

NaVCIS Freight Crime: Monthly Update

NaVCIS

January 2026



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NaVCIS Freight would not be possible without the assistance and funding from our financial partners

Data Limitations

Freight crime does not have a unique Home Office Crime Recording code. Police forces invariably record freight and cargo crime as a general theft offence, or theft from motor vehicle. As a result, there are inherent difficulties when attempting to harvest *specific* freight or cargo crime data.

NaVCIS Freight is the only police unit in the UK to attempt to collate and maintain a recording system to capture freight and cargo crime offences. This is done on a national scale. To achieve this, NaVCIS request cargo crime notifications from a number of sources, namely UK police forces, hauliers, cargo insurers and cargo surveyors, along with industry trade organisations such as the Road Haulage Association, and the British International Freight Association.

It must be noted that whilst cargo crime data is received regularly from the majority of UK police forces on either a weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis, the regularity and completeness of this data can vary greatly.

Every effort is made by NaVCIS to accurately summarise and report on the impact of cargo crime in the UK, however the data collated by NaVCIS is by no means the 'full picture' and should not be considered as such, due to the limitations outlined above.

Overview – Freight Crime – January 2026

- ❑ **178** offences of Freight Crime reported to NaVCIS in January 2026, a decrease of 106 offences when compared to December 2025. Figures for January 2026 represent an estimated cost loss value of **£5 million**, which is an increase from £4.1million reported in December 2025.
- ❑ These notifications were submitted by 33 UK Police Forces from 11 Force Regions.
- ❑ Fuel is once again the most popular stolen commodity, up from 11 offences in December 2025 to 83 in January 2026. Fuel offences will likely increase as the war in the Middle East and shipping problems in the Straits of Hormuz progresses and the subsequent rise in fuel prices.
- ❑ Offences at Motorway Service Areas decreased throughout January when compared to December, 17 vice 94 offences. The Top MSAs in December: Cobham Services with 4 offences and Thurrock Services with 3.
- ❑ There was 1 Moving Cargo offences in January 2025 with an estimated cost loss value of £1.5m. There has not been any Jump up offences reported to NaVCIS throughout January 2026,
- ❑ The Top Force Areas most at risk:- Essex (30 offences), West Yorkshire (17), South Yorkshire (11), West Mercia (7) and Bedfordshire (7).
- ❑ Good News:
 - ❑ Throughout January NaVCIS have been notified of 19 arrests in relation to Freight Crime.
 - ❑ The delayed 2nd Reading of the Freight Crime Bill is due in Parliament on Friday 17th April 2026



Figure 1: Map to show the geographical spread of January 2026

All Freight Crime Offences – January 2026

Freight Crime: January 2026 by Offence Category

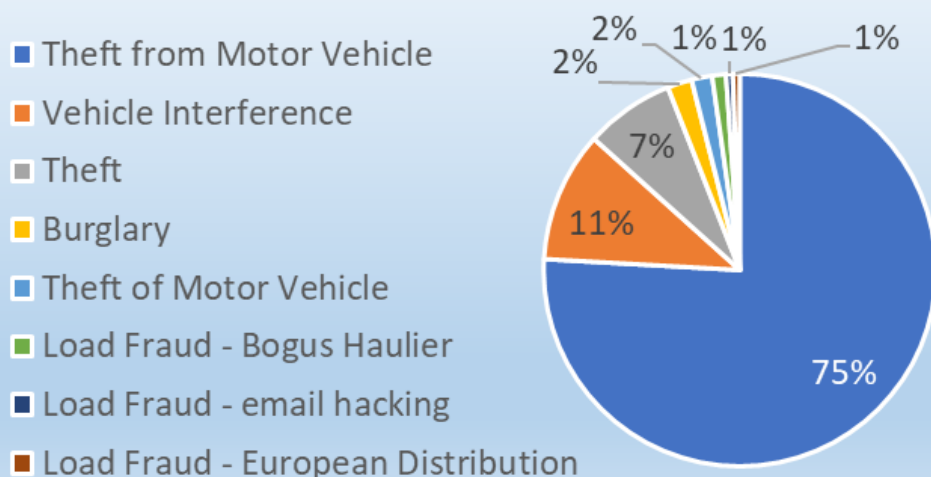


Fig 2: Chart showing Freight Crime by Offence Category for January 2026

NB: These Cargo Crime figures have been taken from data provided to NaVCIS as of 02/03/2026.. Late reporting by some forces may alter these figures.

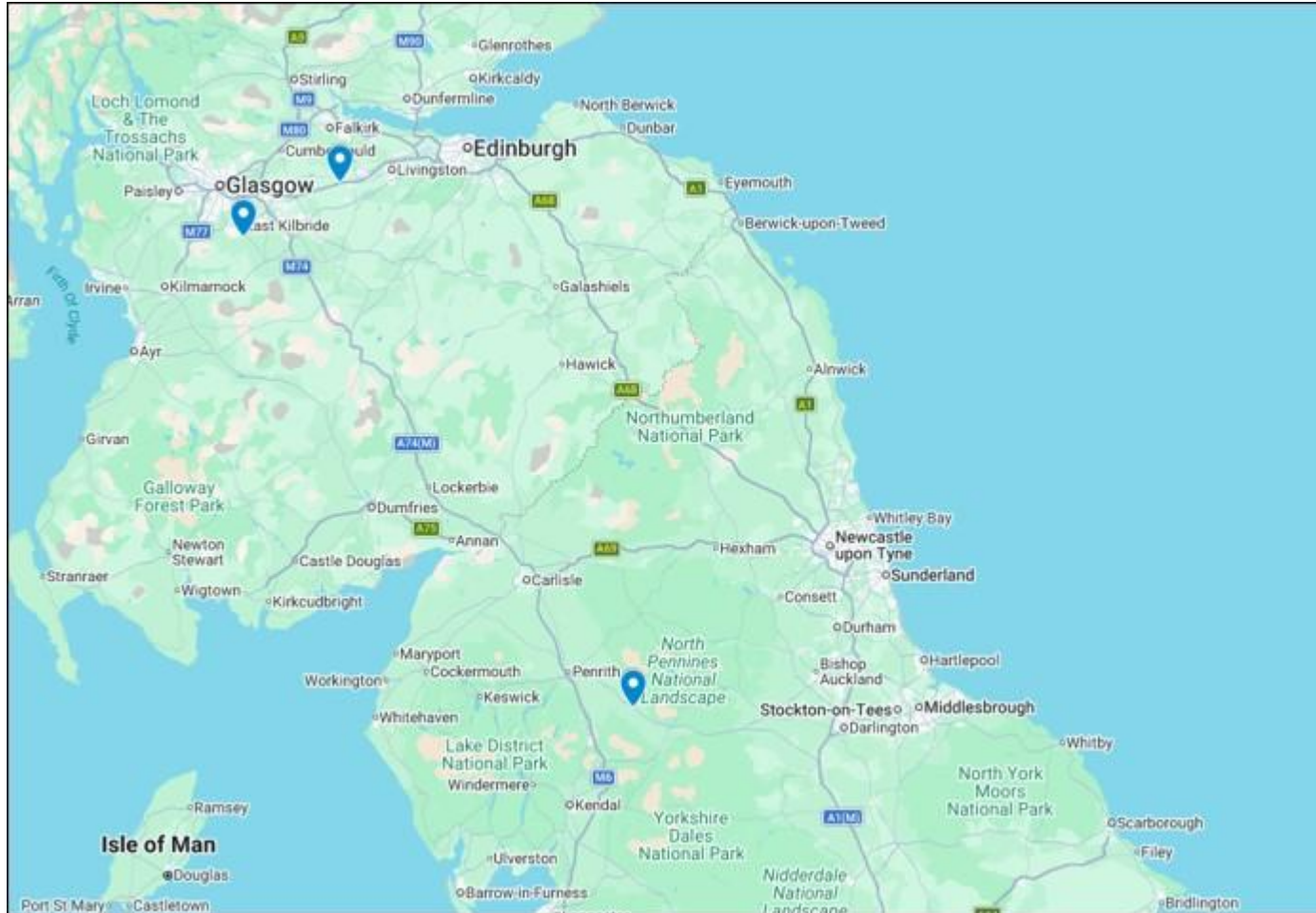
178 Freight Crime reports in January 2026

Cost loss value in excess of **£5 million**

Decrease in offences, down from 284
but increase in cost loss value from £4.1 m

- Freight Crime saw a decrease during January 26 down from 284 offences to 178 however, the estimated cost loss value increased by £900k, up from £4.1 million in December 2025.
- This decrease in offences is in line with the seasonal trends post Christmas.
- Theft from Vehicle and Vehicle Interference (86%) also covers Fuel Thefts and attempted Fuel Thefts where either the Fuel Cap or Fuel Tank had been damaged attempting to extract the Diesel Fuel. 33% of offences in these two categories targeted Fuel.

Geographic Overview – Theft from Trailer – January 2026



153 Theft from Trailer/HGV* notifications in January 2026

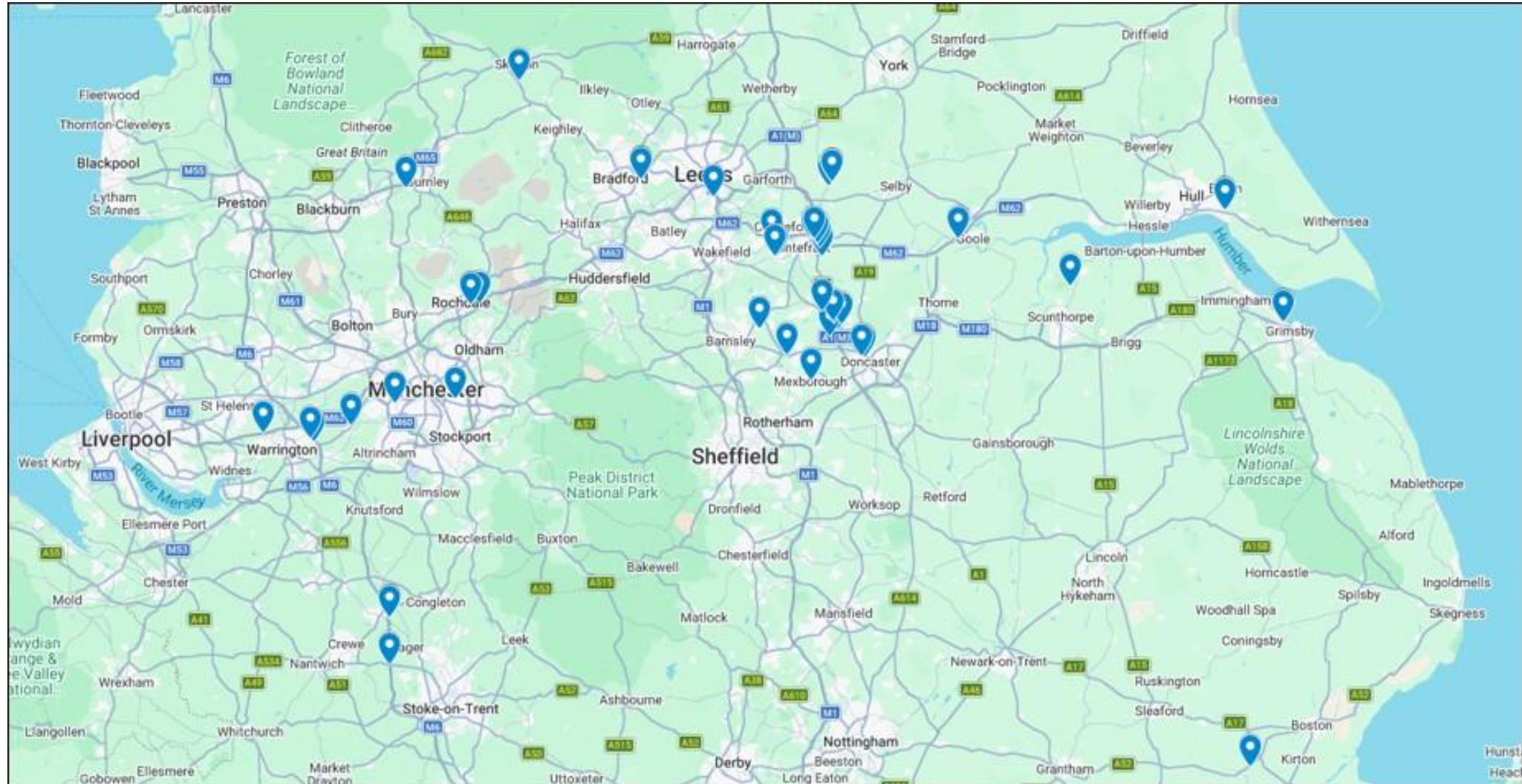
Decrease from 256 notifications in December 2025



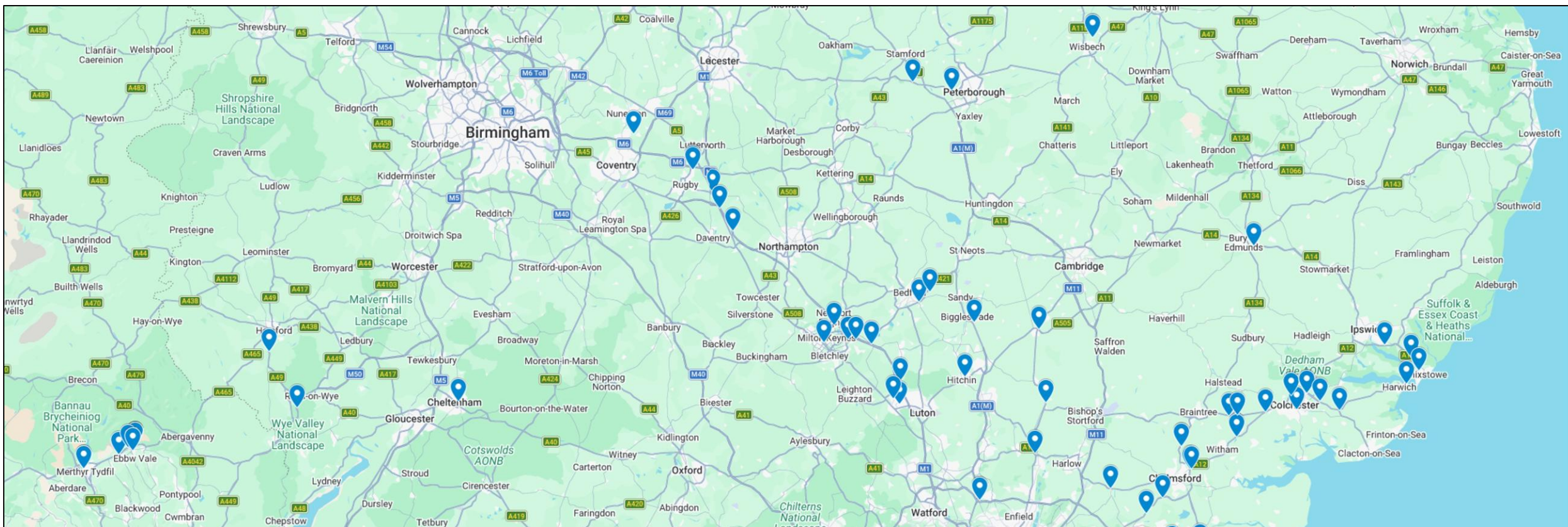
- Theft from Trailer/HGV also includes Fuel Thefts and Vehicle Interference (where there has been damage to trailer but nothing has been stolen)
- NB: Not able to plot 3 offences as there was no detailed locations given.

Figure 3: Google “My Maps” to show the National spread of reported theft from January 2026 see slides 6-9

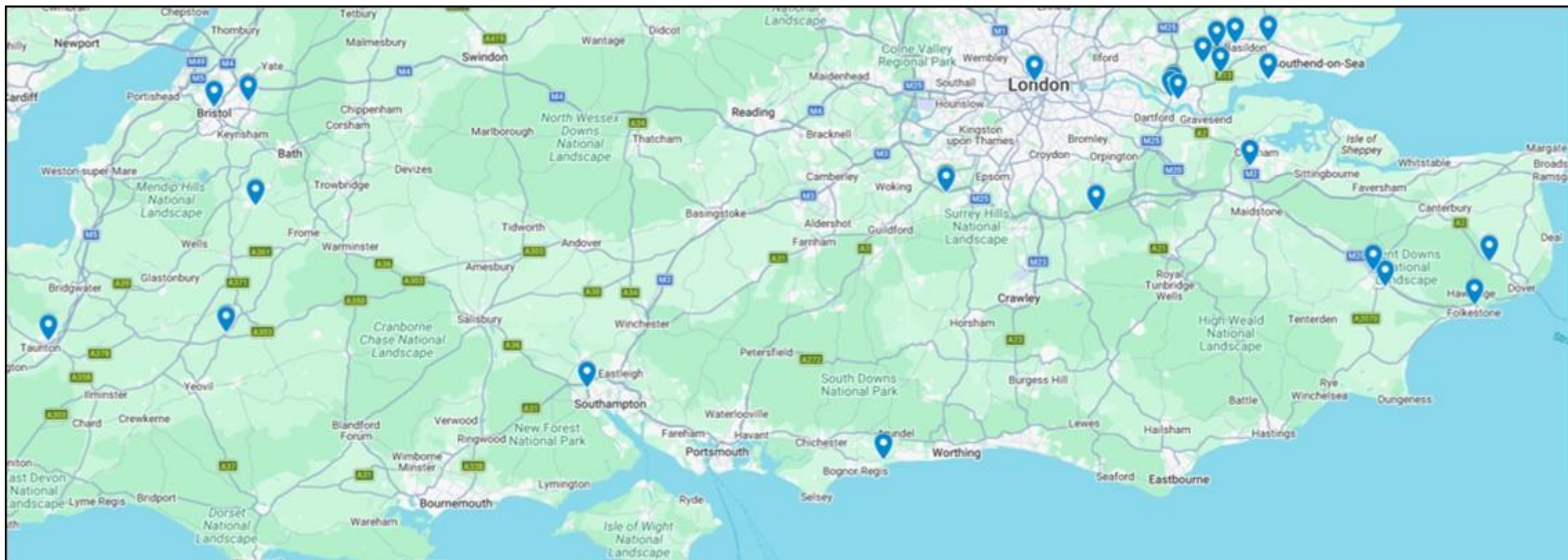
Geographic Overview – Theft from Trailer – January 2026



Geographic Overview – Theft from Trailer – January 2026



Geographic Overview – Theft from Trailer – January 2026



All Freight Crime: Method of Entry – January 2026

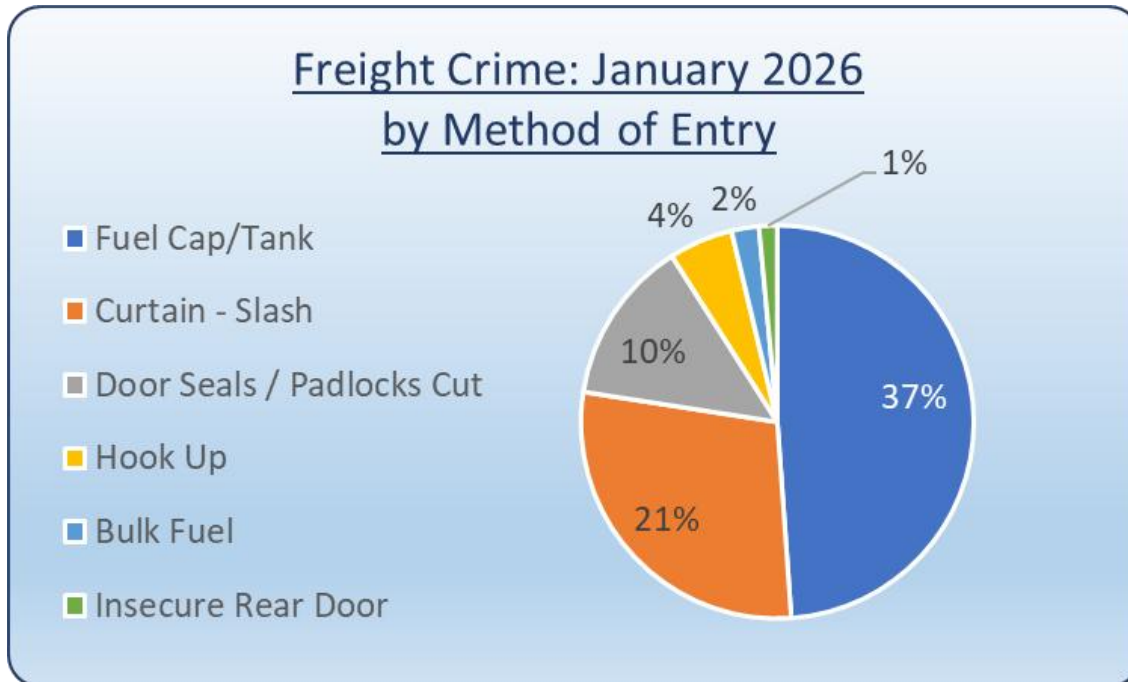


Figure 4: Pie chart to show the Method of Entry (where known) for reported Freight crime offences January 2026

* Unknown (13%) and Not Applicable (12%) have not been included on the pie chart

- 75% of the 178 offences had the Method of Entry recorded, 13% were recorded as Unknown and 12% were Not Applicable.
- 65 of the 178 offence were Fuel Thefts: this is a slight increase from the 63 offences in December 2025. 48 were at Independent Road Parking (IRP) locations, 3 at Motorway Service Areas (MSA) and 14 were at Secure Yards.
- Of the 38 Curtain Slash offences 9 were at MSA locations, 27 at IRP locations and 2 at Secure Yards.
- Of the 32 Door Seals/Padlocks Cuts, 20 were at IRP, 4 at MSAs, 4 at Secure Yards and 2 at Truck Stops.
- There was 1 Jump Up offence and 1 Moving Cargo offences this month.

All Freight Crime: Stolen Commodities – January 2026

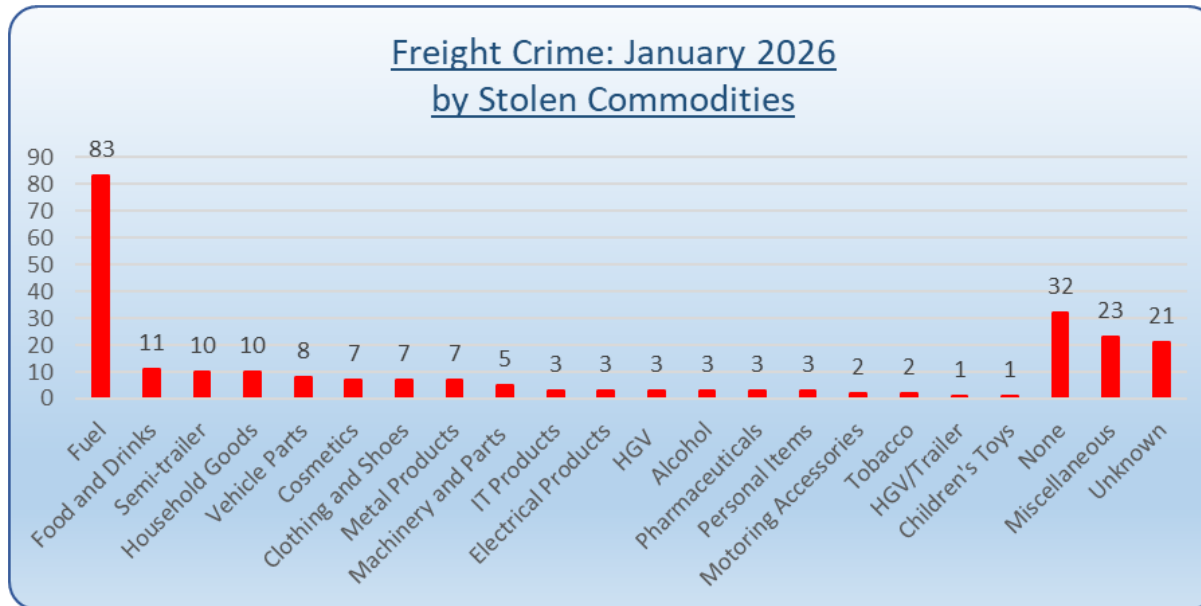


Figure 5: Graph to show the Stolen Commodities for reported cargo crime offences in January 2026

216 Commodities stolen in January 2026

Decrease compared to 282
commodities stolen in December 2025



- Fuel has once again become the most stolen commodity with 83 offences reported to NaVCIS in January 2026 which was an increase from the 11 offences reported in December 2025. The low level of Fuel theft in December 2025 may have been caused by offenders focussing on more lucrative loads destined for the Christmas period.
- There was 5 commodities stolen that had more offences than Fuel but commanded higher loss values; IT Products (3 offences/£1.8m), Cosmetics (7/£1m), Electrical Products (3/£936k), Clothing & Shoes (7/£553k) and Semi-trailers (10/£290k).

All Freight Crime: HGV Parking Locations– January 2026

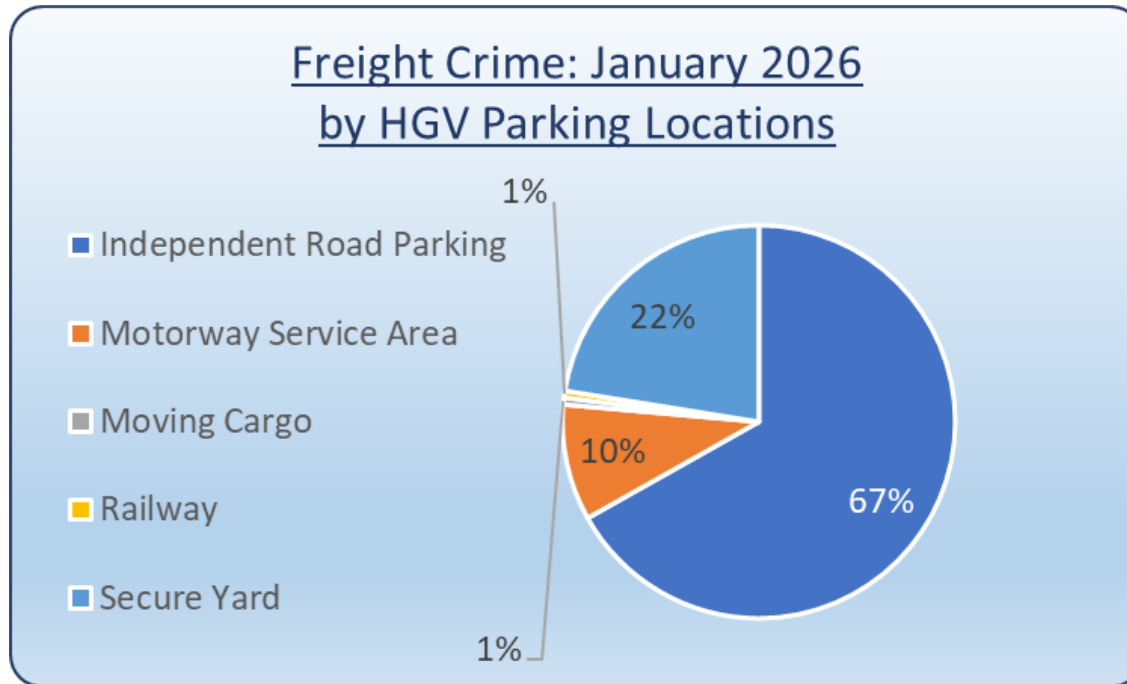


Figure 6: Chart to show HGV Parking Locations for reported cargo crime offences in January 2026

- Independent Road Parking (off road) and Motorway Service Area parking accounted for 77% of overnight parking for HGV drivers and their loads with an estimated cost loss value in excess of £3m. This is decrease in the number of offences, down from 226 in December to 136 in January however, the estimated cost loss value increased from £1.8m in December to £3m in January 2026.
- MSAs had a decrease in the number of offences, down from 94 in December to 17 in January however, the estimated cost loss value rose from £597k to £693k.
- Offences at Secure Yards increased from 37 offences in December to 40 in January 2026. There was 0 offences at Truck Stops, 0 offences at a Railway yard, 0 Jump Up offences and 1 offence at a Railway Yard during January 2026
- There was 1 Moving Cargo Offence (known as a Rollover offence).

Jump Ups/Moving Cargo Offences – January 2026

Offence	2023	2024	2025	2026												2026
Jump Up				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total	244	87	72	0												0
Offence	2023	2024	2025	2026												2026
Moving Cargo				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total	6	16	22	1												1

Figure 7: Table to show Jump Ups and Moving Cargo reported Freight crime offences in January 2026

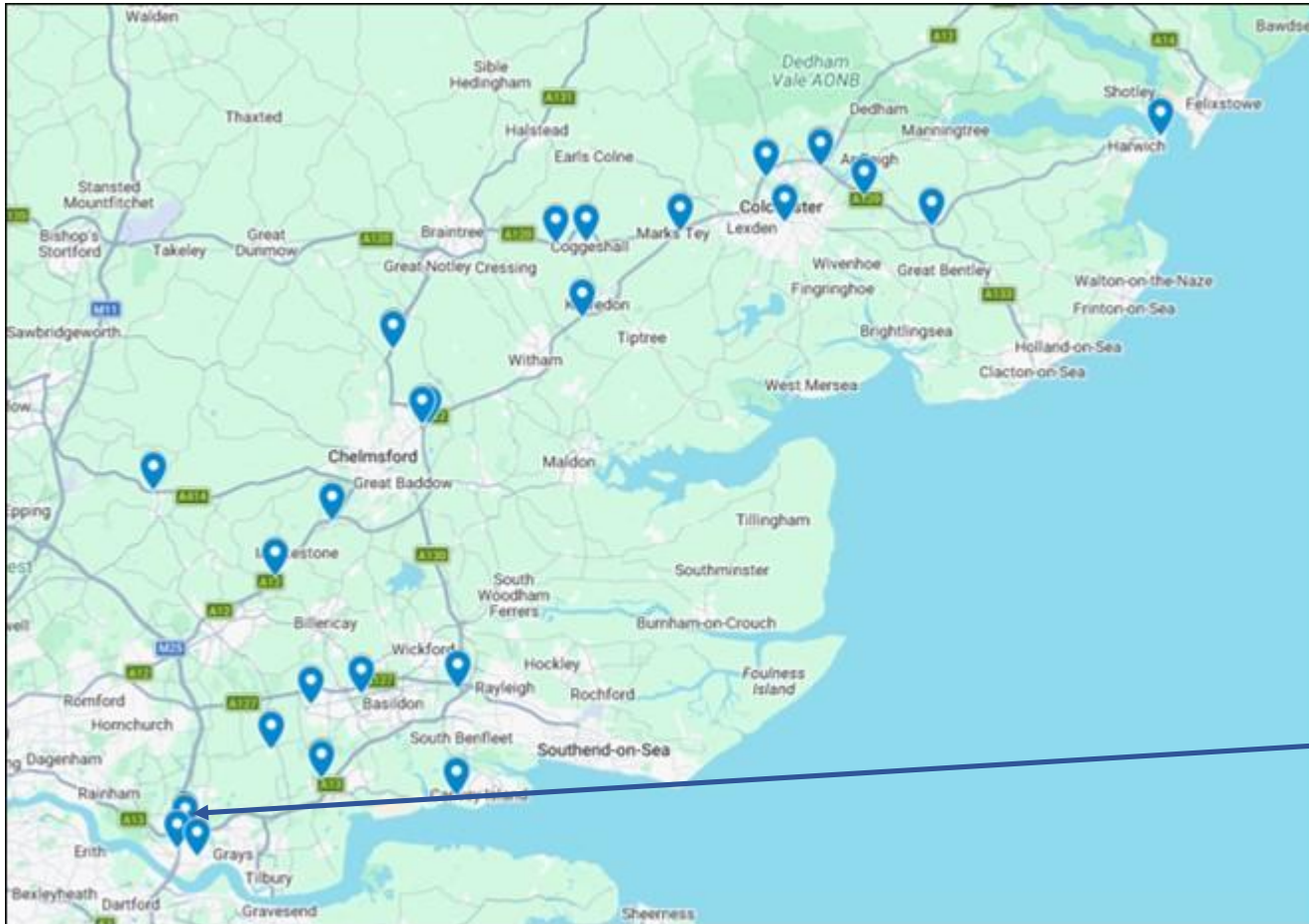
All Cargo Crime: Top Force Areas – January 2025

Force Area	2024	2025	2026												Compared to	
	Total	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Dec-25	Comments
Essex	538	305	30												↑	Top 5 Force Areas
West Yorkshire	362	264	17												↓	
South Yorkshire	276	253	11												↓	
West Mercia	225	124	7												↓	
Bedfordshire	59	82	7												→	
Kent	242	143	6												→	Previously in Top 5
Suffolk	118	109	6												→	
Thames Valley	204	176	5												↓	
Warwickshire	378	139	5												→	
Cambridgeshire	220	220	3												↓	
West Midlands	235	131	1												↓	
Staffordshire	249	110	1												→	
Leicestershire	124	98	-												↓	
Nottinghamshire	75	92	-												↓	

Figure 8: Table to show Top 5 Force Areas for reported Freight crime offences in January

* January's figures likely represent under reporting

Freight Crime: Essex – January 2026



30 Freight Crime reports in
January 2026



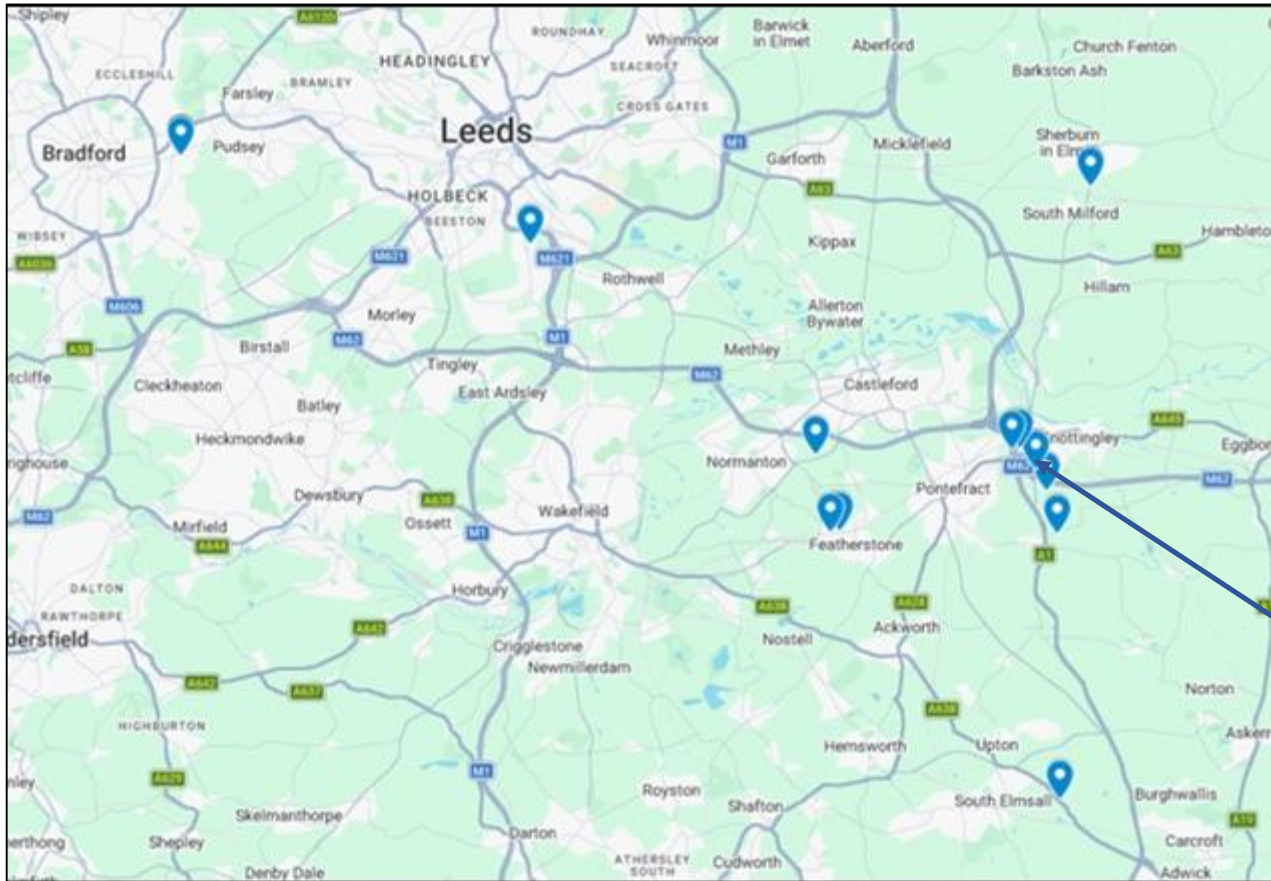
up from 18 reports in
December 2025

NB: Chelmsford Services had 1 offence,
all others had 0 offences.

Thurrock Services. M25
x 3 offences

Figure 9: Map showing Freight Crime for Essex– January 2026

Freight Crime: West Yorkshire – January 2026



17 Freight Crime reports in
January 2026



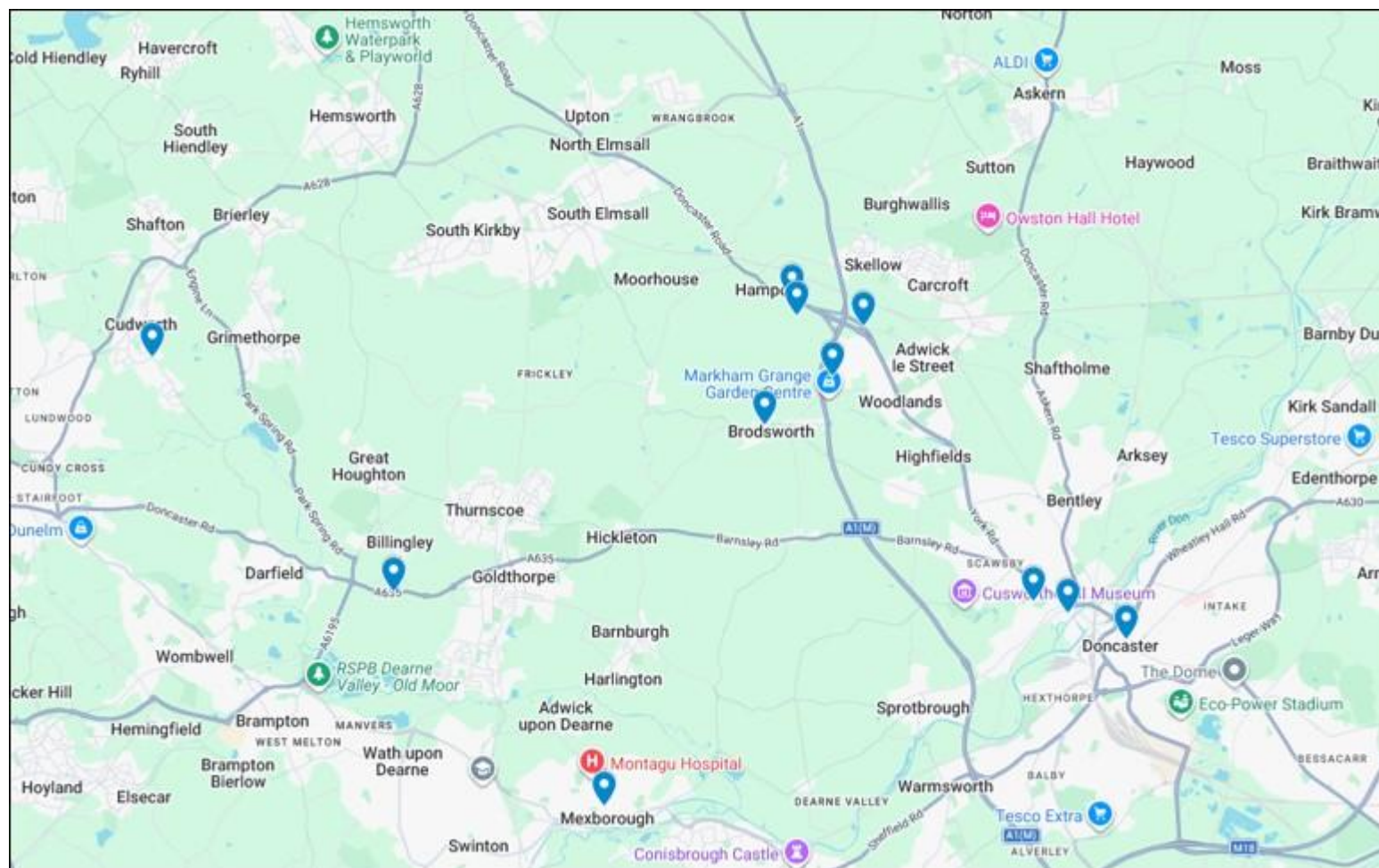
down with 28 offence in
December 2025

NB: All other Service areas had no
offences

Ferrybridge Services, M62/A1(M)
x 3 offences

Figure 10: Map showing Freight Crime for West Yorkshire in January 2026

Freight Crime: South Yorkshire – January 2026



11 Freight Crime January
2026



decrease from 16 reports in
December 2025

NB: No offences at MSAs during
January 2026

Figure 11: Map showing Cargo Crime for South Yorkshire – January 2026

Freight Crime: West Mercia – January 2026



Figure 12: Map showing Freight Crime for West Mercia in January 2026

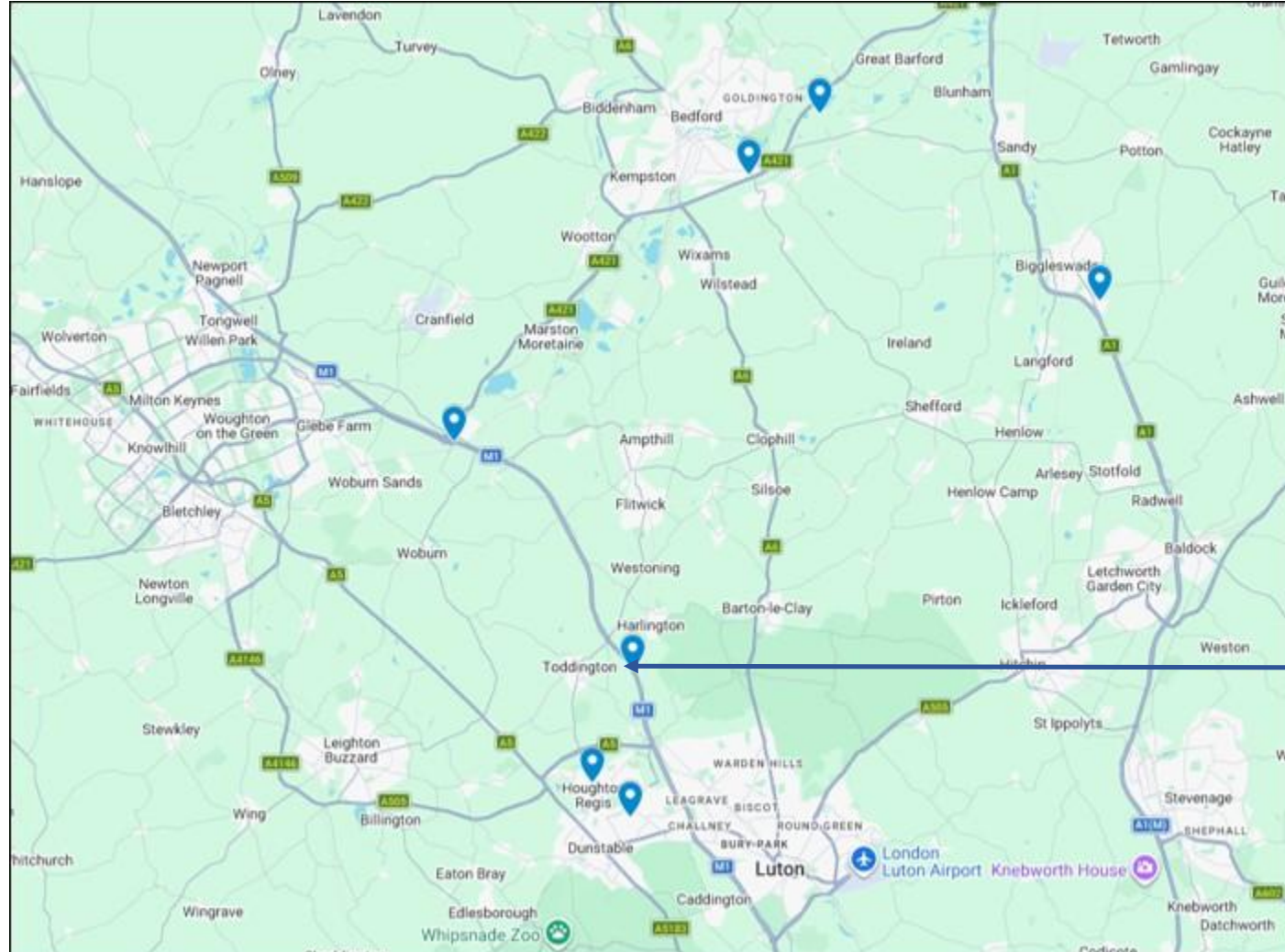
7 Freight Crime reports in
January 2026



decrease from 38 reports in
December 2025

NB: No offences at MSAs was reported
to NaVCIS during January 2026

Freight Crime: Bedfordshire – January 2026



7 Freight Crime reports in
January 2026



steady with 3 reports in
December 2026

NB: All other Service areas had less than
0 offences.

Toddington Services, M1 J11/12
x 1 offence

Figure 13: Map showing Freight Crime for Bedfordshire – January 2026

Top Motorway Service Areas (MSA) by number of Cargo Crime Offences – January 2026

17 Freight Crime Reports
at MSAs in January 2026

decrease compared to 94 in
December 2025

Cobham Services, M25
4 offences up from 3



Thurrock Services, M25
3 offences up from 2



- Vehicle Interference x 1, Theft from Motor Vehicle x 3
- Overnight: Mon/Tue x 1 (12/1), Tue/Wed x 2 (20/1), Thu/Fri x 1 (22/1)
- Vehicle Interference x 1, Theft from Motor Vehicle x 2
- Overnight: 2 x Tue/Wed 13 Jan & 20 Jan , 1 x Thu/Fri 08 Jan.

All other MSAs had 2 or less offences.

Good News Stories: Arrests/ Sentences – January 2026

Offence	2023	2024	2025	2026												2026
Arrests				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total	328	324	265	19												19

NaVCIS Bulletin: 001 dated 09/01/2026 & 002 dated 23/01/2026

- 06/01 – Northants: 1 x arrest from Walsall
- 07/01 – Cheshire: 1 arrests from West Yorks
- 07/01 – Humberside: 1 x arrest from Batley, W Yorks
- 10/01 – N Yorks: 1 x arrest from Dewsbury, W Yorks
- 14/01 – Cheshire: 4 x arrests from Leeds

NaVCIS Bulletin: 002 dated 23/01/2026 & 003 of 06/02/2026

- 16/01 – Cheshire: 2 x arrests
- 18/01 – W Yorks: 3 x arrests from Bradford
- 21/01 – Cheshire: 2 x arrests from Huddersfield
- 21/01 – GMP: 4 x arrests from Dewsbury, W Yorks

- On 04/11/2025 – Derbyshire Police arrested a 40 year old man from Huddersfield for Freight offences. He appeared in Derby Crown Court 26/11/2025 and received **Two years imprisonment**.
- NaVCIS are working with Kent Police who executed a warrant in East Ham, London. Suspected stolen cargo recovered and a 40 year old man from East Ham has been arrested.
- Following an appeal on 14/11/2025 in relation to theft of TVs from Knowsley, Merseyside Police arrested 1 male.

All Freight Crime Offences – January 2026

- During January 2026, NaVCIS was unable to plot several offences on the maps in this report. This is due to insufficient location data to enable plotting i.e. Layby A34 (there are many laybys along this long road).
- This is not a new constraint but one that does need to be addressed to allow accurate mapping and to enable local Police Forces to patrol the relevant Hot Spot areas.
- To give the fullest location details of where the offence took place, please consider your drivers using the “What3words” app. A Free version of this app is available



At NaVCIS, we are continually striving to improve the service we provide to our trusted partners in the cargo industry and to UK law enforcement.

If you have any feedback about the contents of this report, or would simply like to find out more, then please send an email to:

freight@navcis.police.uk

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