way of deciding what is best for your needs is to think about the frequency of usage and duration of stay. Below we've explored different solutions based on specific requirements ranging from low-usage and short-term parking needs through to solutions for facilities with high usage and higher security requirements.

Whichever solution you choose, purchasing a secure, durable and weather-resistant product designed with cost-effective materials can save you money in the long run.

Low-Usage

For short-term cycle parking, individual bike stands can be securely fixed to the ground, allowing up to two bicycles to be locked to each stand. Ground or wall fixed options can be available in this range for flexibility, whilst 4 or 5 units can be sited in a row to create a dedicated but simple space for storage.



Medium-Usage

Where long term cycle parking is required, we recommend a cycle shelter with enough space to easily accommodate up to 10 bikes. As many of these facilities are designed to provide cover and protection from the weather, choosing a unit that offers corrosion resistance is important.



High-Usage

Compounds & enclosures, whilst proving costly, can provide full cover protection against the elements as well as vital security in higher-risk areas where shelters may be unmonitored. The inclusion of a lockable key coded entrance provides the added security that many organisations seek. These expansive shelters are able to include permanently fixed bike stands that allow bikes to be secured with appropriate cycle locking devices.



All Glasdon cycle shelters are rigorously tested to ensure they perform to optimal standards.

Part 3:

Installing Cycle Storage

So you've identified and chosen your storage solution...what next? Installing your cycle storage. The installation process can seem like a daunting task, but working closely with your manufacturer and following their professional advice will guarantee your storage solution is safely delivered and effectively placed.





Considerations

Now you've answered the vital questions, there are a few concluding aspects to consider before finally getting things into gear and installing your storage...

Location and Space: Take into account; the space available to guarantee safety, visibility to increase potential use and even the ground that will be set for installation.

Base Requirements: It is advisable to install onto a concrete base for guaranteed strength and less chance of heat making the surface pliable, especially in areas with limited or no shade. Additionally, some shelters will, unfortunately, be capable of catching the wind due to their curved and hollow shape, which could potentially lead to weaker foundations being uprooted. Preventing this will depend on the structural design of the shelter and the type of fixings used. At Glasdon, we rigorously test the structural integrity of all our buildings and shelters to ensure they can withstand strong wind and harsh weather conditions.

Assembly: To ensure the process goes smoothly, clarify with your manufacturer how your cycle storage will arrive. Here at Glasdon, all our cycle shelters are supplied pre-assembled and can be installed for immediate use with respective fixing options along with installation guidance provided in the product's instruction manual.



Cycle Shelters & Storage in Action

Below you will find some examples of Glasdon cycle shelters & storage we have recently installed for our customers.

ECHELON™ CYCLE SHELTER



Recently, we installed an Echelon cycle shelter next to a busy car park, squeezing it in between two large warehouses. With such limited space, other types of cycle shelters would struggle to fit, let alone allow users to simultaneously access it with ease.

With space still available for footpath access on either side, accessing this newly established cycle shelter would prove simple. Also, by installing the storage away from the car park meant more space for cars and a safe space for cyclists.

AERO™ CYCLE SHELTER



Dundee and Angus College selected the innovative Aero™ Cycle Shelter as a solution to make cycling a more accessible and convenient travel choice for their students.

The shelter provided students with safe and secure cycle storage for up to ten bikes. Its clear, curved roof and side panels are designed to provide extensive shelter from the elements while remaining unobstructive to the views of security cameras. Its unique and stylish contemporary design means it will fit perfectly within the campus environment, and most importantly, it provided an incentive for more people to be able to cycle to the campus daily.

Overview

Hopefully, this guide has demonstrated the exponential benefits the bicycle and accompanying storage has to offer a workplace and its employees, answered what needs to be identified before choosing a bicycle storage solution, and elaborated on what types of storage are available for each requirement.

So, when will you make the swap to two wheels?

OTHER GLASDON EBOOKS



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RESOURCES

UK Government – <https://www.gov.uk>

Blackhawk Network – <https://blackhawknetwork.com>

Bikebiz - <https://bikebiz.com>

Cycling Weekly - <https://www.cyclingweekly.com>

Bike Radar - <https://www.bikeradar.com>

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