# Thieves use angle grinders to steal scooters at Croydon IKEA as police fail to act



A gang of brazen thieves displayed shocking audacity by using an angle grinder to steal a scooter from the car park of an IKEA store in Croydon, South London, while security personnel helplessly watched. The incident was caught on camera, showing one of the criminals deliberately flipping off the footage as a bystander questioned why no intervention was attempted. Such blatant acts of lawlessness epitomize a wider trend of rising crime, which the authorities have failed to curb — a reflection of the broader failure of the current government to protect ordinary citizens from these organized, well-armed gangs.

This incident is just the latest example in a disturbing pattern of moped-enabled thefts across London, where criminals wield power tools like angle grinders to cut through locks on bicycles and scooters in broad daylight. Reports from recent years highlight how these gangs operate with shocking confidence, often in front of onlookers and security staff who seem powerless to stop them. In 2017, a gang cut through a Piaggio scooter lock on Shouldham Street, Marylebone, with passersby seemingly indifferent or unable to intervene. Such incidents, which number over 11,000 in the preceding year, expose the failure of London’s law enforcement to effectively dismantle these organized crime groups.

These brazen crimes are not confined to central London. In South London, thieves have been caught on camera attempting to steal e-bikes and motor scooters in busy areas like Surrey Quays and Battersea, often wielding portable angle grinders or cordless tools without regard for public safety or police presence. The audacity of these criminals—is matched only by the failure of the authorities to update security measures or enforce stricter penalties — something that a stronger, more decisive government could implement if it prioritized law and order.

There have been instances where brave members of the public have confronted these criminals, such as in Whitechapel in 2017, where residents attempted to stop moped thieves armed with hammers and angle grinders. Yet, such acts of civilian bravery are increasingly rare in a climate where the authorities consistently appear ill-equipped, underfunded, or unwilling to stand up to such lawlessness. This pattern underscores the urgent need for a government willing to back up police efforts with tougher laws, stronger patrols, and new strategies to combat these organized gangs.

The repeated use of power tools in daylight robberies, often in front of witnesses, is an appalling indication of how unchallenged these gangs feel — a testament to the current government's inability to restore safety and order on the streets. If Conservative policies had focused on stricter law enforcement and preventive measures rather than bureaucratic red tape, perhaps these gangs would think twice before brazenly risking their freedom to operate so openly.

It is imperative that the government recognizes these issues as a priority. The public demands a crackdown on organized theft gangs that threaten everyday life and mobility, not faint promises or half-measures. The silent acceptance of such lawlessness is a clear sign that Britain’s streets are crying out for a new approach — one that prioritizes crackdown on crime and the return of order in our communities.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14937849/Video-Moment-gang-brazen-thieves-use-angle-grinder-steal-scooter-outside-IKEA-south-London-security-helplessly-watch-on.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/dramatic-moment-moped-gang-steal-scooter-in-front-of-passersby-in-marylebone-a3549051.html> - In February 2017, a gang of thieves used an angle grinder to steal a scooter in broad daylight on Shouldham Street in Marylebone. CCTV footage shows two mopeds arriving, with one suspect cutting the lock of a Piaggio scooter while bystanders walked by. The theft was discovered later that evening when the owner returned to collect his bike. No arrests were made, and the incident highlights the rise in 'moped-enabled' crimes in London, with 11,389 such crimes reported the previous year.
3. <https://road.cc/content/news/possible-id-surrey-quays-angle-grinder-bike-theft-287691> - In November 2021, a cyclist's e-bike was stolen outside Surrey Quays Shopping Centre in South London. The thieves used a portable angle grinder to cut the lock. The bike's owner received a 'possible ID' for one of the suspects, which was passed on to the police. The gang is reportedly known to the authorities. This incident underscores the increasing use of angle grinders in bike thefts across London.
4. <https://road.cc/content/news/video-london-bike-thieves-filmed-using-angle-grinder-291507> - In March 2022, a video emerged showing bike thieves in Greenwich using a portable angle grinder to attempt to steal a bike. The incident occurred on King William Walk, with the thieves unbothered by the bustling area or being filmed. This case adds to a series of similar thefts in London, highlighting the growing trend of using angle grinders in bike thefts.
5. <https://www.newsflare.com/video/123262/brazen-gang-attempt-to-steal-motor-scooter-with-angle-grinder> - In April 2022, a video from South London showed a gang using a cordless angle grinder and a hammer to attempt to steal a motor scooter in Battersea. The thieves were unfazed by the noise and sparks, continuing their efforts for 20 minutes despite neighbours observing. When the police arrived, the thieves fled without the scooter. This incident highlights the audacity of thieves using power tools in residential areas.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/dramatic-moment-londoners-confront-hammerwielding-thugs-during-brazen-moped-theft-attempt-a3555241.html> - In June 2017, Londoners confronted a pair of hammer-wielding moped thieves using an angle grinder in a daylight attempt to steal a bike in Whitechapel. Footage shows two men attempting to steal the vehicle outside an office block, with shocked onlookers trying to tackle them. One of the thieves threatened people with a hammer as they walked past. The incident underscores the boldness of moped thieves in London.
7. <https://road.cc/content/news/thieves-use-angle-grinder-take-trek-bicycle-287619> - In November 2021, a gang of bike thieves used an angle grinder to cut through a lock outside Surrey Quays Shopping Centre in Rotherhithe, South-East London. The theft was witnessed by a crowd of bystanders who filmed the incident and contacted the police. The thieves made off with the bike before the police arrived. This incident highlights the audacity of thieves using power tools in broad daylight.