



## Crime Prevention: Farms and Outbuildings

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### **Crime prevention advice for farm owners and those with 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:**

For 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 standard, 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 and fertiliser.

For farms and outbuildings:

- 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.

For perimeters:

- A secure perimeter around your field and outbuildings 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 (if able).
- Ensure gates are secured at both ends. Reverse or cap hinges and use good quality chains and padlocks.

For machinery and tools:

- Machinery and tools are very valuable to thieves, so try and secure your property as best as you can!
- Lock or immobilise vehicles and equipment when not in use. Remove keys from car's, tractors and other vehicles left unattended.
- Avoid leaving machinery in isolated locations or fields (as best as possible), 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 relevant tools, together with serial numbers and any identifying marks. You can register your tools via [www.immobilise.com](http://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, quad bikes etc, consider having these items fitted with a tracking device or tagging system.
- Visibly mark all equipment

**In an emergency / crime in progress, please call 999. Otherwise please call 101 or report incidents online via [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)**



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