# Car thieves in the UK increasingly confront owners with dangerous violence



A recent case in Swansea has drawn attention to the alarming prevalence of car thefts in the UK and the dangerous lengths some owners will go to in order to protect their vehicles. Stuart Black was sentenced for dragging the owner of a BMW along the road during an attempted theft. As detailed in court proceedings, the incident took place when the victim briefly stepped away from his car on Glebe Road in Loughor. Black, having spotted the vehicle as an easy target, jumped into the driver’s seat and began revving the engine. When the owner rushed back to stop him, he was violently yanked along the road until he eventually fell, suffering injuries including a concussion and head wound.

Following this, Black continued his reckless escape, colliding with a parked car and threatening a bystander who attempted to intervene. His prior criminal history, amounting to over 150 offences, highlights a persistent issue in the community. Legal proceedings revealed Black’s extensive record of vehicle-related crimes and a perpetual disqualification from driving since 2002. Despite this, he had never secured a full driving licence.

This incident reflects a growing trend of car thefts where the owners put themselves at significant risk to thwart thieves. In Dunley, for instance, a man was dragged along the road when he attempted to stop a thief driving off in a Mitsubishi pick-up. He ultimately suffered serious leg injuries, illustrating the physical dangers involved in confronting a thief. Similarly, Amanda Sumner in Carlisle faced a harrowing experience when she threw herself over a thief attempting to steal her Peugeot, resulting in severe consequences for both her and the thief, who was ultimately charged with assault and motoring offences.

These accounts shine a light on the distressing realities faced not only by car owners but also by communities grappling with rampant vehicle theft. In Sheffield, a CCTV footage captured a similar scenario where an owner was dragged hundreds of feet by his own van as he tried to prevent the theft. Thankfully, in that instance, the injuries were minor, but it underscores the potential for serious harm that these confrontations can lead to.

Experts suggest that, while the impulse to protect property is understandable, these actions can have dire repercussions. In many cases, the thefts occur in broad daylight and with increasing boldness, indicating a shift in criminal behaviour. In a broader context, this highlights the urgent need for police initiatives and community action to enhance vehicle security measures and discourage such daring acts of theft.

As cities continue to create schemes for improved vehicle security and public awareness, the hope remains that fewer individuals will find themselves in these life-threatening situations.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060518/car-thief-dragged-owner-along-road)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-21950985), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cumbria-16875084)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/bristol-car-thief-video-valero-gas-station-18648595.php), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/calendar/2024-09-12/owner-dragged-along-by-stolen-van-in-shocking-footage)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/12/12/car-theft-driver-dragged-into-brick-wall/), [[7]](https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/video-car-thief-in-uk-rams-owner-into-wall-smashes-door-while-speeding-away-4658676)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060518/car-thief-dragged-owner-along-road> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-21950985> - In Dudley, a 48-year-old man was dragged along the road for several hundred metres while attempting to prevent a thief from stealing his car. The incident occurred when the man chased the thief, who was driving a red and silver Mitsubishi 4x4 pick-up, and grabbed hold of an attached trailer. The thief drove off, dragging the man, who eventually let go and was treated in hospital for serious leg injuries. The car was later seen driving towards Brook Street. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-21950985?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cumbria-16875084> - In Carlisle, a 30-year-old woman, Amanda Sumner, attempted to stop a thief from stealing her Peugeot 205 while it was defrosting. She threw herself over the thief, Kieran Sewell, as he sped away, resulting in her being dragged along the road before the car crashed into a tree. Sewell threatened her with a knife before fleeing. He was later arrested and pleaded guilty to assault and motoring offences. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cumbria-16875084?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/bristol-car-thief-video-valero-gas-station-18648595.php> - In Bristol, a woman attempted to prevent a thief from stealing her Dodge Charger at a Valero gas station. The thief drove off with the woman clinging to the driver's side window, dragging her before she fell. She was treated at the hospital for scrapes to her hands. Police released surveillance video of the incident, showing the woman tripping and falling while running after the thieves. ([ctinsider.com](https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/bristol-car-thief-video-valero-gas-station-18648595.php?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.itv.com/news/calendar/2024-09-12/owner-dragged-along-by-stolen-van-in-shocking-footage> - In Sheffield, CCTV footage captured a man being dragged along by his own van as he tried to stop it from being stolen. The thief entered the van, and the owner attempted to enter the passenger side. The van drove off at speed, dragging the owner hundreds of feet before he let go. The man escaped with minor injuries following the incident. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/calendar/2024-09-12/owner-dragged-along-by-stolen-van-in-shocking-footage?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/12/12/car-theft-driver-dragged-into-brick-wall/> - In Doncaster, a car owner was dragged into a brick wall when he tried to stop a thief from stealing his vehicle from his drive. Home security footage showed the thief opening the car door and getting inside. The owner pulled the car door open and attempted to grab the driver but became trapped and was dragged backwards into his garden wall, which collapsed upon impact. The thief pulled away as the owner struggled to get to his feet. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/12/12/car-theft-driver-dragged-into-brick-wall/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/video-car-thief-in-uk-rams-owner-into-wall-smashes-door-while-speeding-away-4658676> - In Doncaster, UK, a car thief rammed the owner into a brick wall while speeding off the driveway. The incident was captured on CCTV, showing the thief opening the car door and getting inside. The owner attempted to stop the thief but was dragged into the garden wall, which collapsed upon impact. The thief pulled away, leaving the owner injured. ([ndtv.com](https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/video-car-thief-in-uk-rams-owner-into-wall-smashes-door-while-speeding-away-4658676?utm_source=openai))