

Opal

Tackling Serious Organised
Acquisitive Crime



Opal ACE: CITS Review

September 2024

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Opal/2024/98

YTD Overview

Of recorded matters from PNC overall, there has been a slight **decrease** in the number of **Quad Bikes, Plant and Agricultural Equipment** that have been stolen between **January – September 2024** compared to the **same time period last year**.

GPS Theft

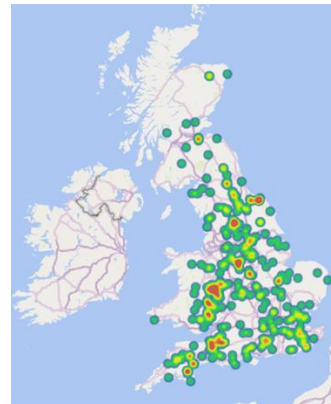
- ▶ GPS theft continues to be a **national issue** due **high cost** and **portability**.
- ▶ **Opal and NRCU** are currently working with **key partners** to help prevent offences and **target** offenders.
- ▶ **YTD there has been a reduction in offences due to concerted efforts by Opal, NRCU and Rural Task Forces** across the country to target and disrupt offenders leading to multiple arrests and seizures.

Survey Equipment Theft

- ▶ Ongoing work to prevent offences and disrupt those committing these crimes taking place across the Country

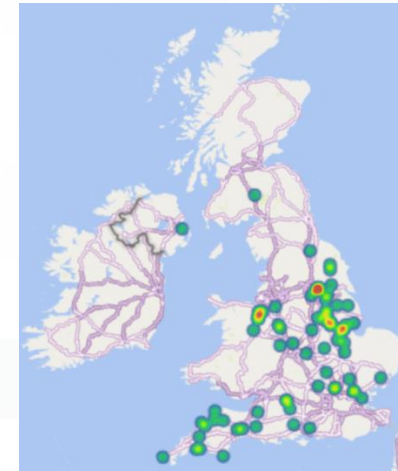
Quad Bike Theft Hotspots

| Force | Jan – Sept 2024 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| North Yorkshire | 44 |
| West Mercia | 37 |
| Police Scotland | 31 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 26 |
| Kent | 22 |



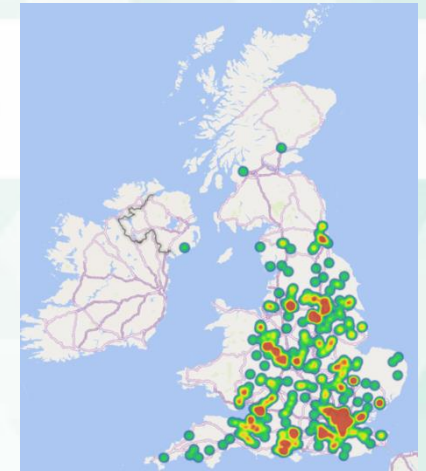
GPS Theft Hotspots

| Force | Jan – Sept 2024 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Devon and Cornwall | 12 |
| Lincolnshire | 12 |
| North Yorkshire | 9 |
| Essex | 6 |
| North Wales | 5 |



Plant Theft Hotspots

| Force | Jan – Sept 2024 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Met Police | 94 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 68 |
| Avon and Somerset | 56 |
| Essex | 54 |
| South Yorkshire | 47 |



Theft of Plant

- The theft of Plant and Agricultural equipment has decreased so far in 2024.
- There have been peaks in the number of thefts in the summer months.
- The MET have had the highest amount of plant theft YTD. Greater Manchester has also been heavily target, of note there have been some recent recoveries of large amounts of plant in the area due.

Opal ACE – March 2024 onwards

March

- ▶ Opal were able to identify two **suspects** responsible for **£80,000 worth of plant theft** from North Yorkshire. Further analysis identified where the offenders were coming from and **intelligence support** for also provided to the Rural Task Force at North Yorkshire as well as South Yorkshire Police.
- ▶ Opal provided **intelligence support** to NRCU in relation to outstanding offences that had occurred in the North Yorkshire area.
- ▶ Opal and NRCU worked together to help with the **tracking and eventual recovery** of £100,000 of stolen plant and the **arrest** of 2 x suspect nominals.
- ▶ Opal began collating **Op Walrus (GPS Thefts)** offences that were occurring across the country as well as carrying out intelligence work and research on possible suspects.

April

- ▶ Opal were able to identify nominals linked to GPS Thefts throughout England and Wales in **March/April 2024**. Opal also produced intelligence packages for the national Operation. Through collaboration with NRCU and Rural Task Force's across the Country the vehicle was **successfully briefed out and stopped**. Which led to the **arrest of 3 nominals** and the disruption of an OCG.
- ▶ Opal were able to identify a **suspect vehicle** involved in a **Plant Theft** in the North Wales area and the **identification of a possible suspect nominal**. NRCU and North Wales Police were liaised with and supportive work from Opal continued throughout their investigation.
- ▶ Opal along with the NRCU **produced and presented** an intelligence package to South Yorkshire Police into an Operation involving offenders in their force area.

Opal ACE – March 2024 onwards

May

- ▶ Opal provided **intelligence and analytical support** to a large-scale investigation into Plant Theft offences by the British Transport Police and were able to help **further their investigation** into possible suspects.
- ▶ Opal were able to identify an **Emerging Trend** where previous victims were being targeted for GPS Thefts. Additionally, Opal identified **suspects**. Working in collaboration with NRCU a **press release** was done to inform previous victims and make them aware, and to support target hardening. Additionally, Opal continue to provide **intelligence support** to Humberside in relation to an ongoing investigation into these offenders.
- ▶ Opal were asked to help **identify suspects** involved in high value survey equipment thefts occurring throughout the London/MET area, in **collaboration with DeterTech**. Through Analytical work Opal identified a possible **suspect address and vehicles**. Work is ongoing with the MET to try **and identify key nominals to conduct arrests**.
- ▶ Opal provided **analytical help** to NRCU in relation to a **large-scale seizure** of stolen Plant in the Manchester/Lancashire area.

June

- ▶ Opal were able to identify a **suspect vehicle and nominal** involved in the theft of a trailer and tools in the North Yorkshire area. North Yorkshire Police were updated which helped further their investigation.
- ▶ Opal provided **intelligence support** to Humberside Police in relation to a **plant theft** that had occurred in their area.
- ▶ Opal provided **intelligence support** to North Wales Police and NRCU in relation to an **ongoing series of trailer thefts** in their area.
- ▶ Opal continued to research and develop the overall **national intelligence picture** in relation to GPS Thefts across Great Britain.

Opal ACE – March 2024 onwards

July

- ▶ Opal were able to identify a **suspect team** involved in GPS Thefts that have occurred in **the North West of England and Wales throughout June/July**. After collaboration with local forces and NRCU decisions have been made to help further the investigation and **develop the intelligence picture** around their offending.
- ▶ Opal has continued to provide **intelligence support** to North Yorkshire Police in relation to **thefts** they have had in their area.
- ▶ Opal have identified a **new series of GPS Thefts** occurring throughout the **south of the country**. And have **highlighted this at a national level**. Analysis is being carried out to try and identify a new suspect team believed to be living and offending down south.

August

- ▶ Opal in collaboration with NRCU and RTF's in the North West were able to **identify and target** the previously mentioned Op Walrus team operating in the North West, Yorkshire and Humber and North Wales regions. This led to the **successful arrest and remand of key nominals**.
- ▶ Opal were able to identify a **suspect vehicle** committing GPS Thefts within the **Northumbria** area. Opal along with NRCU and RTF's in Humberside and Northumbria were able to target the suspect vehicle which led to a **successful disruption of the offending team** after the vehicle was stopped and recovered.
- ▶ Opal provided **intelligence support** to Thames Valley Police in relation to nominals involved in **plant theft** in their area.

September

- ▶ Opal provided **analytical support** to North Wales Police in relation to the **national Op Walrus picture**.
- ▶ Opal were able to **identify a suspect team** involved in GPS Thefts that have occurred in the south of the country. Along with suspect vehicles. Opal and NRCU are currently **liaising with key forces** to develop the intelligence picture.
- ▶ Opal have provided **intelligence support** to plant thefts that have occurred in the Manchester area.