

A GUIDE TO CHOOSING CYCLE SHELTERS AND BIKE STORAGE



INTRODUCTION

Whether for transport, recreation, exercise, or sport, cycling is a highly beneficial activity for everyone, from beginners to professionals. From a social, health, and economic perspective, cycling offers a host of benefits for individuals, businesses and organisations across 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 the available types of cycle storage facilities and determine which one is suitable for your organisation's needs, let's examine the benefits of cycling and what it has to offer, along with the potential advantages of cycling to work.





Parking the Facts

Looking at personal travel statistics, the 2022 National Travel Survey reveals that:

- From 2002 to 2022, the average number of cycling trips per person remained relatively consistent at 15. However, there has been an increase in the distance travelled on bike, with a leap of 46% more miles per person in 2022 (57 miles) compared to 2002 (39 miles).
- Segregating the journeys based on their purpose, it was found that leisure accounted for the highest percentage of cycling trips at 36%, while commuting came in second at 30%. Interestingly, since 2020, there has been a decrease in leisure cycling trips and a rise in the number of commuters taking to their bikes.¹

With many of us feeling the pinch right now, making any amount of savings we can on travel and commuting would be highly beneficial:

- According to research conducted by Blackhawk Network, commuters can save an average of £750 a year by cycling to work. This rises to £1,400 in higher-density areas such as Greater London.²
- During the lead-up to Cycle to Work Day, the cycling technology company See.Sense tested its cycling companion app and discovered that its community of cyclists collectively saved £185,104 in fuel costs in just one week!³

Looking at the environmental factors:

- The most recent figures from the Department for Transport show that the transport sector remains the biggest culprit for greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for 26% of the nation's emissions, mainly derived from the use of petrol and diesel vehicles from domestic transport.⁴
- Cycling has become a symbol of emission-free transportation, making it a key factor in mitigating air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Unlike vehicles that run on fossil fuels and release toxic fumes, bicycles have zero emissions.⁵

Healthwise, cycling can, of course, provide exponential benefits, such as:

- Strengthening the immune system, help with weight loss, and even reduce the risk of developing heart disease⁶ and cancer.⁷
- Apart from supporting our physical health, cycling can also have a positive impact on our mental health. Cycling can relieve stress,⁸ improve navigational skills and sleep cycles, and even help develop social bonds by joining cycling clubs.⁹

With these facts and figures, transitioning to two wheels seems like a logical and rewarding lifestyle change for individuals and an effective strategy for businesses to adopt.



¹ [https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2022/national-travel-survey-2022-active-travel#:~:text=In%202022%20there%20were%2057,\(39%20miles%20per%20person\).](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2022/national-travel-survey-2022-active-travel#:~:text=In%202022%20there%20were%2057,(39%20miles%20per%20person).)

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

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

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-and-environment-statistics-2023/transport-and-environment-statistics-2023>

⁵ <https://bikeclub.com/blogs/general/cycling-reduces-carbon-footprint>

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

⁷ <https://www.cyclinguk.org/briefing/case-cycling-health#F1>

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 cost-effective option, a tool to combat climate change, and a valuable contributor to health and fitness. But how do these aspects benefit the workplace for both employees and employers?

- Employees with a healthy lifestyle can exhibit higher levels of morale, productivity and engagement at work. It can also mean they are less likely to be absent from work. Encouraging employees to cycle to work can help contribute to their overall physical health and well-being. A happy and healthy workforce is something that all employers should aspire to achieve.¹⁰
- The savings that the average worker could accumulate by cycling to work are significant and should not be overlooked, especially during the current cost of living crisis. Figures show that the cost of work travel is a top concern for almost two-thirds of employees, ranking second only to utility bills.¹¹
- In terms of the environmental costs associated with commuting by bike, this mode of transportation should be promoted as a vital tool to assist businesses in the UK in achieving their Net Zero targets. This, in turn, could potentially attract new customers and investors through the promotion of sustainable practices.
- Lastly, by providing cycle-friendly facilities such as cycle storage, businesses can attract new talent, particularly environmentally conscious individuals, as an added benefit of employment.



With cycling offering numerous advantages to both employers and employees, 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 would 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 20% of individuals feel discouraged from commuting by bicycle, but the most common cause was due to storage space, with 14% stating that their workplace doesn't have enough areas to store bikes.¹²

Before investing in cycling facilities, employers can initiate one simple programme to encourage commuting by bicycle – a Cycle to Work Scheme.

¹⁰ <https://www.healthier-workforce.co.uk/resource-centre/the-importance-of-employee-health/>

¹¹ <https://blackhawknetwork.com/uk-en/cycletoworkday-2022>

¹² <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?



Pedalling for a Purpose

Glasdon takes great pride in our storage solutions and our unwavering dedication to cycling. For years, we have worked to enhance the benefits of this activity for both our employees and the charitable organisations we proudly endorse.

Here are a few of our notable cycling achievements:

- In 2023, we achieved Gold status as a Cycle Friendly Employer with Cycling UK. This prestigious award serves as a global standard for promoting active transportation within workplaces through initiatives, infrastructure and policies.



- We are partnered with Jadan Vive le Velo Glasdon, an amateur women's cycling racing team that competes in criterium, road, and velodrome races both domestically and internationally.

- We also strive to support our local communities. We are proud sponsors of the Blackpool Clarion Cycling Club, which encourages individuals or groups from all backgrounds to give cycling a go, regardless of their skill level.



- Back in 2016, we launched our very own Cycle to Work Scheme, aiming to reduce carbon emissions and promote healthy lifestyles among our employees. *This initiative continues to run today!*



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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