

# CCTV Half Yearly Report

## Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford

### 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information on how the district council's CCTV cameras<sup>1</sup> contribute towards deterring crime, reducing the fear of crime, increasing crime detection and protecting vulnerable people in the district.

The report is produced using information provided by the CCTV monitoring suite based in Abingdon. It is based on information drawn from the record of occurrences. A record of occurrence is completed by the operator on duty, each time a CCTV camera is used proactively to monitor a specific incident.

The report covers the four towns that have had CCTV installed: Didcot (nine cameras), Henley-on-Thames (20 cameras), Thame (15 cameras) and Wallingford (13 cameras). Reports are provided on a half yearly basis to each town council and other stakeholders in order to share information and help publicise the positive outcomes of CCTV to residents and businesses.

#### DATA SUMMARY

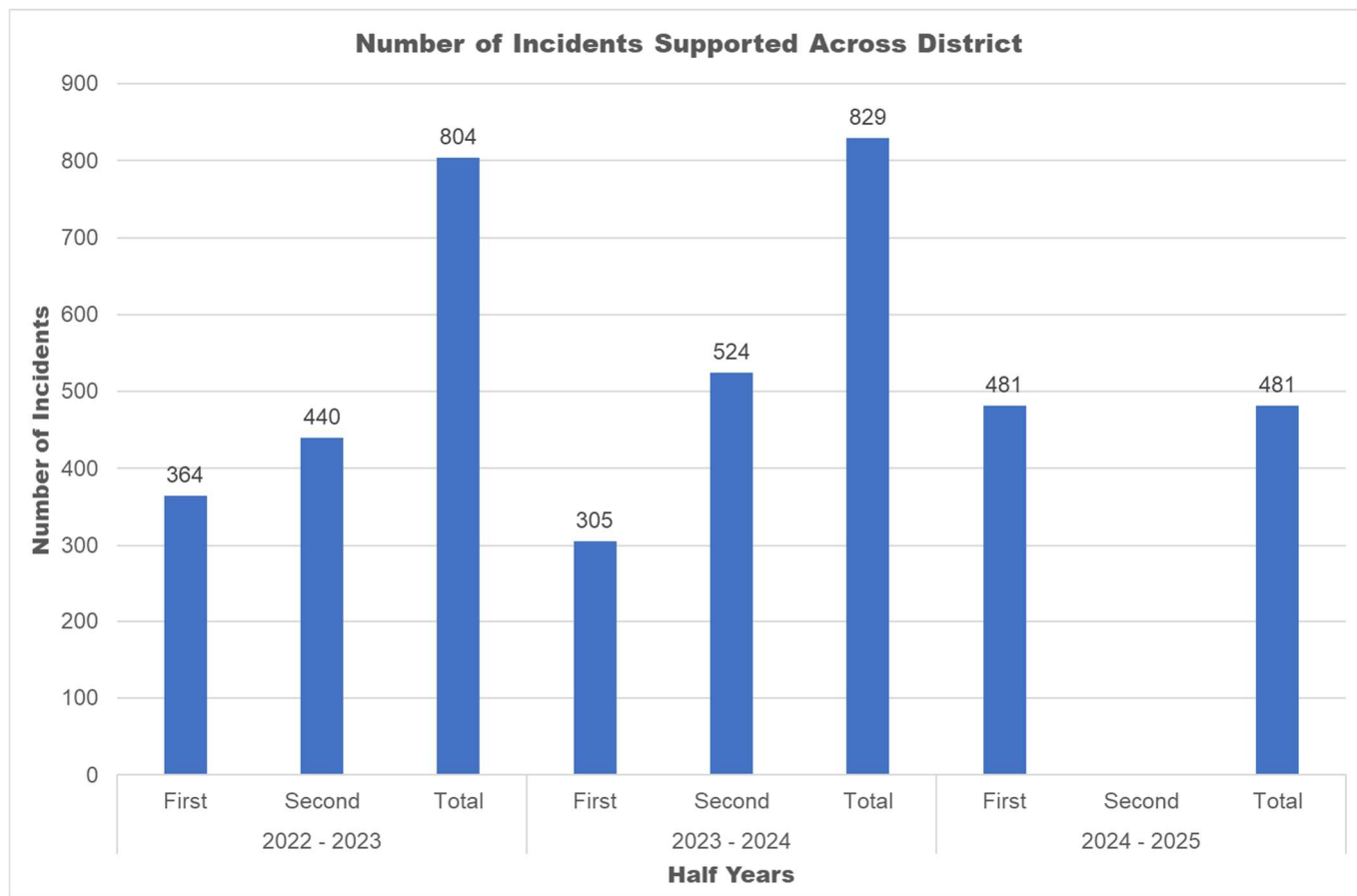
In South Oxfordshire, CCTV operators **supported 481 incidents** during the first half of 2024-2025. The operators also **produced 75 evidence packs** for possible court proceedings, carried out **28 reviews of CCTV footage** (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and **supported 33 arrests**.

The following table displays the most common type of incident monitored for each town during the first half of 2024-2025, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

MOST COMMONLY MONITORED INCIDENTS				
	Didcot	Henley	Thame	Wallingford
1	Missing persons (33)	Fear for welfare (17)	Anti-social behaviour (10)	Fear for welfare (13)
2	Fear for Welfare (13)	Shoplifting (13)	Missing persons (8)	Missing person (12)
3	Offensive weapon (12)	Public order (10)	Drunk-in-charge (8)	Anti-social behaviour (9)

<sup>1</sup> The report covers the district council cameras plus three which Henley Town Council installed in Mill Meadows as these are managed under the same scheme.

The chart below compares this half yearly total with previous half years:



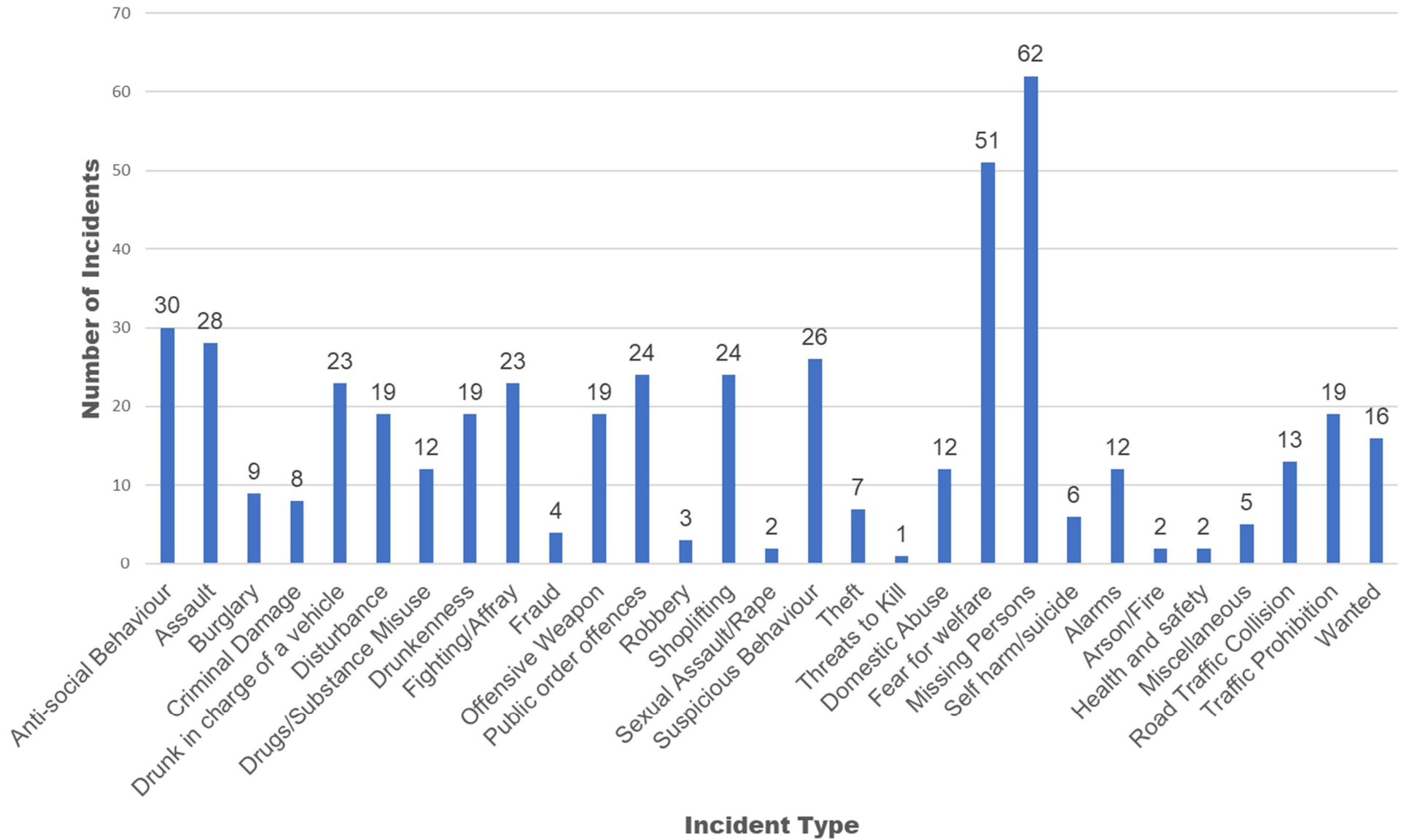
For a breakdown of monitored incidents by town, please see table below:

	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total
<b>Didcot</b>	126	146	272	87	151	238	140		
<b>Henley</b>	69	113	182	82	181	263	131		
<b>Thame</b>	76	87	163	63	88	151	99		
<b>Wallingford</b>	93	94	187	73	104	177	111		
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>481</b>		

## TYPE AND NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The chart on the next page shows the amount and type of incidents the CCTV operators have monitored and supported across all four towns, between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024.

## Incidents by Type - 1 April 2024 - 30 September 2024

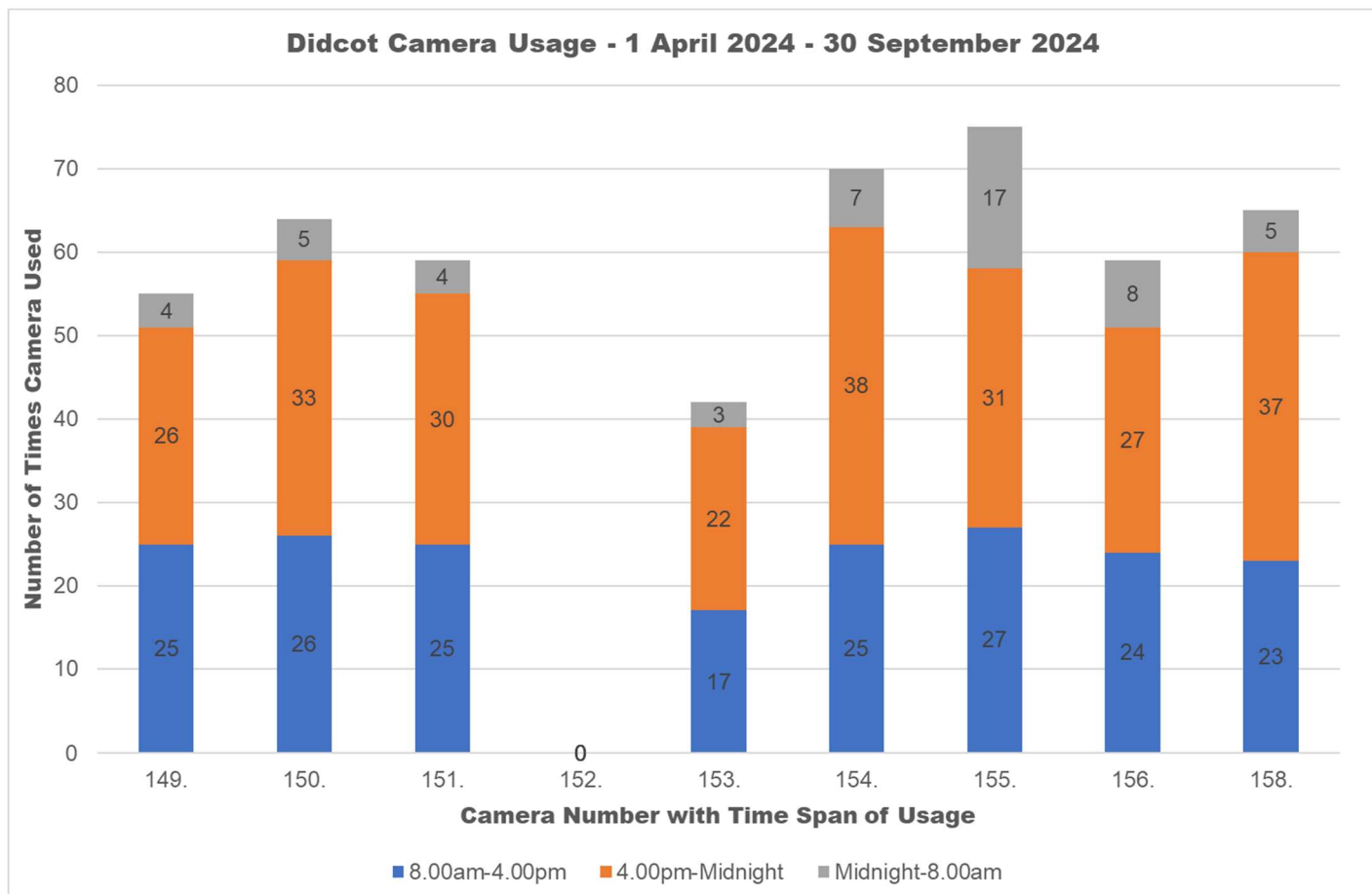


## CAMERA USAGE

The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

The number of times that each camera was used has been divided into three sections, covering a 24-hour period.

It is worth noting that for the period midnight to 8am, the vast majority of camera usage occurred between midnight and 4am.

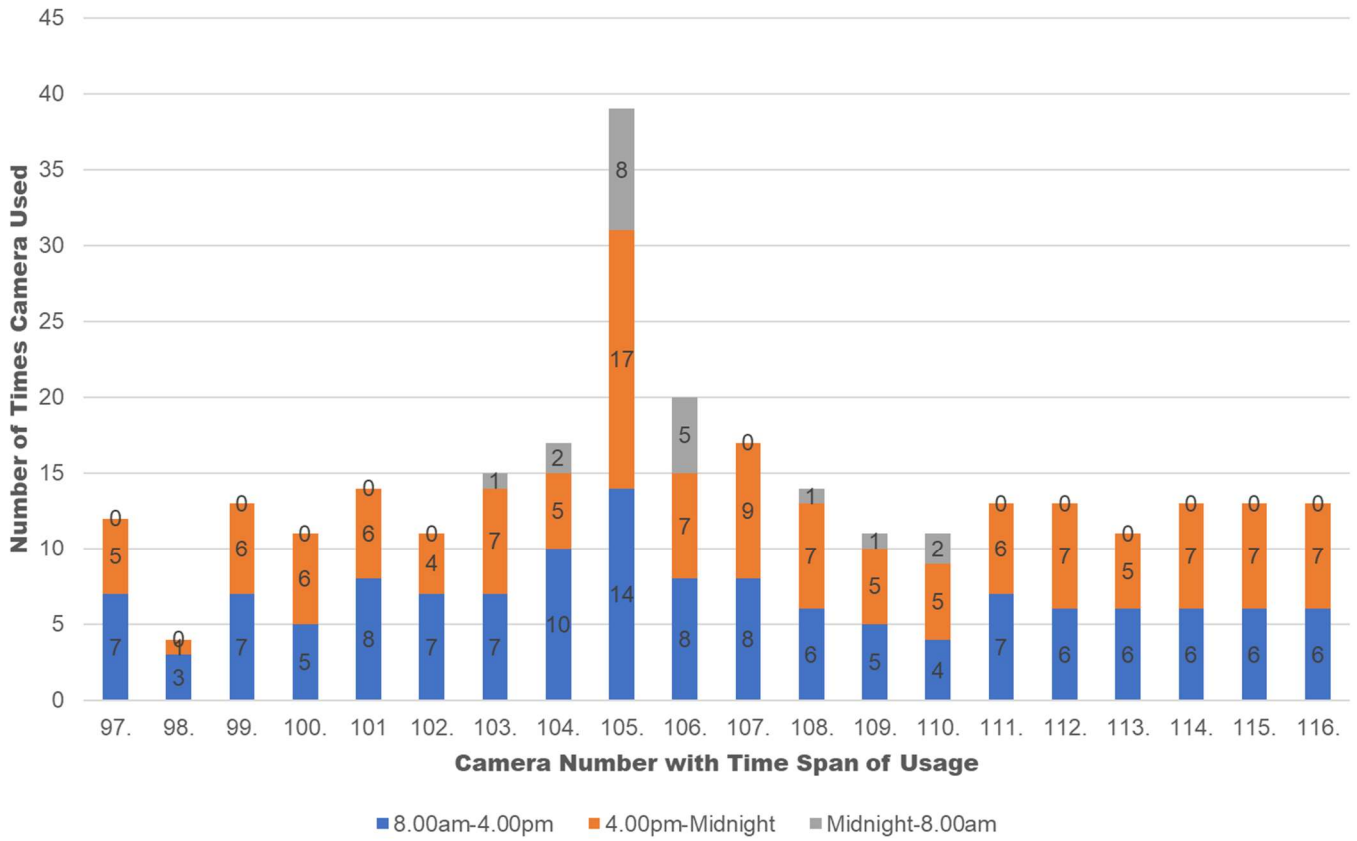


In Didcot, camera 155 had the highest use and is predominantly used to monitor nighttime economy.

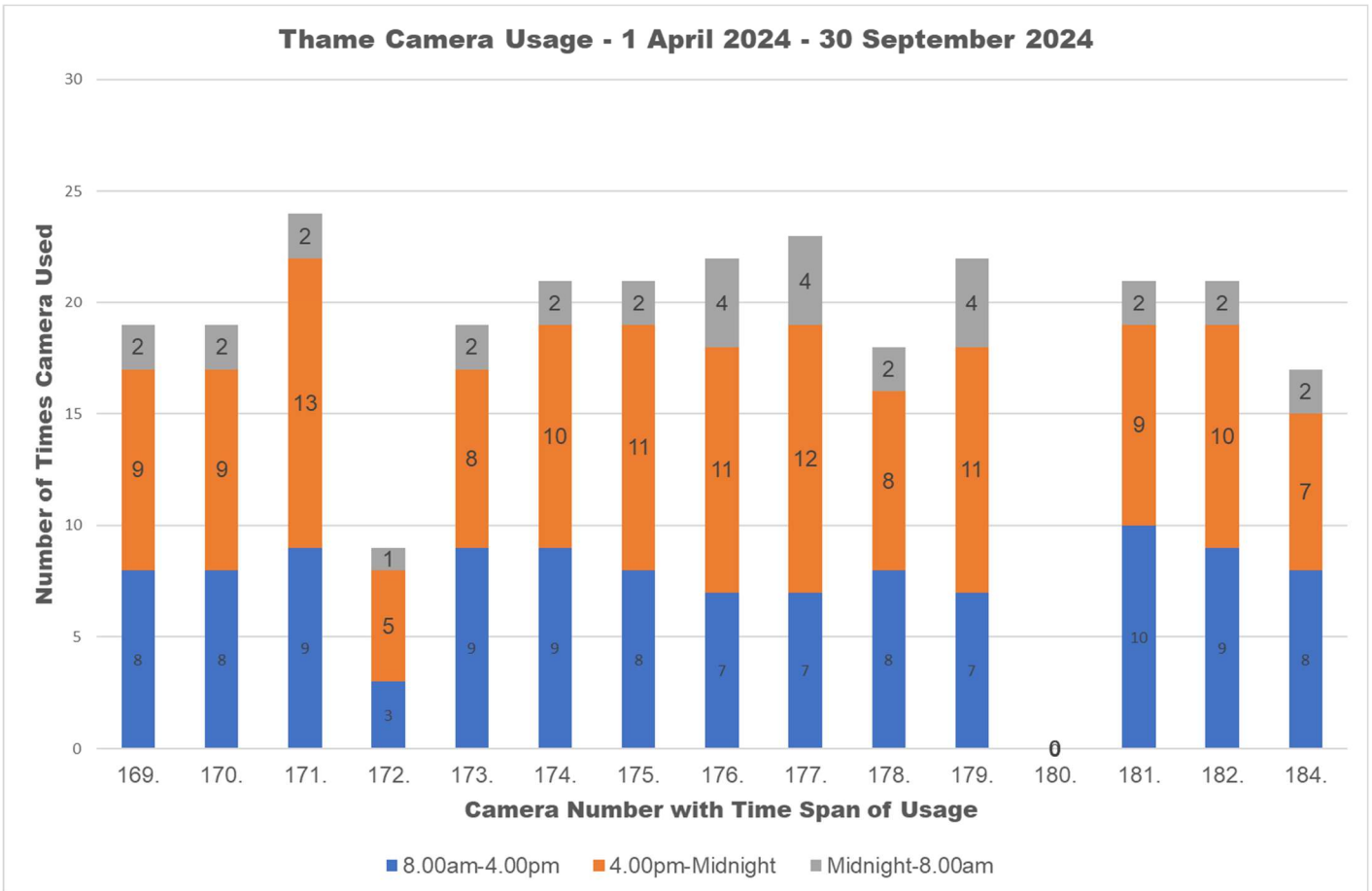
Cameras 154 (which monitors the junction of Station Road and the Orchard centre) recorded the second highest usage and is frequently used for monitoring both daytime activity and nighttime economy.

Camera 152 was not operational during this period as it had become engulfed by tree foliage which could not be cut back. In consultation with the town council, we have decided to relocate this camera to the other side of the Broadway and this will be done as part of the upcoming camera upgrade works in the town.

### Henley Camera Usage - 1 April 2024 - 30 September 2024



Camera 105 in Henley is situated in the town centre at the traffic lights serving the Duke Street-Hart Street-Bell Street junction and has the greatest number of occurrences attached to it; it is used for both daytime and nighttime economies.

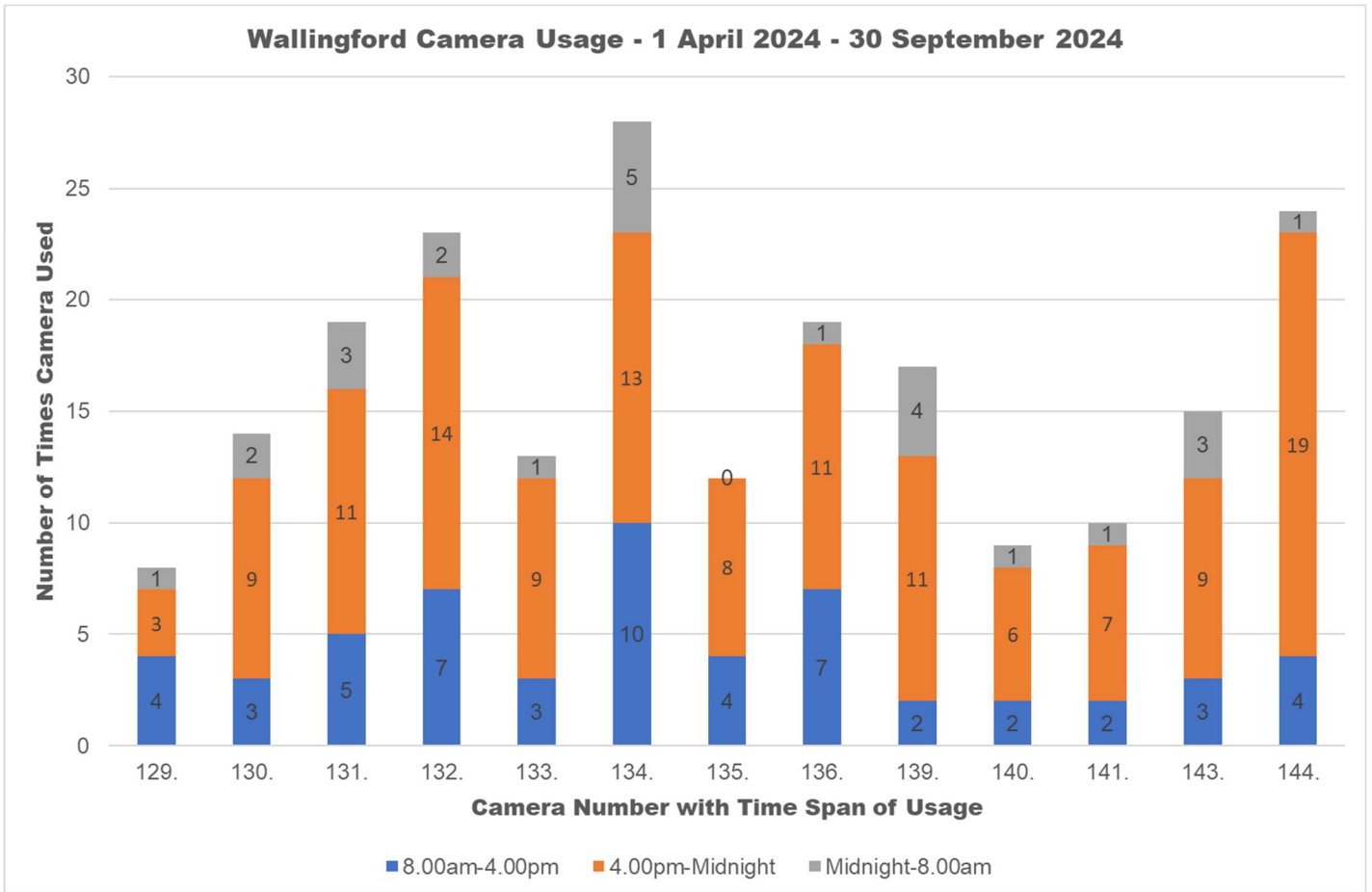


In Thame, camera 171 on the High Street was used in the most occurrences; it covers the Town Hall and bus stops as well as the lower part of the High Street.

Camera 177, which is used to monitor the weekly market, and the nighttime economy, saw the second highest use.

Camera 172 usually shows a much higher level of usage but was struck by a lorry at Easter and irreparably damaged. Unfortunately, the column was also significantly damaged in the incident and has since had to be removed for safety reasons. We are currently awaiting a quote from an engineering contractor to replace the column which will enable us to get the camera back up and running again.

Camera 180 suffered an irreparable fault relating to damaged underground cabling. In order to try and resolve this problem, we are working with our maintenance contractor to replace the cabling with a wireless connection which involves going through a planning approval process.



Camera 134, which is used for both nighttime and daytime monitoring was used most often during the first half of the year. Camera 144 (situated at the Riverside carpark and play area) saw the second highest usage.

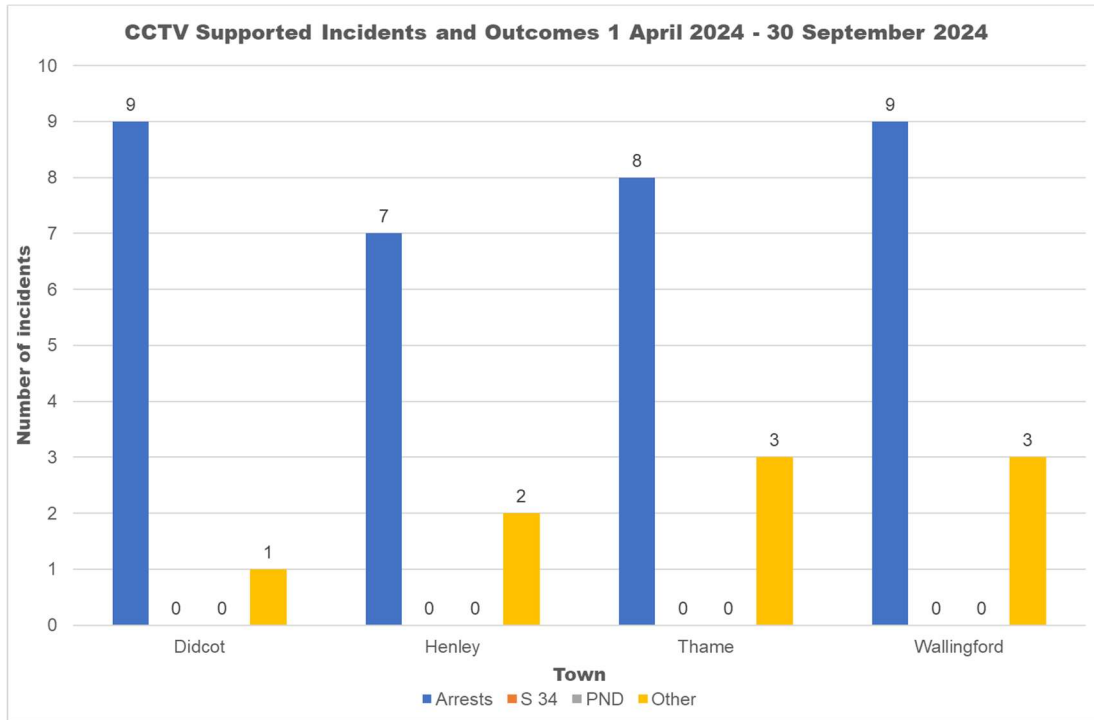
## ARRESTS, SECTION 34S AND OTHER OUTCOMES

The chart at the top of page eight shows the outcomes the CCTV operators supported while involved in monitoring an incident. The police use their discretion on how an incident is resolved based on experience, the gravity of the offence, the resources that are available to them at that time and so on. While we cannot always be certain whether CCTV was solely instrumental in an arrest or the serving of a Section 34<sup>2</sup> or a Penalty Notice for Disorder<sup>3</sup> (PND), we do know the cameras alert police to incidents they may not have known about. CCTV also gives the police the ability to assess and allocate resources and prioritise in real time e.g. leaving CCTV to monitor incidents or offenders while officers attend other incidents.

In the chart, actions designated 'other' usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or a non-recordable sanction.

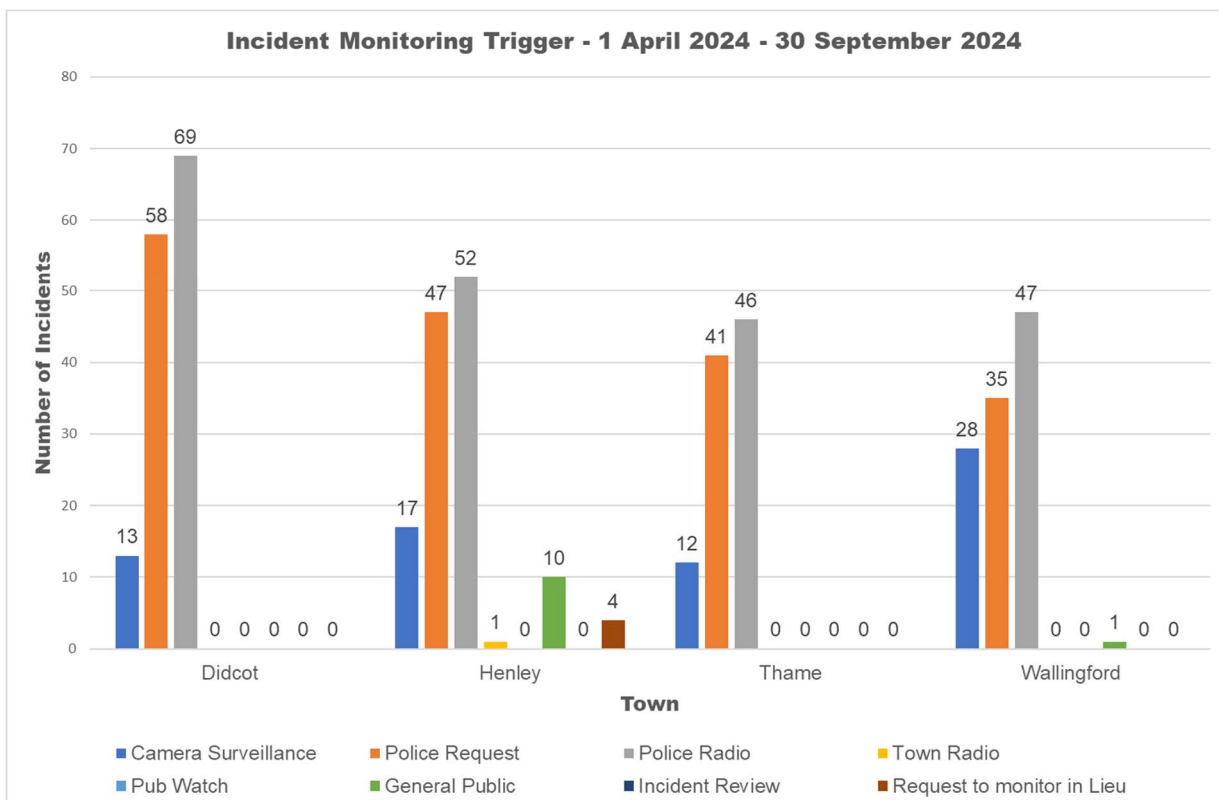
<sup>2</sup> A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social related disorder.

<sup>3</sup> A PND is the 'on the spot fine'



## HOW CCTV MONITORING WAS INITIATED

The chart below shows how many of the incidents monitored were as a result of the following: a direct request from the police (police requests); the CCTV operator hearing about an incident on a police radio (police radio); the operator proactively patrolling the cameras (camera surveillance); request from officers to review footage at the time of an incident e.g. to clarify details of a reported incident while they are on scene (incident review). Only Henley-on-Thames has a town radio scheme.





## REVIEWS AND EVIDENCE PACKS

When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on 'hotspot' areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in 'default' positions where they remain whilst not being actively moved by an operator. These positions are agreed with the police and town councils as covering those areas that are most likely to experience community safety issues.

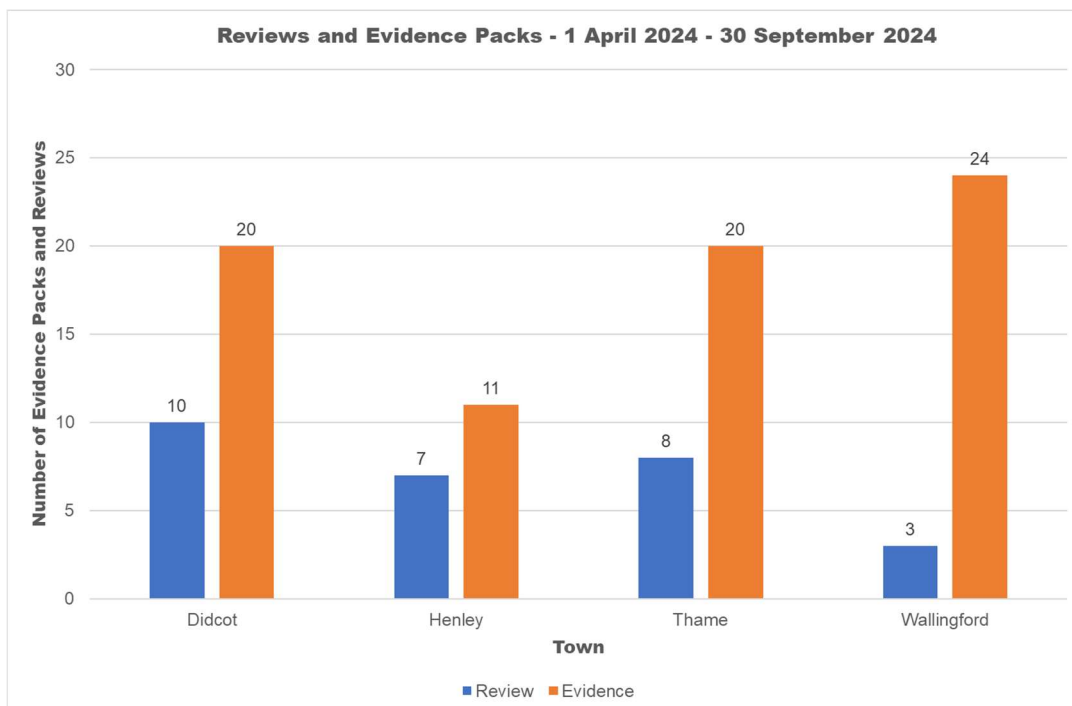
CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under data protection legislation and subject access requests (SARs). The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of 'non-stop road traffic collisions' in which the complainant's car has been damaged. Altogether we received 26 such requests during this half of the year. In seven of these cases, we were able to supply footage of specific incidents, caught on camera. Several others were passed to the police and footage provided as evidence. We also received six requests from town and district council departments regarding incidents.

The chart below shows the number of evidence packs the CCTV operators put together and the number of evidence reviews they undertook, as a result of formal written requests.

Evidence packs are the recordings and statements which the CCTV operators produce for police, solicitors and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Activity that monitors past footage but does not result in an evidence pack being produced, is termed 'a review'. This may be, for example, that the footage does not show an event clearly enough to warrant making a permanent copy for evidential use.

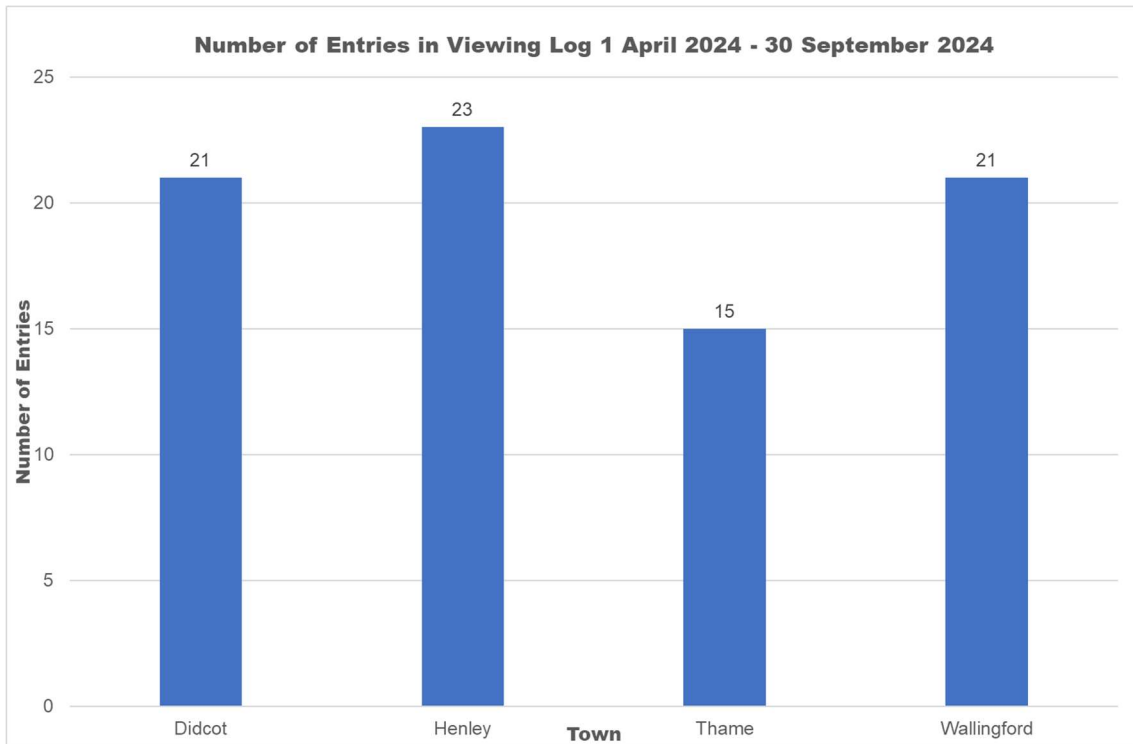
One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of a full trial at either magistrates or crown court.



## VIEWING LOG

When authorised personnel (most often police officers) visit the CCTV control room to view footage, the details are entered into a viewing log. The chart below reflects the number of times this occurred between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024 across the four towns.

N.B. These visits may or may not be followed by a formal written request for footage.



## CASE STUDIES

The following are examples of incidents dealt with by CCTV operators during the first half of 2024–25. They aim to demonstrate how our CCTV service helps to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe.

### Didcot

Whilst conducting a routine patrol one evening, our operator noticed a group of young people acting suspiciously. They alerted the police control room promptly and continued to monitor the situation: the group approached a man and the operator saw one of them produce what appeared to be a weapon. Due to this being reported early by the operator, police arrived quickly on the scene and made an arrest. This demonstrates the importance of proactive CCTV monitoring and the role it plays in preventing crime.

The CCTV team received a report of a burglary with descriptions of the offenders. With this knowledge, the operator on duty located two men who matched the descriptions and informed the police. The operator continued to monitor the suspects and directed attending officers to their location. Two arrests were made.

## **Henley-on-Thames**

Whilst conducting a routine camera patrol, the CCTV operator on shift spotted a fight breaking out in the Market Place and also observed someone taking what appeared to be a controlled substance. They informed the police and continued to monitor the situation. Upon attendance, officers arrested a man and after a search, found drugs concealed on his person.

Following reports of a person shouting and being abusive to members of the public in the town centre, our operator conducted a search of the area and quickly located the suspect. They directed officers to the scene who gave words of advice and moved the man on.

## **Thame**

The police control room informed our operator that there was a potential drink driver who was expected to be returning to their vehicle shortly. The operator located the vehicle in one of the car parks and continued to monitor until the driver returned. Based on their behaviour and how unsteady they were on their feet, the operator advised police that it was possible that they were under the influence of drink or drugs. Officers arrived just as the vehicle was preparing to exit the car park and arrested the driver.

Our CCTV team received a report of an altercation that took place at a premises in the town; the offender had left the scene, but a description had been given. The operator on duty was able to locate the suspect nearby and monitored them until the police attended and made an arrest.

## **Wallingford**

The police were looking for a suspect in relation to several recent burglaries. Our CCTV team sighted an associate of the suspect and observed them meeting the suspect in a nearby field. Having passed on this information to the police, officers were quickly deployed and made an arrest.

Over the radio channel, the police asked the CCTV team to look out for a missing person in the town. Upon noting their description, the operator on duty carried out a search of the area and located the person sat on the edge of Wallingford bridge. They quickly informed police of the location and with the attendance of officers and help from a member of the public, the person was brought back to a place of safety.

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