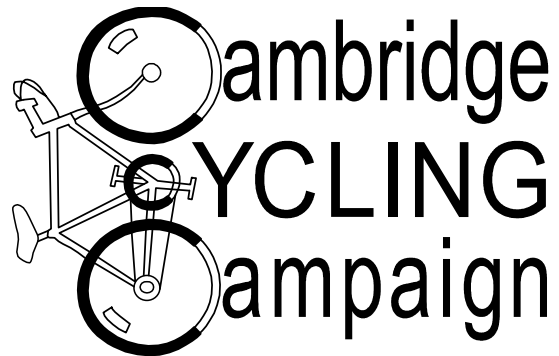


September 1, 2006

Our ref: NA 06 005

Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation,
Barnsdale Way,
Grove Park,
Enderby,
Leicester,
LE19 1ES

Cc: Cambridgeshire Police



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

P.O. Box 204, Cambridge CB4 3FN
01223 690718 (phone & fax)
contact@camcycle.org.uk
www.camcycle.org.uk

Dear ESPO,

Cycle Parking Systems

By way of introduction, Cambridge Cycling Campaign is a local voluntary organisation with almost 800 members. We try to work closely with local government and others to improve conditions for cyclists in Cambridge and the surrounding area. Government statistics show more than 25% of local people cycle to work and this is by far the highest figure for the UK.

We write asking you to remove the following items from your catalogue.

- [X26361](#) - STROMNESS CYCLE RACK, 6 cycle capacity, BX/MW/RNAY/SW6/Galv
- [X01017](#) - CARLTON CYCLE RACK, 6 cycle capacity, BX/MW/BW6/Galv
- [X01025](#) - CARLTON CYCLE RACK, 6 cycle capacity, BX/MW/BW6/PPC (Picture does not correspond)

Cycle theft is one of the biggest deterrents to cycling in Cambridge and products like the ones listed above directly contribute to that problem. The basic problem is that such products do not allow bicycles to be locked securely. The result is that such racks become an invitation to thieves who can either take away the whole bike or undo a wheel and take the rest of the bike.

Cyclists hate such racks, and even have a special name for them "Wheelbenders". They make cycle parking a misery because they do not support the bikes properly and cause overcrowding by trying to pack too many bikes into too small a place.

Local authorities, like our own Cambridge City Council, have recognised this and are now specifying that all cycle parking should meet a higher standard¹.

¹ <http://www.camcycle.org.uk/resources/cycleparking/standards/city.html>

We append below some other resources which similarly state that stands should always enable the frame of the bike to be locked to the stand.

We are very pleased to see that your catalogue does contain a wide range of other much better cycle parking systems. These are most commonly known as Sheffield Racks and enable the frame of the cycle to be easily locked to the stand.

However, the presence of the products listed above (and any similar ones), which seem to have the lowest list price in that category, undermine work by ourselves and the police to reduce cycle theft. As a responsible organisation supplying to schools in the Eastern Counties we are sure that you would want to follow best practice in supplying the best available products. We therefore ask you to consider reviewing the continued inclusion of such items in your catalogue.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter and would be pleased to offer clarification or further advice.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Simon Nuttall

Appendix: national guidance concerning cycle parking requirements

- Sustrans information sheet FF37:
<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/webfiles/Info%20sheets/cycle%20parking%20info%20sheet.pdf>
- TfL London Cycling Design Guide chapter 8:
http://www.tfl.gov.uk/cycles/downloads/pdf/lcds_chapter8.pdf
- "Cycle Friendly infrastructure" by CTC / Institution of Highways and Transportation. Chapter 19.
- Bike Parking and Security Association - Quality Cycle Parking Standard:
<http://www.bpsa.info/pdf1.pdf>