

■ Protect Your Property

As your farm buildings will be used to store expensive items, they need to be secure:

- Invest in an alarm and display signs to let intruders know that an alarm is in operation.
- Consider CCTV.
- Fit high quality locks and keep doors locked when not in use.

■ Security Marking

Items that have been security marked are harder to sell on, making them less attractive to burglars. It will also help the police to return them to you if they are found. You can mark property in the following ways:

- **Permanent marking** - using an engraving tool and a stencil.
- **Invisible marking** - using an ultra violet (UV) pen to write on your details.
- **Forensic marking** - using DNA technology to mark property with a special code which is unique to the owner.

We also recommend that you take photographs of valuable items and keep them alongside a record of any serial numbers or markings and a description.

■ If you suspect it – report it!

Many rural communities operate a Rural Watch or Neighbourhood Watch scheme, which enables them to share information about local crime quickly and efficiently. Email watch@warwickshire.police.uk to find out about schemes in your area.

If you come across someone acting suspiciously, make a note of their description and vehicle registration and call us on 101 (non-emergency). Always dial 999 in an emergency.

Contacts

For further information please contact our Crime Prevention Design Advisors:

Ian King :
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Join our free Rural Crime Alerts Scheme:
Email: watch@warwickshire.police.uk for a sign up form



Rural Security

Isolated properties, farm buildings and agricultural machinery can be attractive to thieves so it's important to take some simple steps to keep them safe and secure.

Read on to find out more.

■ Vehicles, Machinery and Tools

Make sure you:

- Remove the keys and valuable equipment from vehicles and machinery when they are not in use.
- Lock tools away when they are not being used. As well as being stolen, they could be used to gain access to surrounding buildings.
- Avoid keeping vehicles, machinery, tools and diesel tanks in visible or isolated locations.



■ Boundaries

Strong boundaries to your property and land will help to keep livestock in and criminals out. Our advice is to:

- Install a gate at the public entrance to your property, ensuring that it can't be lifted off the hinges. Good quality shackled padlocks can provide additional security.
- Check fences and hedges to identify points that could provide access to unwanted visitors and secure as necessary. Thorn hedges and deep ditches are particularly effective.
- Make sure you are alerted to any visitors. Install security lighting around yards, outbuildings and isolated locations and consider building and perimeter alarms.
- Use temporary obstructions to block gates that are not being used for a period of time, or to control large openings. Remove all gates and entrances that you no longer use.



■ Livestock

Livestock is a valuable asset, so it's important to:

- Make regular checks of the fences and hedges in fields where animals are kept.
- Use a marking or tagging system so your animals can be easily identified.
- Take photographs of animals that are particularly valuable or attractive to criminals.

■ Rural Arson

Be aware of any potential arson locations and try to:

- Remove hay and straw from fields as soon as possible after harvesting. It should be stored separately from other buildings (particularly those housing fuel, agrochemicals and machinery) and in stacks of reasonable size, spaced at least 10 metres apart.
- Store fuels, such as petrol and diesel, fertilisers and pesticides in secure areas and use padlocks for storage tanks.