

Crime prevention advice for preventing theft from farms and outbuildings



Around your farm yard, in your barns and outbuildings there is valuable equipment that will appeal to thieves - e.g. power tools, quad bikes, machinery and diesel. Isolated buildings, machinery and livestock present the greatest risk.

Tips to consider

Farm Buildings

- Make sure valuable equipment is stored in a secure building behind a strong locked door, or use a metal cage and keep it locked when unattended.
- When not in use, lock doors to outbuildings at all times. If equipment is in a barn or rick yard secure it with gates, an alarm or security beams.
- Use locks that comply with the British Standards, good quality locking bars and high security padlocks.
- Windows can be an open invitation to thieves - protect them with metal bars or grilles.
- Improve security for your diesel & fertiliser (*see fact sheets on Fuel Theft and Security of Fertilisers*).

Farmhouses

Farmhouses are often in isolated locations and can be vulnerable to crime if not properly secured.

- Make sure that doors are kept locked - even when you are on the premises.
- Fit locks to all ground floor windows.
- Make sure doors and windows are well maintained and in a good state of repair.
- Fit mortice deadlocks that comply with the British Standards to all external doors and reinforce with locking bolts.
- Investing in timers that turn lights on and off inside the house if you go out at night and consider installing security lighting outside.
- Consider fitting an alarm.





Perimeter

- A secure perimeter around your fields and out buildings will help deter thieves from targeting livestock, vehicles and implements.
- Check fences and hedges to identify weak spots that could provide unauthorised access to criminals or vehicles and secure where necessary.
- Consider restricting access at your entrance to prevent unwelcome vehicles entering. Consider a gate alarm or barrier system.
- Ensure gates are secured at both ends. Reverse or cap hinges and use good quality chains and padlocks.
- Install security lighting around yards, outbuildings and isolated locations.
- Consider installing perimeter alarms, where practical.
- If you have gateways or access points that are not in regular use place a barrier such as a tree trunk or concrete block across the entrance.

Machinery and Tools

- Machinery and tools are very valuable to thieves so try and secure your property.
- Lock or immobilise vehicles and equipment when not in use. Remove keys from cars, tractors and other vehicles left unattended.
- Avoid leaving machinery in isolated locations or fields - particularly near roads - where they can be removed without attracting attention.
- Visibly mark your machinery and tools - this not only acts as a deterrent to thieves but also helps the police reunite stolen property to the rightful owners if it is recovered. Keep a list of tools, together with serial numbers and any identifying marks. You can do this at www.immobilise.com
- Keep tools locked away when you are not using them. As well as being a target for thieves they can also be used to access your secured property.
- For machinery and vehicles such as tractors and quad bikes consider having these items fitted with a tracking device or tagging system.
- Items such as quad bikes, sit on lawn mowers, rotivators etc are very desirable to thieves. Consider shackling them together or chain to a hitch secured to the ground or strong fabric of a building making them difficult to remove.
- Visibly mark all equipment – see *Property Marking Factsheet*.

For further information on companies and specific crime prevention advice visit our website on www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk.