

Protecting your property

Information for farms
& rural businesses

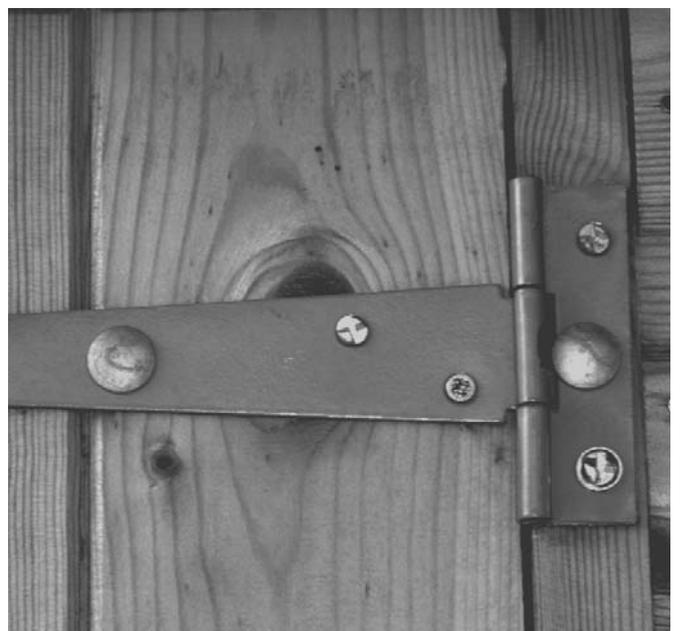


Always **call 999** if you think a crime is in progress

Call 101 if it's not an emergency or visit:

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk





Protecting your property information for farms & rural businesses

We understand some of the challenges that farmers, smallholders and rural businesses face.

We appreciate that it can be difficult to lock up vehicles that are used by more than one person, that livestock, equipment and vehicles are portable and often stored in remote places and boundaries are extensive. But by taking some relatively simple and inexpensive measures you can significantly minimise the risk of your property being stolen.

Please help us to help you.

Keep a pen in your vehicle and use the back of this leaflet to note any suspicious vehicle registrations or have the beat mobile phone number for your local police team in your phone so you can text the details direct.



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Buildings & boundaries

- External doors should be fitted with a five-lever mortice lock and, where possible, a deadlock. Fit letterbox restrictors to prevent thieves from accessing locks from outside.
 - If you have an estate office, ensure it is kept locked when unattended and computer equipment is marked and password protected.
 - Fit a gate at the entrance to your property and keep it shut whenever possible. Lock the gate overnight.
 - Cut back any vegetation that might shield a thief from view and any trees that could give roof access and remove any items that thieves could use to climb on to the roof, such as ladders, piles of pallets, tyres or recycling bins. Consider using anti-climb paint on drainpipes (you will need to display warning signs) or planting prickly plants at the base.
 - Where possible, use an alarm system and PIR sensor or dusk 'til dawn security lighting around your property and yard.
 - If possible, install CCTV so you can monitor any activity around your property.
 - Keep boundaries in a good state of repair so that fences and gates cannot be moved easily. Lock gates with padlocks.
 - To prevent gate thefts, use capping hinges or inverse/bend the hinge pins and spot-weld washers to the gate pins to stop bolts being undone.
 - Consider planting thorn hedges with deep ditches and bunds to make your property more difficult to access.
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Vehicles & equipment

- Where possible, store valuable items in secure buildings with good quality doors and windows with British Standard locks. Consider parking a vehicle in front of the doors overnight.
- Make sure all high-value or vulnerable vehicles, such as quad bikes, are immobilised or kept in a locked building. If left in fields, make sure they are not near roads. Think about fitting trackers to high-value vehicles.
- Don't leave keys in the ignition, even in a yard. Try to keep them in a lockbox if more than one person needs access to them.
- Try to avoid leaving attachments in the same place for extended periods of time. Thieves could learn of their location and they can be stolen to order.
- Trailers and horseboxes can be stolen and used to steal other items. Lock them away or use a hitch lock.
- Consider locking equipment in sea containers if they need to be stored away from farm buildings.
- Don't leave tools outside. They could be used to break in to your property.

Livestock & tack

- For many, livestock marking is a legal requirement. Even where it is not a legal requirement, it is recommended for high-value animals such as horses. Use eartags, freezemarking, microchipping or tattooing to make animals more easily identifiable.
 - Make a note of any distinguishing marks or features on horses or other particularly high-value animals and keep photos of them taken in both summer and winter.
 - All saddlery should be security marked. You can have your tack postcoded using a metal punch or engraving tool. Photograph your saddlery, especially if it is unusual. Keep a comprehensive list of all your tack – include details such as saddle makes or identifying numbers.
 - Don't mark the door of your tack room or any other storage room as it can make a thief's life easier.
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Fuel

- Don't leave unnecessarily large quantities of diesel in vehicle tanks.
- Avoid putting diesel storage tanks in isolated areas. If this isn't possible, consider fencing or planting that will disguise it or use a mobile bowser and keep it in a secure barn when not in use.
- Lock your fuel tank wherever possible and don't leave containers nearby that could be used to steal the fuel. Where appropriate, consider diesel dye to make it more easily identifiable and less attractive to thieves.

Metal theft

- Don't leave metal, scrap or batteries on display. Make sure they are stored out of sight and locked away. Use lockable skips.
- Mark your property with forensic marking fluid or use a set of hammer and punches for heavier metal objects.
- Sheath any copper taping used for lightning conduction at ground level up to 2.4 metres.

Alert police if...

- you are approached by anyone offering cash for scrap.
- you see any people who seem out of place or behaving suspiciously, such as loitering in vans by your yard. Make a note of their vehicle registration.

Don't help to create a market in which thieves can operate. If you are buying second-hand vehicles, tools or equipment, make sure the seller owns it. If you suspect something is stolen, please contact us



For further advice or to report any suspicious activity call 101

You can also report it online at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Alternatively, you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. They never ask your name or trace your call.

Join your local Watch scheme

Rural, Farm, Horse and Neighbourhood Watches (NHW) look after property through the sharing of intelligence between the community and the police.

They provide a ring-round service, encourage neighbours to look out for each other and give officers the chance to get to know their local community – for example, who's bought new equipment or whether someone is on holiday. The schemes also provide property marking and crime prevention advice.

Statistics show that you are four times less likely to be burgled if you are a member of a NHW scheme. If you would like to join your local NHW/Farm Watch/ Rural Watch/Horse Watch, or start one in your area, call your local Beat Team on 101.

For more information, visit www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Make a note: record your valuable items here.

Item	Colour/make/model	Serial or registration number	Distinguishing marks	Date

You can register them on www.immobilise.com

Make a note of any suspicious vehicles you have seen or that get circulated through Farm or Neighbourhood Watch. If you see them in your area, report them to the police.

Make/model	Colour	Registration number	Date	Place seen