Crime prevention advice for
heritage crime

Heritage crime is any offence which harms heritage assets and their settings. It covers a wide variety of criminal activity which damages assets of particular interest forever:

Crimes impacting on Warwickshire's heritage include:

- Architectural Theft
- Arson
- Anti-social behaviour
- Criminal Damage / Graffiti
- Unauthorised development
- Unauthorised excavation
- Damage caused by vehicles
- Metal Theft
- Unauthorised metal detecting
- Theft of historical or cultural artefacts cultural property, such as pieces of art, jade and rhino horn

Whilst heritage sites are not necessarily being targeted by criminals, with the exception of churches and monuments targeted for their lead and metal, most assets are being damaged by people who aren't aware of the impact their behaviour or actions are having. Examples of this would be graffiti and fly posting.

Local communities are urged to **understand the heritage assets in their area** that may be at risk of irreversible damage from crime and to report suspicious behaviours to their neighbourhood policing teams.

Warwickshire Police are involved in a number of **multi-agency initiatives**, working closely with local authorities, Councils, the Crown Prosecution Service and English Heritage to reduce the amount of crime that damages our historic sites and buildings.

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Heritage Crime Continued

ARCH

The **Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage** (ARCH) is a new voluntary national network, spearheaded by English Heritage, the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service, is taking forward initiatives to galvanise local and national action against heritage crime. The overriding objective of the group is to reduce the amount of crime that causes damage to or interferes with the enjoyment of heritage assets in England.

There are currently **more than 100 ARCH members.** Membership of the group is free and open to all organisations and groups that have an interest in preventing and enforcing heritage crime.

Reporting to the Police

When reporting crimes against anti-social behaviour against a heritage asset, it would help us if you could:

- State the type of crime that has occurred/is occurring
- If known, state the type of asset that has been affected
- Name the asset, the asset's address and your contact details.

You can ring the police on 101 **or**

If you want to remain anonymous, you can report the incident to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.