

Protecting my vehicle



Contents

Help and advice guides	2
Vehicle safety	4
Safe parking	6
Cold mornings	7
Victim of vehicle crime	8
Further support and prevention	10



Being a victim of any crime can be extremely distressing and difficult to process.

This leaflet will give you a range of information designed to inform you of the process and crime prevention advice to protect your vehicle in the future.

It also offers useful help and support on what you can do if the worst should happen.

“ People never think they will be a victim of crime until it happens to them. ”

Help and advice guides

The following help and advice sheets are available to download at www.warwickshire.police.uk/maketherightcall




Parking



Road traffic collision

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR... CARAVAN THEFT



Each year around 1,400 caravans are stolen in the UK. Very few are ever returned to their original owner, partly because they can 'disappear' into an illicit network of buyers and sellers, and partly because, when a caravan is found by the police, all identifying marks have been removed - it is not uncommon for thieves to grind out the VIN number from the caravan windows.

Caravan crime

It is not just new caravans that are prime targets for home thieves, in fact caravans that are several years or three years old that are more likely to be stolen.

Thefts occur all year round, historically most thefts occur either from home (or other private residences) or commercial storage sites, but occasionally thefts will occur from caravan sites (massive piles of storage areas), campsites or regular (often evening service or repair) or car parks and lay-bys.

Many caravan security devices are available on the market, from hitchlocks to alarm systems, from alarms to wheellocks. There are also alarms and sophisticated tracking systems available costing hundreds of pounds. Please see the below link for more details.

For a comprehensive guide to caravan security please visit www.caravans.co.uk/mot/102294/caravan-security-mo.pdf.

In an emergency please call 999, otherwise please call 101 (the national police non-emergency number).

Warwickshire POLICE
www.warwickshire.police.uk

Caravan theft

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR... CYCLE SECURITY



In recent years there has been an increase in the theft of pedal cycles nationally and locally. More than half of the bikes are stolen from the owner's property.

Take time to look at where you store your bike and the security devices used. Remember, consider the value of your bike then look to spend the appropriate amount of money to protect it.

Record a full description of the bike to include make, model, serial number, make features and accessories. Take pictures of the bike. Check to make sure your bike is covered by house contents insurance or for more expensive bikes specific insurance will be required.

At home

- Know your bike in a secure garage or shed
- Keep it out of public view, away from prying eyes
- Secure it to an immovable object, an object a bike cannot be lifted over and cannot be broken, cut or removed
- Use good quality locks/knives that meet 'acid secure' standards. Please don't secure a £1,000 bike with a £5 lock.

- Clearly mark your bike, there are many products on the market from straight forward labels with post codes to more expensive schemes such as bike register, a national database set up just to deal with bikes, www.bikeregister.com.
- You could include bikes when you register other items on [immobislaw www.immobislaw.com](http://immobislaw.immobislaw.com).

Out and about

- Thieves do not see to no extent where possible, lock your bike in a well-lit, busy area. Look for CCTV coverage.
- Lock both wheels and the frame to a bike stand or strong immovable object
- Look 'light' as your bike is hard to manoeuvre when parked
- Use good quality locks/knives that meet 'acid secure' standards.

In an emergency please call 999, otherwise please call 101 (the national police non-emergency number).

Warwickshire POLICE
www.warwickshire.police.uk

Cycle security

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR... FUEL THEFT



Theft of fuel is of concern to the police and rural communities. Fuel can be stolen from vehicles and storage tanks by the use of siphoning equipment that can vary from the basic tube to more sophisticated arrangements involving pumps and the cutting of fuel lines.


Tips to consider

- Keep vehicles in a secure area, preferably a garage, shed or outbuilding, whenever possible.
- Consider the use of locking fuel caps.
- Fit fuel vehicles just before the planned journey rather than leaving a vehicle fully fuelled overnight.
- Park vehicles in areas that are well lit so they can be observed easily.
- Use secure parking areas or compounds when vehicles are parked overnight, in particular vehicles not parked at their operating bases.
- Consider the use of alarms. This could be on the vehicle themselves or for the perimeter of the parking/storage area. Improve lighting and focus on vulnerable areas.
- Fit anti-siphoning devices.
- Install or confirm existing CCTV is fit for purpose and train a camera on tanks and vulnerable vehicles.
- Install capless or other improved security that secures fuel storage tanks.
- Consider using 'hardened' fuel tanks if your existing storage facility is not of that type.
- Consider the deployment of fuel dyes.
- Commercial companies could monitor fuel cards rather than relying on fuel on site.
- Use defensive parking techniques, wherever possible park vehicles against solid objects on the fuel tank side to prevent siphon.
- Remove portable storage from all (diesel and petrol) tanks or make them secure.
- Consider installing fuel cap alarms - wireless transmitters can be placed inside the screw cap of the fuel tank. A magnetic switch on the device side of an alarm if the cap is opened or tampered with. More advanced systems can be linked to security lighting or send a text message to the owner or security provider. An isolation switch allows authorised access to the tank for refuelling.

Warwickshire POLICE
www.warwickshire.police.uk

Fuel theft

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR... NARROWBOAT THEFT



Tips to consider

- Car alarms are based on 12VDC operation and so are the majority of our boats. Therefore a good quality alarm system, appropriately advertised, can be a deterrent to a casual thief. Top units will message owners of security devices.
- GPS trackers are also a deterrent as the most sophisticated units can automatically inform you and the police if your boat moves for any reason.
- Disable your engine.
- Chain your boat to an appropriate mooring whilst in urban areas. This deters those that wish to cut off the boat. Usually considered by the perpetrators as a worthless ploy, this can be quite distressing if you are the victim. If it is not possible to use chain or steel rope and a padlock, try heavy-duty nylon cable ties.
- Used clothes to ballast and T blocks to clamp ropes together, these too can be very effective at preventing casual cutting off.
- Fit window guards and bass across entrance doors. An extreme modification maybe, but one some owners do take if necessary.
- Upgrade all locks to the best quality available and secure hatchways and doors with heavy duty internal frames.
- Use cylinder padlocks, such as high security ven types, which are harder to casually pick than conventional keypadlocks.
- Fit CCTV.
- Fit PIR activated security lighting.
- Fit a locking fuel tap or a tank alarm. There might be a few hundred pounds worth of fuel in your tank!
- Don't leave valuables left on the roof. Thieves rarely break in for it, it's often 'lifted' from the roof or deck.
- Chain up bicycles. Just because they are on your roof or deck does not make them impossible to steal.

In an emergency please call 999, otherwise please call 101 (the national police non-emergency number).

Warwickshire POLICE
www.warwickshire.police.uk

Narrowboat theft

Vehicle safety

Vehicle crime is not common in Warwickshire and Warwickshire Police is working hard to reduce it even further, but there are simple steps you can take to make life even harder for criminals.

Most vehicle crime is opportunistic and happens as a result of a vehicle being left vulnerable or unsecured. You can help us prevent opportunist thieves from striking by following these tips.

- Never leave anything on show in your vehicle.
- Take your sat nav and audio equipment with you.
- Remove the sat nav cradle and wipe away the suction marks.
- Never leave the car with the engine running or the keys in the ignition.
- Fit self-locking screws to prevent number plates being stolen.
- Always lock your car and fully close windows and the sunroof.
- Fit anti-theft devices to steering wheels, fuel caps and wheels.
- Park in well-lit areas or secure car parks.
- Never leave your mobile phone behind.
- Don't store items in the boot, take them with you.
- Don't put the stereo in the glove box.

Keep your keys safe

A car key burglary is a crime where an individual breaks into your home with the specific aim of removing your car keys and stealing your car.

Perpetrators of this crime often work to order and will target specific vehicles, based on demand and value. If a criminal is targeting a certain vehicle they will also be targeting the owner, looking for easy ways to exploit their security and get to their keys.

The most common methods used by thieves are to follow victims home or 'cruise' around residential areas looking for opportunities. If you think you are being followed or see any suspicious vehicles, take the registration number and report it to the police.

Reduce your chances of becoming a victim of car key burglars. Simple crime prevention methods are the most effective way to deter potential thieves. The more difficult you make it for them, the less likely they are to bother.

You can use a number of methods to protect both your car and home:

Protecting your car:

- Always keep your keys somewhere safe and out of sight.
- Always lock your car away safely in the garage, if you have one.
- Fit a high quality alarm to your vehicle.

- Use additional security systems such as immobilisers and visible security locks.
- Always take your keys with you when leaving the vehicle unattended.
- Always keep your keys safe and concealed in public places.
- Make sure doors, windows, the boot and sunroof are secure whenever you leave your vehicle.
- If you own more than one vehicle, park the lesser valued vehicle behind the more expensive one on the driveway, making it more difficult to remove.

Protecting your home:

- Make sure all windows and doors are securely locked.
- Install a high quality burglar alarm.
- Install an exterior security lighting system.

www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/8695/Keep-your-keys-safe

Keyless entry vehicles

Keyless entry vehicles, although convenient, are currently an extremely easy target for theft with increasing numbers being stolen. However, there are several steps you can take to reduce your risk:

- Ensure your vehicle is properly locked and keep keys far away from doors and windows to ensure the vehicle is no longer in range of the key's signal.

- Place keys in a metal/foil lined box or container, or another container that blocks the keys signal from reaching the vehicle when it's not in use.
- Switch off the key's wireless signal when you don't need your vehicle. If you are unsure if the key has this function, find out in your owner's manual.
- You could also purchase an after market security device, such as a steering wheel lock, a driveway parking post or even a wheel clamp.
- Even if the thieves are able to access and start your car, these should prevent them from driving away. Many criminals will consider bypassing these as 'too much hassle'.
- Other steps include checking if there are any software updates for the car itself, remaining vigilant for unusual activity in your area and having an after market immobiliser or tracker fitted.



Safe parking

A Which? survey among drivers found that finding a safe and secure place to park their car was the issue that caused them most concern.

The Park Mark Safer Parking Scheme is a national standard for UK car parks that have low crime and measures in place to ensure the safety of people and vehicles. A Park Mark is awarded to each car park that achieves the challenging standards.



The distinctive Park Mark signage helps drivers find car parks where they can confidently leave their vehicle, knowing the environment is safer for them, their passengers and their vehicle.

Find your safer parking car park using the Park Mark car park finder:

www.parkmark.co.uk/car-park-finder

If you are unable to use a safer parking car park, or if you are parking in the street or on your driveway, always remember to:

- Park in open well-lit and secure areas wherever possible.
- Ensure windows, sunroof and boot are all secured and doors locked when leaving your vehicle unattended, no matter how briefly.
- Take keys with you when leaving the vehicle unattended.
- Remove any valuables and personal belongings from the vehicle.
- Remove your sat nav and its cradle and wipe away any sucker marks.
www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/8697/Sat-nav-security
- Fit an alarm or immobiliser.
- Activate the steering lock - whenever and wherever you park.
- Have the vehicle registration number etched on each of the windows.
- Postcode your vehicle stereo using an ultraviolet marker.
- Keep your vehicle in a garage if possible.
- Keep vehicle keys secure and out of sight.
- Fit a locking petrol cap and wheel nuts.

For further information visit

www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/8696/Safer-parking



Cold mornings

Although vehicle crime is low across Warwickshire, every winter the force receives a number of reports from drivers who have had their cars stolen after leaving the engine running, while they wait in the warmth of their home for it to heat up and defrost the windscreen.



Some vehicle owners nip inside for just a few seconds to collect a bag or finish the last mouthful of their breakfast or coffee - but that's all the time an opportunist thief needs.

To 'freeze out' the thieves, Warwickshire Police advises motorists to:

- Clear windscreens with de-icer and a scraper.
- Sit in vehicles while the heater de-mists the windscreen.

Drivers who ignore this advice are taking big risks. Thieves will drive around residential areas looking for likely targets. When they spot a vehicle with its engine left running on a drive or outside a home, it's there for the taking.

One person will be dropped off, get into the target vehicle and simply drive away.

Many of the vehicles are never recovered, and some - especially high value models such as Mercedes, BMW and Audi - may be shipped overseas.

It is also worth remembering if your car is stolen when keys have been left in it, you may find your insurance will not cover you. If your house keys are stolen along with your car, your home is then vulnerable too.

So, this winter, don't give criminals an easy ride by leaving your car running unattended.

Vehicle crime

If you have been a victim of vehicle crime, the below advice could help us bring the offenders to justice and provide you the support you need.

Vehicle crimes may include:

Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle - It is important that reports concerning the theft of a vehicle are reported to the police as soon as possible so that a marker can be placed on the vehicle.

Theft from a motor vehicle - Theft from a motor vehicle would include instances where someone has gained entry to your vehicle and proceeded to steal something from inside the vehicle such as a dash cam. Theft from a motor vehicle would also encompass someone stealing the registration plates off your vehicle.

Interfering with a motor vehicle -

Interference with a motor vehicle is when someone has interfered with a motor vehicle, trailer, or anything carried in or on it with the intention that they, or another, commit a specified offence. For example, if someone tries to remove the roof rack or box off your vehicle.

What to do now?

In an emergency please call 999. You can contact the police on 101 to report the crime or visit a police station. For advice and reassurance please follow the below link to identify your safer neighbourhood team where their contact details are available - www.warwickshire.police.uk/myarea

Before contacting the police to report that your vehicle has been stolen you must ensure that you are the registered keeper of the vehicle and have the following information:

- The make, model and registration plate of the vehicle.

You may also be asked the following questions when you report your vehicle as stolen:

- How much fuel was in the vehicle before it was stolen.
- Whether the vehicle was taken with or without keys.
- Whether you are a smoker/non-smoker as this could be relevant information if the vehicle is found, and forensics have



examined it and they find cigarette butts in the vehicle, if you are a non-smoker then it can be assumed that the cigarette butts belong to the suspect(s).

If you are calling to report that something has been stolen from inside your vehicle such as a mobile phone, a dash cam or other items which you may have left in your vehicle, it would be useful to have the makes, models and serial numbers of the items. If you are able to provide any makes, models and serial numbers it means that we can search our systems to see if any of the items have been handed in.

By having specific information about property that has been stolen means that we can detail the stolen property onto the crime report. If your items are found at a later stage, they can be searched for and traced back to you as your details would be on the crime report.

What happens next?

Once you have contacted the police, they will circulate the vehicle as stolen on the Police National Computer (PNC) and dependant on the time frame the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) can be alerted for hits on the vehicle. The police will issue you with a crime reference number and a contact number for you to keep them updated on any further information you may have concerning the theft of your vehicle.

After seven days of reporting your vehicle as stolen, anniversary checks will be completed to see if there have been any hits on your vehicle and you will be updated accordingly.

What else can I do?

You should inform your insurance company and provide them with the crime reference number.

If number plates have been stolen from your vehicle, then you can go ahead and replace them. If you are stopped for any reason by the police then you can provide them with the crime reference number when explaining that you are driving the genuine vehicle.

If you or a neighbour has CCTV which covers the offence location, you could review this prior to calling the police and update them accordingly on whether there is any CCTV coverage of the offence and what it may show.

If the item that has been stolen from your vehicle is a mobile phone, a laptop, a games console, a bike or a camera then you can register your property as stolen on www.immobilise.com which is the UK national property register. However you would need specific serial numbers for your items before you can register them on the website.

For further information visit www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/46095/Vehicle-crime

Further support and prevention



Victim Support

Victim Support is an independent charity that help people affected by crime and traumatic events. They are not part of the police or any other criminal justice agency.

www.victimsupport.org.uk

T: 0808 168 9111



Immobilise

Register your valuables to help reduce property crime and improve the chances of getting them back in the event of loss or theft.

www.immobilise.com/home#registration

CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

Crimestoppers

An independent charity that gives you the power to speak up to stop crime, 100% anonymously.

Whoever you are, wherever you live, from communities to companies.

Contact Crimestoppers by phone on 0800 555 1111 or online, 24/7, 365 days a year.

www.crimestoppers-uk.org



Counter Terrorism

Report suspicious behaviour here:

<https://act.campaign.gov.uk>

You can also report suspicious activity by contacting the police in confidence on 0800 789 321.

ActionFraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
actionfraud.police.uk

Action Fraud

Report online at:

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Action Fraud is the UK's national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre.

If you are buying a second-hand car

Visit the following website to check the vehicles and sellers authenticity:

HPI Check

For checking the status of a used vehicle

www.hpichk.com

