

Roads and Highways Advisory Group

Theft of Metal Drain Covers - Durham County Council's Experience

Charlie Rand- Area Manager

charlie.rand@durham.gov.uk



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Issue

Theft of Gully Grates
sporadically throughout the county



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Facts

- Number of gullies in the County - 105,000
- Number of thefts in the last year - 1100
- Cost to the authority
 - £137,500 to make safe (average cost £125 per gully)
 - Average £1,000 for effective repair
(£500 for cover and frame replacement & £1,200 for new gully with cover and frame)



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Risks

Potentially lethal to:

- Pedestrians - Personal injury
- Cyclists - Personal injury and cycle damage
- Motorists - Vehicle damage



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Temporary Repairs

- Traffic Cone
- Plastic grating cut and placed to cover the void
- Large gullies - sandbags used to fill the void



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Discussion

Reported in August's Surveyor Magazine

- Durham are not the only authority with this problem
- Others include: Newcastle, Sunderland, Essex & Cardiff

National Problem?

Where do thefts stop? Signs, poles etc?



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Positive Outcomes

- n Police been pro-active by informing all scrap dealers to be aware of situation
- n Recently there have been positive prosecutions



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