

Rural & Agricultural Security Advice



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA



Access Rights

In Scotland, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives everyone statutory access rights to most land and inland water. Individuals **only** have these rights if exercised responsibly by respecting people's privacy, safety, livelihoods and Scotland's environment. There is no such thing as 'right to roam.' This is a misnomer and if an individual does not take access responsibly then they lose their statutory right of access.

If accessing Scotland's outdoors:

Respect the interests of other people,

Care for the environment

Take responsibility for your own actions

www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot



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The North East Crime Reduction Team have developed this guide to Security in the Rural Environment based on their experiences of dealing with victims of crime in the North East of Scotland.

Improved road networks mean that criminals are now better able to travel from throughout the UK to rural communities in the North East to commit crime.

By taking some simple steps you can better protect your home, property and the environment around you.

In many cases security measures cost little but can reduce the opportunities for criminals to commit offences against your property.

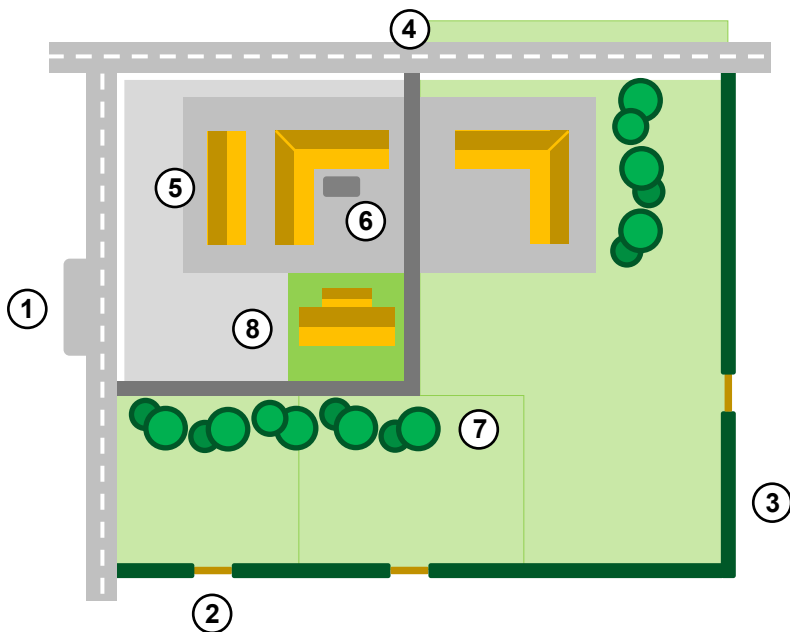
Take a minute to stand back and look at your home or farm.

If you were a thief what would you steal and how?

Throughout this guide you will find QR codes that will take you to further information and advice along with videos and links to security products.

How to Look at Your Property

- 1 Your Perimeter**
Look for laybys and field entrances where thieves could park-up and observe your property or use these areas to leave vehicles to enter your farm.
- 2 Gates, boundary fences and hedges**
Consider one point of entry for fields. This gives hare courses and thieves less options.
- 3** Make sure gates and fences are in good order. Thorny hedges can make a formidable defence.
- 4 Entry points**
Consider one point of entry and exit for your farm. Secure this point using a good quality steel gate or barrier. If possible, and with consideration to access rights, lock it every night and make sure thieves can't drive round.
- 5 Buildings**
Ensure all doors have three points of locking. Use bright LED PIR security lighting.
- 6 Fuel tanks**
Site fuel tanks out of sight of roads and make sure they are directly visible from the house or farm office.
- 7 Garden Bushes and Hedges**
Don't give thieves a place to hide. Make sure hedges and bushes are trimmed back.
- 8 Your Home**
Ensure all doors and windows have quality locks. Look for those endorsed as 'Secured by Design.' Consider a 'smart' CCTV system combined with bright LED lighting that provides alerts to your mobile device .



A teal and black quad bike is parked on a gravel path in a wooded area. The bike has a large black cargo bed on the back, which is filled with a teal plastic crate. The front of the bike features a silver metal bumper, two headlights, and a Yamaha logo on the front grille. The background is a blurred forest with green foliage and tree trunks.

Quad Bikes and All-Terrain Vehicles

Quad Bikes and All-Terrain Vehicles

Quad Bikes and All-Terrain Vehicles are a major target for thieves and highly organised criminals across the UK. These types of vehicles are easy to steal as thieves can jump on and drive off when you are working on a farm or target them from workshops and barns.

Farms can offer rich pickings due to their rural location and isolation from other neighbours.

Keep Out of Sight: Try to keep the vehicles out of sight from nearby roads, as thieves will often survey properties looking for vehicles.

Close Gates: Keep gates to yards closed. Open gates can be an open invitation to thieves. Lock barns or outbuildings at night using a heavy-duty Secured By Design (SBD) approved hasp and staple with security padlock.

Use Clamps & Locks: When leaving vehicles overnight, consider a bespoke Quad/ATV drive on security device which clamps around the wheel and is secured to a concrete floor. Other solutions include using a combination of SBD security approved locks and chains with ground anchors or wheel locks with a high attack rating.

Fit Immobilisation and Tracking Systems: The use of tracking systems can notify the owner the vehicle is being interfered with or moved, allowing for a prompt response to either prevent the theft or detain offenders. Remember these vehicles are often exported overseas by gangs so being able to track its location is vital.

Mark your Property: Security marking your quad/ATV using an SBD recognised forensic asset marking or etching kit is a highly effective deterrent to thieves and an established method of reducing theft. Remember to use the visible warning labels to show that the property is marked. Trying to remove one of these forensic markers is very difficult and in many cases the police only need a trace amount to establish ownership and gain a conviction. The CESAR System is the National security marking system of the Construction Equipment Association and Agricultural Engineers Association with the aim of reducing plant and farm theft.

Remove Keys: Never leave your keys in the ignition, even if you only briefly leave your Quad/ATV unattended. Don't be an easy target for opportunity theft.



For further information regarding quad bike and ATV security scan the QR code below.





Fuel Theft

Fuel Theft

Fuel theft is a significant crime that affects people and businesses across the UK including farming, motorists, homeowners and the construction industry. This type of theft is exacerbated during periods of inflated oil prices.

Scan the QR code below for Secured by Design member companies that can offer products designed to reduce the risk of fuel theft.

Static above ground fuel tanks, mobile bowzers, domestic heating oil tanks and diesel tanks on farms and construction sites are most at risk of fuel theft.

Theft techniques include syphoning the fuel into plastic containers or using a fuel transfer pump to steal from larger bulk vehicles, or in the case of bowzers, driving off with them when they are out on site.

Keep the tank visible:

Where possible locate the tank where it can be viewed from a habitable building and where increased natural surveillance can be maximised, such as in sight of a farmhouse or construction site offices, especially the security office if it is occupied during the night. Fuel tanks located away from buildings or dwellings are more vulnerable if they cannot be seen by occupants or staff, especially if vehicular access is not restricted.

Fit an alarm: Fit a fuel tank alarm and monitoring system to notify you of an attack on fuel tanks. Remote electronic fuel level gauges will set off an audible or monitored alarm if the fuel level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a defined level.

Where fuel tanks are in remote locations, we recommend that they be housed in a secure alarmed steel container.

Use anti-siphoning devices:

Fuel tanks should also be fitted with a locking fuel cap and anti-siphoning devices. Anti-siphoning devices are installed in the filler aperture of the fuel tank to stop a pipe from being dipped into the fuel and the fuel being pumped or syphoned out of the tank.

These products also work on HGVs or construction plant, as well as on static on-site fuel tanks. Always ensure you use an accredited lock that meets the Police Preferred Specification.



For further information regarding preventing fuel theft scan the QR code below.



A blue tractor with a plow is shown in a field. In the background, a person is standing on the horizon. The foreground shows the large white wheels and black tires of another tractor, which is out of focus. The sky is overcast and grey.

Preventing Tractor GPS Theft

Preventing Tractor GPS Theft

Thefts of GPS Tractor Systems is now a major concern for farmers as there is a growing market for these systems and once stolen they can lead to costly delays and extra expense.

Watch out for signs of strangers in farmyards and fields. In some cases thieves, who already know the layout of farms, are targeting victims of GPS theft a second time.

Removal: Remove GPS kit where practicable and store securely overnight. Use secure storage - consider a Secured by Design accredited secure cabinet or tool storage unit which can be fixed to the floor and offer greater resistance to attack.

Use PINs: Activate PIN security on GPS kit with your own unique number if available.

Mark or Etch your Device: Security marking your GPS equipment using a Secured by Design recognised forensic asset marking or etching kit is a highly effective, visible deterrent to thieves and an established method of reducing theft - remember to use the visible warning labels to show that the property is marked.

Keep Vehicles Hidden: Keep tractors and combines out of sight - preferably in a locked barn when not in use.

Record Serial Numbers: Record serial numbers and take colour photographs from several angles and additionally take videos with a smartphone if possible, including any identifying markings. If stolen, being able to track and identify your property is vital. Also, check serial numbers of second-hand kit offered for sale.

Consider Grilles: Secured by Design approved grilles and shutter will also add a valuable layer of security to remote farm buildings.

Be vigilant: Report sightings of suspicious activity in any fields and farmyards to the police. This includes drones over farms, vehicles visiting that are not known to the farm or trespassers. Look out for each other and be a good neighbour.



For further information regarding preventing GPS theft scan the QR code below.





Farm and Machinery Security



Farm and Machinery Security

Farms and the expensive equipment needed to run them have become a major target for thieves and organised criminals across the UK.

Some of the drivers to this crime relates to constraints in the supply of products, long lead times for new equipment from manufacturers, the cost of raw materials and rising fuel costs.

There are 3 key areas where you can be most effective in reducing the likelihood of crime on your farm.

To deter: Measures you can use to make it harder for a criminal to identify your farm as an easy target. For example, parking machinery out of sight or removing the keys and locking them in a safe or security cabinet.

To delay: Measures you can use to make it more difficult for a criminal to physically break into your building. For example, maintaining fencing, hedges, ditches and gates around the farm building or using an approved hitch lock and wheel clamp on a livestock trailer.

To detect: Measures that you can use to help detect if a criminal tries to break into your farm building or attempts to steal your property. For example, installing an alarm system to your farm office or CCTV covering your fuel tanks

Criminals will drive onto your farm and make up a story as to why they are there if stopped and challenged. So, try to prevent vehicles from driving around your farm buildings looking at your security and anything to potentially steal either now or later.

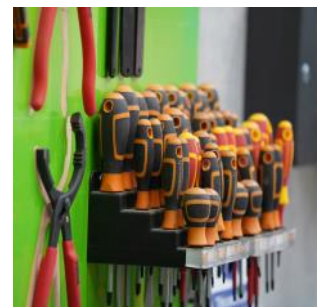
Preventing access isn't easy on a large farm site, so try to restrict the number of access roads onto the farm. Install gates and fix them to a sturdy metal or concrete post. Any adjoining fence also needs to be substantial - a combination of a fence, hedge and ditch will help prevent access.

When not in use, all vehicles, plant and machinery should have their ignition keys removed and where possible, their immobilisers and or anti-theft devices activated.

Lock the keys in an approved secure key cabinet or safe on the farm office or at the farmhouse.

Lighting is a good deterrent on a farm, especially in the long winter nights and around the barns where your equipment and vehicles are stored. Consider outside security lights controlled by an automatic time-switch or infra-red beams that react to heat or movement.

The design of any CCTV system should be co-ordinated with the lighting system on the farm to ensure that the quality of lighting is sufficient to support it and does not interfere with the picture quality.



For further information regarding farm and machinery security scan the QR code below.





Trailers and Horsebox Security

Trailer and Horsebox Security

Theft of lightweight livestock and flatbed trailers and horse boxes has been growing – they are particularly vulnerable as they can be easily towed away unless security measures are taken.

Below are a few simple precautions to deter thieves – remember the best security is a layered approach with the aim of making your property a less attractive target to thieves.

Try and make your trailer or horsebox unattractive to steal – if the thief must spend more time breaking the security products attached to the trailer, they may move on to an easier target. Consider fitting a combination of several products such as a hitch lock anti-theft device, wheel clamps and locking wheel nuts.

If your trailer is stored in a barn or on a hard concrete surface, an SBD approved ground anchor with a heavy duty chain with a high attack rating is another option to be considered.

If your trailer or horsebox is parked on the driveway, consider closing any gates at night or when you are not using it. If you don't have gates, a vehicle bollard will provide an extra visible deterrent.

Keep a record of serial numbers, chassis and model numbers and take note of any custom marks on the horsebox or trailer. Take colour photographs from several angles and additionally take videos with a smartphone if possible, including markings. If stolen, being able to track and identify your horsebox or trailer is vital to the police

Security marking your trailer or horsebox using an SBD recognised forensic asset marking is another highly effective, visible deterrent to thieves and an established method of reducing theft.

The CESAR System is the National security marking system of the Construction Equipment Association and Agricultural Engineers Association and has the aim of reducing plant and farm theft

Fit an SBD approved tracking device to the horsebox so it can be traced if stolen. SBD have several members which specialise in this area and can advise on the best system and fitting of the product.

Don't leave any tack in the horsebox overnight – store it away safely and be especially careful at events and shows.



For further information regarding trailer and horsebox security scan the QR code below.





POLICE

Keeping Our Rural Communities Safe



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