



# MOTO GUARDIAN

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## UNDERSTANDING THE RATINGS

Do you know your S5 from your S7? Or your Sold Secure bronze from a gold? It's a minefield out there when it comes to understanding what security is effective and where best to spend your money, so let's try to take a few moments to cut through the jargon and try to understand things a little better.

We start with Thatcham, probably the most recognised security rating. In recent years the ratings have changed a little but one of the main misunderstandings around the categories is that Cat 1 is better than Cat 2 and so on. This is not the case. The categories relate to a product type and description as explained below. The key to any rating is to understand what it does and what you need, rather than what is perceived to be better; crucially, spend wisely.

Below we list the breakdown of what these categories mean, but let's look at S5 and S7 ratings which relate to trackers specifically. When you look at the breakdown, they are broadly the same, yet S5 has the I.D tag included. On the face of it, S5 provides greater protection, but when you look into how bikes are stolen in comparison to cars, the key theft element is far less of an issue, a factor worth considering when you're spending your hard earned money, so do your research.

When it comes to hard security, locks, chains, disc locks, ground anchors, the choice is absolutely vast, and of course there's a huge difference in price points too. Sold Secure is certainly a sign of confidence and if you don't see this rating, then be aware. It's a little simpler in some ways, as these all do a similar job but to different levels. Sold Secure ratings are covered like this: Motorcycle Gold = SS101, Scooter = SS106 and Bicycle = SS104. Always check you are buying the rating you need.

But again, be aware what you're looking for, a Gold rated padlock may be great at home and sustain an attack much longer, but way too big and heavy to use on the commute. Wherever possible secure your bike to something, as bikes can be dragged into the back of a van without removing any security. Again work out what you need, where you're going to use it and choose wisely.

The top tip when purchasing security is to work out how you use it and where. Some security is always far better than none, so understand what your threat is and tool up accordingly. See our 'Layering up' feature for more hints and tips.

### Thatcham Categories Explained

**Cat 1** = Alarm and Immobiliser.

**Cat 2** = Immobiliser only.

**Cat 2.1** = Alarm Upgrade, upgrade means immobiliser connected to Alarm.

**Cat 3** = No longer available.

**Cat 4** = Locking Wheel Nuts.

**S5** = Stolen Vehicle Recovery Tracking; Driver ID, 24/7 Monitored SOC\* Real time tracking, GPS\* Tracking ONLY or RF\* - Radio Frequency / VHF Vehicle motion detection, GSM\* / GPRS\*, Roaming Sim, Battery Back Up and Resistance attack for a minimum 2 minutes.

**S7** = Stolen Vehicle Recovery Tracking; 24/7 Monitored SOC\* Real time tracking, GPS\* Tracking ONLY or RF\* - Radio Frequency / VHF Vehicle motion detection, GSM\* / GPRS\*, Roaming Sim, Battery Back Up and Resistance attack for a minimum 2 minutes.

**Tracking** - The ONLY main difference between **S5** and **S7** tracking products is a "Driver ID" fob

\*Please refer to our jargon buster on the following page.



## ADVANTAGES OF MULTI LAYERED TRACKING TECHNOLOGY

All trackers communicate using GPRS and GSM, this is used to send the information from the device, GPS is great and simple but if a bike is hidden when the Police arrive at the scene, they will not take any further action. For example – a parade of garages, the Police can gain a search warrant if it can be proved that a

stolen vehicle is in there, GPS on its own cannot do that, it will show the area but not accurate enough to gain a warrant. RF – can be accurate enough, it can be located down to one metre accuracy which is enough to gain a warrant. RF can be used locate in Garages / Containers / Vans / inside properties.





## Feature \_ 2

### LAYERING UP!

If you live and ride a motorcycle or scooter in the UK, you'll be familiar with the term layering up. But for once, we're not talking about a base layer, a Gore Tex jacket or a neck warmer, we're talking about layering up your security.

In the wonderful world of motorcycling, there's a plethora of bike security options available for riders. And while every rider has their own requirements, depending where, how or what they ride, one thing is common to all - bike theft. Most importantly, when it comes to protecting your bike and reducing your chances of being a victim, there is no such thing as too much protection, which is why you should never rely on just one piece of security.

Locks and chains are great - they're a visual deterrent and for the opportunist thief, a reason to keep walking. But the organised gangs aren't so easily perturbed, and so tooled up with lithium battery powered angle grinders, your chain and lock could just be a minor inconvenience.

Take a step back to the covered bike you parked next to. What was it? You're not sure and neither is the bike thief. But that same thief quickly scanned the parking bay to see the shiny red Ducati. Without thinking, that became



the thief's target, not the bike covered up. A worthy consideration in your 'layering up' armoury.

But what if that same thief was brazen enough to remove the cover before putting that angle grinder to good use on that lock and chain? The steering lock was on, but a sharp and forceful twist of the bars soon broke that off, so now they're rolling it down the road, or loading it into their stolen van and it's now looking even more likely that this bike has become another statistic. Only there was a tracking device fitted. The text message has been delivered to the owner, then a phone call, and now the owner can see the bike's location on a smartphone. The police have been informed and they and the tracking company are following its location live. The bike comes to a stop, the thief leaves it in an alleyway for several hours to see if it had a tracking device fitted (a very common scenario). It did, Police arrive and the bike is back in safe hands.

In all of those scenarios, the owner had been prudent and bought security, but by layering up, the odds of not becoming a bike theft victim were far greater. Do your research, buy what you can afford, but please, always try to layer up.

## Feature \_ 3

### RECOVERY FOCUS: WHEN THIEVES UP THE ANTE

All too often the story behind a bike's theft is one without a happy ending. The bike is stolen and that's the last anyone hears or sees of it. Another statistic, another insurance payout and quite often, in and around areas like London, another rider who decides it's simply just too much hassle to own and ride a bike.

Elsewhere in this issue, we've touched on the options for security, and while it's to be encouraged to do as much as you can, theft can and does happen. But pleasingly, not every story ends unhappily, so we took some time to sit down with Andrew from BikeTrac to learn about the interesting recoveries they've been involved in over the past 10 years. He talks us through one quite surprising find....

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Back in the May of 2015, we had what appeared to be a routine theft reported. A Ducati 848 Evo in London. The bike had been stolen overnight, the alerts had done their job and the GPS location pointed to a small housing estate in Brixton. Police were dispatched to the scene, but once on site, the officers were unable to locate the stolen bike.

In the location close-by was a row of lock-up garages. Police were keen to understand which one contained the stolen bike. Thankfully, our system also boasts Radio Frequency (RF) technology, which allows us to pinpoint a bike down to as small an area as one metre, so we dispatched one of our operatives to the scene to assist.

Once our colleague arrived at the location, we activated the RF and using our tracking equipment concentrated on the garages, but it became quickly apparent that this was not where the stolen bike was located.

Following the RF signal, the team were then led to the entrance of a block of flats close-by, before following the signal next up some concrete steps. Even for us this seemed an unlikely location to find any stolen bike.

By the time our operative and the police reached the second storey, the signal was stronger than ever, as they finally reached the doors of two neighbouring flats. With no answer from one, Police managed to gain access to the other flat, and once inside, the signal took the team to an adjoining wall. Confident that this was strong evidence that the stolen bike was inside the neighbouring flat, a search warrant was issued and just a few short moments later, the Ducati was uncovered in the lounge of a second story flat in Brixton.

In our experience, a prime example of the lengths thieves will go to, but most importantly an even better example of how tracking technology really can save the day.

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And for this customer the story didn't end there. After getting his bike back with a minimal amount of damage and back on the road. Just six months later, his beloved Ducati was stolen again! And once again, the BikeTrac crew got it back.

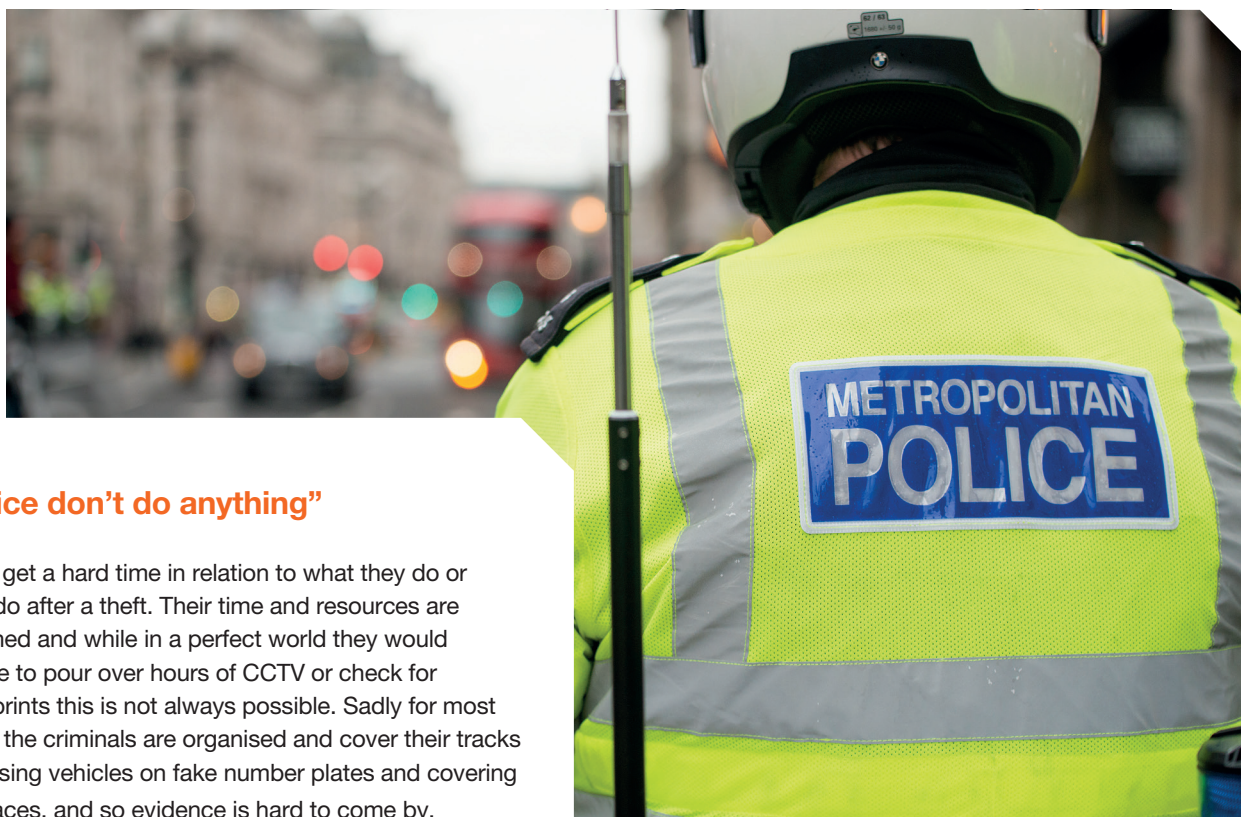


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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Earlier in this issue, we looked at the various ratings of security products and looked to simplify and explain some of the complicated jargon that surrounds security.

While a better understanding of the technology is useful in a purchase decision, there are many considerations that can't be explained by way of a level or rating. We spoke with a panel of motorcycle industry experts and asked them to answer some of common or frequently asked questions...



### “Police don't do anything”

Police get a hard time in relation to what they do or don't do after a theft. Their time and resources are stretched and while in a perfect world they would be able to pour over hours of CCTV or check for fingerprints this is not always possible. Sadly for most thefts, the criminals are organised and cover their tracks well, using vehicles on fake number plates and covering their faces, and so evidence is hard to come by.

However, in the experience of the BikeTrac team, when the police are presented with credible evidence of where a machine is located, their response is generally swift and productive. BikeTrac are particularly positive about theft response from the police due to their Radio Frequency technology that can show a hidden bike's location down to just one metre, something the police take very seriously generally.



### “Once my bike has been stolen there's no chance of seeing it back”

Sadly recovery stats overall for stolen two-wheelers are not good. But as touched on previously in this issue your chances are much better if you arm yourself with the best security possible. Of course, locks, chains, ground anchors and covers should be the first deterrent, but if that doesn't work and you've chosen a tracker, then in general the odds are significantly better.

However, a tracker is only as good as the support that is offered, and that's why the security industry in general and most insurers only recommend accredited systems with 24/7 back-up and support. For those that do, the recovery success rate is generally above 90%. It's also worth noting that most insurers ask for the tracking unit to be professionally installed to award policy discounts. Fitment is key, under the seat or wired directly to the battery and the thieves will find the unit in seconds.



## “Can I Self install, Should I go to a dealer for install?”

Some tracking companies are very strict and don't allow self-install and others are a little more flexible. The main pitfalls to self-install are:

- If you are fitting a tracker for insurance benefit?
- By self-installing you may invalidate your insurance, if you are getting a discount for having it fitted your insurer can ask for an install certificate which is filled in by a dealer at time of install, proof of install.
- Location of the device is key, no good under the seat or wired direct to the battery, these tend to be first locations that are looked at so be sure you can bury the tracker on the bike before you install, if not use a professional.

## “I'm covered on insurance, I don't need to worry about security”

That may be the case, but as we touched on earlier, bike theft is rife and insurance companies are having to pay out for thefts more than ever. That is seeing premiums rise across the board and with a significant claim on your history, there is no question that your next premium would see an increase, or worse still make you uninsurable.

## “I don't want my bike back if it gets stolen”

This is often said by owners, but did you know that a recovery and a small payout for damage compared to a complete payout for loss makes a significant difference to future premiums. We often hear of owners who are unable to insure another bike again after a complete payout. Equally, in most cases stolen machines are rarely started or even ridden by the thieves, so damage is generally only cosmetic or an ignition barrel.

## “What's the difference between Thatcham approved security products – NON-Thatcham approved?”

Thatcham approved products have been put through vigorous third party testing to meet the requirements set out in the criteria. (In layman terms, it will do what it says on the tin). Thatcham approved tracking products also are required to have a monitoring centre which means your pride and joy can be tracked and traced with police involvement if required and all done on your behalf, plus there are some minimum technical requirements that a unit has to pass. Thatcham also require re-certification every two year.

Non Thatcham approved equipment may work as advertised but there is no guarantees that is the case, if your Insurer insists on tracking you will only be able to choose from the accredited list of Thatcham approved devices.

## “I live in the city, I don't have a garage, I can't get insured”

Insurance in large cities is unsurprisingly expensive or in some cases just not possible for some riders. But a tracker can sometimes make the difference. If you don't have a garage or secure area to park consider a tracking device and some accredited locks and chains and get a quote from any of the trusted and well-known motorcycle and scooter insurance companies. You might be surprised.

## MYTH BUSTER “FARADAY CAGES”

A Faraday cage is used as a protective shield against the electromagnetic radiation coming from the external environment, or it prevents electromagnetic energy radiated from the internal components from escaping the cage. These protective shields are used in different kinds of electronic and electrical equipment. – These are not used to hide motorcycles In practice especially as there is now a simpler solution which is Jamming the signal with a transmitter. Jamming has started to become more prevalent although still rare. There is little that can be done to counteract such equipment and is just another use of technology such as a battery powered angle grinder that we have to cope with in today's society.



## TRACKING TECHNOLOGY JARGON BUSTER

There are a lot of abbreviations in the tracking industry so we have made a list of the most commonly used acronyms to help you navigate your way through reviews and product specifications

**GPS** = Global Positioning Satellites. Shows real time location (accurate to about 3-meters)

**GPRS** = General Packet Radio Service, same as a mobile phone. Sends the data of the device, like a mobile phone

**GSM** = Global System for Mobile Communications, sends text message alerts

**RF** = Radio Frequency also referred to as VHF Very High Frequency (accurate to about 1-meter)

**Driver ID** = Tends to be a key fob

**Geo Fence** = This sets up a perimeter around the bike, so it can be moved without the alert going OFF around your house for example

**Movement Alert** = Allows movement before an alert is generated, normally about 25 seconds upwards

**24/7 SOC** = Secure Operating Centre, A call centre that will alert you and call you



## Revolutionising Motorcycle Security

A discreet motorcycle tracker that monitors the movements of your pride and joy in real-time, allowing you to view status and journey history 24/7 with notification of unauthorised movements.

### KEY FEATURES:



REAL-TIME  
MONITORING



24-7 OPERATION  
CENTER



BIKE DOWN  
ALERTS



STEALTH  
INSTALLATION



SELF  
MAINTAINING



[biketrac.co.uk](http://biketrac.co.uk)

Secured by Design



Official Police Security Initiative

Thatcham  
Research  
SECURITY CERTIFIED



Our multi-platform technology ensures whichever device you login on, you will get the same experience.



### THEFT RESPONSE TEAM

BikeTrac is able to offer a 'Response Service', in the event of Police being unable to attend. This nationwide service, enables an SIA accredited operative to visit the location to secure the machine.

### BIKETRAC FINANCE

We are delighted to announce our BikeTrac 0% finance offer. spread the cost of the device, fitting and your first years subscription over 12 months. Contact your local dealer or visit [biketrac.co.uk](http://biketrac.co.uk)

0%  
FINANCE  
BUNDLE

For more information visit [www.biketrac.co.uk](http://www.biketrac.co.uk) or call +44 (0) 1327 317 980



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## OUR STORY - BIKETRAC

**In each issue, here we'll take a look at the businesses involved in bike security, learning how they strive to stay one step ahead of the thieves, looking at the people behind the brands and how they have come to bring innovation and products to the market.**

We start with BikeTrac - a dedicated motorcycle tracking device that's been on the market for over a decade now. Based out of Silverstone in Northamptonshire, BikeTrac has developed its own technology and now protects thousands of machines. The team proudly boast a recovery rate of over 90% and have recovered over £10m worth of stolen machines in this time.

The BikeTrac story is one of two halves and one that on first inspection would seem to be a simple story of a large organisation developing a new product. But the creation of BikeTrac stems from two individuals who had a passion for both bikes and technology to create the product and service we know today.

Rewind to 2008 and the Road Angel Group (RAG), who were renowned then for their speed camera detection products, were beginning to develop their fleet telematics products. A development in technology meant the previously large units could be made much smaller. Working for RAG at the time was keen motorcyclist, Bill Taylor. Bill had seen the progress and started to think about the application on two-wheels. A conversation with RAG's technical wizard, Andrew Conrich, saw the seed of an idea grow quickly, and by 2009 the team had developed a prototype and was ready to launch to the market.

With BikeTrac quickly establishing itself as the first truly dedicated product with Thatcham approval for motorcycles, the team enjoyed huge success, recovering bikes successfully from the word go and proving the proof of concept without any negativity. Bill Taylor picked up the story, "It really was the right product at the right time. We knew and trusted in the technology, so once we were able to get the customer support elements agreed with a Secure Operating Centre and full back-up, then we just had to prove to customers and the authorities that it worked."

And that proof was all in the pudding, as BikeTrac quickly showed owners and police forces right across the country that their tech and support was very much effective.

Taylor continued, "It's one thing bringing a product to market, but quite another gaining the respect and trust of the authorities. But for us, this was crucial. Showing police that we do confidently know where a stolen bike has been

hidden and then convincing them to get a search warrant or to break a door down is no mean feat. But after only a handful of recoveries, news within the police forces spread and the support was quite frankly, very surprising early on."

With that support and trust from the police, BikeTrac's recovery rate was immediately impressive, with search warrants issued and owners crucially getting their stolen bikes back. To this day, BikeTrac's recovery rate is still over 90%.

Taylor added, "This really was a very important step for us. Within a few months, when Police were contacted and told the stolen bike had a BikeTrac fitted, the response was now positive and on the whole proactive. Police had learned that we could get the bikes back and on occasions lead them straight to the thieves, it was a win, win for everyone involved".

By the winter of 2016, parent company Road Angel Group was looking to restructure and so the opportunity came for Andrew and Bill to take BikeTrac on as its own individual entity - an opportunity that allowed complete focus on the next stage of BikeTrac's development.

In those last five years, BikeTrac has focussed on improving customer satisfaction by implementing products and services all aimed at improving security, reducing thefts and beating the upward trend in bike theft. With a dedicated app for all owners, customisable alerts, hardware updates and even no-cost-to-consumer services like the provision of Securitas support, the team have worked in all areas to improve customer experience, satisfaction and results. The team have even introduced a 0% finance option for owners to make security even more affordable and easy. To learn more about BikeTrac visit [www.biketrac.co.uk](http://www.biketrac.co.uk) or follow them on social media @BikeTrac





# PERMANENT PASSIVE PROTECTION

## with the Datatag forensic marking system



<p><b>Button Tag Transponders</b></p> <p>This transponder is about the size of an aspirin and is one commonly used in harsh environments. It contains a unique code number which is permanently programmed into its integrated circuit.</p>	<p><b>Glass Tag Transponders</b></p> <p>This transponder is roughly the size of a grain of rice. It contains a unique code number which is permanently programmed into its integrated circuit. The number cannot be altered or deleted.</p>	<p><b>Warning Labels</b></p> <p>Forming a major part of the visible deterrent these indicate to potential criminals that Datatag genuinely protects your machine and there is a high risk of it being traced should they steal it.</p>	<p><b>"Stealth" UV Etch</b></p> <p>Comprises a unique code - permanently etched into the panels and fairings. They do not deface or interfere with the appearance or aesthetics of the Motorcycle because the etchings are visible under UV lighting.</p>	<p><b>Datadots®</b></p> <p>A superior microdot identification system developed for ease of use. The Datadots® can be applied to any surface, thus making it virtually impossible for the criminals to locate and remove them all.</p>	<p><b>Forensic DNA</b></p> <p>A unique chemical DNA solution. Each piece of equipment is protected with an invisible and unique DNA code. Criminals will have to be confident they have removed every molecule of Datatag DNA.</p>
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Datatag is a proven & powerful theft deterrent. Fitted as standard by most major motorcycle manufacturers since 2014, Datatag uses a combination of covert and overt identification technologies to make your bike easily identifiable, and less desirable to potential criminal theft.

Datatag provides permanent passive protection and is the first step in any security protocol with technologies that can prove beyond doubt the true identity of your bike.

[www.datatag.co.uk](http://www.datatag.co.uk)  
Tel: 03 450 700 440

