

TRACKER IS MAGIC

Oxford's new wand is designed to be a hassle-free way of defeating thieves

Oxford Tracker

Fitting a tracker is growing in popularity as a way for riders to protect themselves against losing their bike to thieves. And parts people Oxford have added their own version into the mix of trackers available on the market.

They say their Oxford Tracker will appeal to owners who want simplicity and the flexibility to move the tracker from one bike to another, or even use it to safeguard other vehicles such as vans or caravans.

The unit, manufactured by DanTracker of Denmark, is a wand-like tracker that's 20cm long and has a 2cm diameter. It's designed to be stashed somewhere discreet on the bike – such as being tucked away under the seat. It runs on an integrated lithium battery claimed to last up to 10 years depending on the tracking mode it's set to.

It can be left in sleep mode, but the owner will only know a theft has occurred when they return to find an empty space where their bike used to be. The more useful option is likely to be 'geofence', which will alert the owner via a smartphone app if the tracker moves outside a pre-determined area. The last option is 'live' mode, which informs the owner of the position every five minutes – but that will hit battery life hard. Once the battery has died, you will need a whole new unit.

Once the rider is aware the bike is gone it's their responsibility to call the police, but they will be able to give the authorities any location information from the tracker.

The unit provides its location only via GPS, while other units have various ways they can be traced if a bike is stolen (see right). But Oxford say the price, ability for the rider to fit it themselves and the integrated long-life battery will make it an attractive prospect.

It costs £199.99 for the unit itself and then a monthly subscription that lasts a minimum of 12 months at £5 a month. www.oxprod.com

Stash it under your seat and keep tabs on your bike's location



You can set the tracker to send alerts direct to your mobile

• **£199.99 (£60 SUBSCRIPTION)**

TRACKING RIVALS

■ **BikeTrac (£299 plus fitting and a £99 annual subscription)**

Pros: Tracks via GPS, the mobile phone mast network and close-range radio frequency to provide a pinpoint location. Dedicated call centre to handle communications with the police. It's Thatcham approved for insurance discounts. **Cons:** The most expensive option. www.biketrac.co.uk

■ **Datatool TrakKING (£179.99 plus fitting and a £99 annual sub)**

Pros: Tracks via GPS and mobile phone masts, has a call centre to deal with police and is Thatcham approved for cheaper insurance. **Cons:** Lacks BikeTrac's radio frequency tracing capability. www.datatool.co.uk

■ **Oxford Tracker (£199.99 plus £60 annual subscription)**

Pros: Lasts ages without taking juice from the bike battery, can easily be used on other vehicles. The cheapest option when taking annual sub costs into account. **Cons:** Only tracks through GPS, so fewer tracing methods available. Bigger unit so it's harder to hide. www.oxprod.com

Rev'IT Royale boots

The surge of casual-look motorcycle boots goes on, but the Rev'IT Royale has more ankle protection than many and is also water-repellent. Protective features such as the gearchange pad are neatly integrated into the design and they're available in black or brown. www.revit.eu

• **£169.99**



• **£150**

iO Leather helmet bag

For those who only want the best for their lid, new British leather luggage company iO Leather has created this helmet bag. The Clarke is made from cowhide with a distressed finish that will mark with use to give its own unique look and is lined with airtex as a leather suit would be, and also lightly padded to protect the helmet. www.ioleather.com



Triumph Sherpa hoodie

The latest heavy-duty fleece added to Triumph's range promises to answer a specific shopping brief. The media release describes the Sherpa as 'a must-have item for any Triumph fan looking for a durable, yet iconic casual top'. That's Saturday morning's plan sorted, then. Sizes are S-XXXL. www.triumph.co.uk

• **£81**

