



Historic England

# Heritage Crime Prevention

Advice for those who care for heritage assets





# Summary

This guidance has been written for those who care for heritage assets, including owners, tenants, managers and voluntary groups. It sets out 25 broadly applicable techniques of crime prevention, with guidance on the ways in which they might be used to prevent or deter heritage crime in particular. It is intended to be used alongside Historic England's guidance document, [Heritage Crime Risk Assessment](#).

This document is part of a suite of guidance to help people reduce the threat of heritage crime to England's historic buildings and sites. To accompany these documents, there are three Quick Reference Summaries, which offer more specific advice and points of contact relating to Heritage Buildings, Historic Landscapes and Maritime Heritage Assets (see [Section 4](#) onwards). For more information on heritage crime and strategies for tackling it, see the heritage crime pages on Historic England's [website](#).

The first edition of this document was prepared by Mark Harrison, Head of Heritage Crime Strategy at Historic England. Following extensive consultation, this edition has been updated by Andy Bliss QPM MA FSA of Aldwic Research Consultancy Ltd, in order to ensure that the document addresses new and emerging heritage crime trends. The expertise of those named overleaf, as well as that of the critical readers and other police and heritage professionals who contributed to this guidance, is gratefully acknowledged.

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[HistoricEngland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/heritage-crime/](https://HistoricEngland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/heritage-crime/)

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# 1

# Heritage crime prevention

*'Heritage crime: Any offence involving damage or loss to the historic environment, including all offences involving cultural property.'*

National Police Chiefs' Council - National Heritage and Cultural Property Crime Working Group.

Figure 1:  
Ferry Bridge, Old Great North Road, Brotherton, Ferrybridge, Selby, North Yorkshire. This Grade I Listed bridge by the noted architect John Carr was subject to the theft of paving slabs.  
© Historic England



## 1.1 The nature of the problem

Reducing the effects of crime on the nation's heritage assets and the historic environment and ensuring that those who offend are brought to justice are vital elements of heritage protection. Much generic and often commercially based crime prevention advice is available. This guide has been produced to provide independent advice to heritage professionals, members of the public and police officers. It is tailored to the particular characteristics of heritage crime, which are often specialist in nature and may involve irreplaceable historic fabric. Consent may be required to install measures that are both effective and sensitive to the heritage value of the site.

The current [list of nationally designated heritage assets](#) can be accessed online via the Historic England website.

The 25 principles of heritage crime prevention outlined in Section 3 of this document are intended to be wide in scope and to be applied to or adapted to suit a broad range of heritage assets and archaeological sites, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, registered parks and gardens and battlefields<sup>1</sup>. Although not primarily intended for museums, art galleries or large sites and buildings that are open to the public, the principles may nonetheless be relevant in these settings, and further sources of more specialist guidance and advice are provided. Due to their particular nature and environment, maritime heritage assets are not specifically dealt with. However, they are addressed in one of the Quick Reference Summaries, along with Heritage Buildings and Historic Landscapes (see [Section 4](#) onwards). These summaries provide further advice and options that relate to more specific heritage environments.

At the heart of any crime prevention strategy, there should be an objective assessment of the risk of crime. This guidance is intended to complement the Historic England 2023 [Heritage Crime Risk Assessment](#) and to offer a range of options that aim to remove or mitigate the threat to heritage assets posed by criminal activity. The choice of strategy will depend on the budget and the nature and seriousness of the threat from crime. The options are relevant to tackling most heritage crime, but the list is not exhaustive.

In 2017, the National Police Chiefs' Council, in conjunction with Historic England and other partners, published an analysis of overall trends and data relating to heritage crime<sup>2</sup>. This document identified seven priority areas:

- architectural theft – particularly metal and stone
- criminal damage – especially arson (and includes graffiti)
- unlawful metal detecting (night-hawking)
- unlawful disturbance and salvage of maritime sites
- anti-social behaviour – in particular fly-tipping and off-road driving
- unauthorised works to heritage assets – by owners (generally enforced by local authorities)
- illicit trade in cultural objects

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1 The National Heritage List for England sets out what is protected across the five designation types and where. The map search, in particular, is user-friendly for property owners needing to establish if a structure is protected.

See [historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/)

2 National Police Chiefs' Council 2017 *Heritage and Cultural Property Crime: National Strategic Assessment 2017*.

While these threats remain relevant, it is vital that the measures used to counter them are adapted accordingly, as criminals change their tactics. Developments in technology, changes in commodity prices (especially metal) and the emergence of new crime trends, such as cyber-enabled crime, all have implications for the protection of heritage assets from crime. This means that scientific and technological developments in crime prevention measures must respond appropriately. An update of the guidance is, therefore, required to ensure that advice remains accessible, accurate and as useful as possible.

It is important that tactics to prevent or deter crime threats are:

- proven to be effective
- informed by research
- proportionate to the risk of crime
- cost-effective
- installed with the appropriate permission (for example, listed building consent)
- suitable for the protection of the particular heritage asset

During the production of this latest version of the guidance, it became evident that there is a wide range of practical crime prevention measures that reduce harms by addressing factors relating to environments where crime is likely to occur. These are sometimes referred to as ‘situational measures’, such as locks and bolts or more technological approaches. Less well-developed are ‘social measures’, which work by changing patterns of behaviour or social conditions, relating to victims and/or potential offenders. With the introduction of Historic England’s Public Value Framework and the focus of many heritage organisations on public engagement, there are significant opportunities for the public to play a greater role in protecting the nation’s heritage.

## **1.2 Installing crime prevention measures may need consent**

Some crime prevention measures may not be appropriate in historic areas or sites because they may damage or detract from heritage assets. It is very important to be aware that some types of works to heritage assets may require consent. For example, planning permission, listed building consent (or the ecclesiastical equivalent) or scheduled monument consent may be needed.

Contact the local authority planning department or relevant advisory body if there is any doubt about whether a permission or consent is required to implement a crime prevention measure.

In deciding whether a security measure should get consent, the local authority or advisory body will need to consider the heritage risk to the site and the impact of the measure. There will be a preference for measures that do not alter the fabric of historic places and that are inconspicuous.

### 1.3 Unauthorised works

Unauthorised works that require listed building consent by owners or occupiers amount to a criminal offence, committed either by the person who carried them out or by anyone who caused them to be carried out. This applies to works inside and outside a building that predates July 1948, as well as to the curtilage of a building or other structure. Examples of such works include changing the windows, removing historic plasterwork and altering the plan form in a listed building. Consent is required for any changes that affect the building and so its special interest. Unauthorised works do not escape attention and many are identified during conveyancing. When acquiring a designated property, a purchaser should establish that all works have been approved (consented), or they may be liable for a fine and/or the cost of reinstatement.

Where unauthorised works are undertaken without listed building consent and then application is made for ‘delisting’, on the basis that the building no longer meets the statutory criteria for listing, a Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport policy statement makes it clear that this will only be considered after a rigorous appraisal of the facts<sup>3</sup>.

On a similar basis, unauthorised work, for example groundworks on a scheduled monument without prior consent, also constitutes a criminal offence.

### 1.4 Crime prevention advice

Crime prevention advice may be obtained from your local neighbourhood policing team (see [police.uk/](https://www.police.uk/) or telephone 101). Local officers should be able to advise on community crime prevention measures, such as setting up [Heritage Watch](#) and community alert schemes. In some cases, the force heritage crime liaison officer may be able to assist. If there is a particularly

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<sup>3</sup> ‘The Secretary of State will remove a building from the list if it no longer meets the statutory criteria. ... Where there is suggestion that there has been deliberate neglect, damage or destruction of a building, this will only result in consideration for de-listing after a rigorous appraisal of the facts has taken place. Requests for de-listing will not generally be considered whilst the building in question is the subject of enforcement action by the local planning authority or such action is likely, or is subject to other legal proceedings.’ (para 13). See [gov.uk/government/publications/principles-of-selection-for-listing-buildings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/principles-of-selection-for-listing-buildings).

valuable or significant asset or a serious or complex crime threat, specialist crime prevention advice should be sought from a crime prevention officer. (Such officers may also be known as designing out crime officers or similar, depending on the police force concerned.) Alternatively, advice may be sought from an independent and accredited crime prevention adviser. Accredited crime prevention training for the police and others is provided by the Police Crime Prevention Academy (see [policecpi.com/](http://policecpi.com/))

It is important to be aware that not all police and independent crime prevention advisers will have experience or training in dealing with historic assets, and some advice that would be helpful for modern buildings may not be appropriate in historic areas or sites. In particular, consent may be required before certain work can be undertaken. The insurer should also be contacted, as they may have specific requirements or restrictions, for example on contractor accreditation.

Insurance protects the value (not the listing designation) of an asset, but insurers experienced in offering cover for heritage assets may be a valuable source of advice for crime prevention measures. It is important to be guided by the requirements and advice of an insurance company offering cover for criminal acts. Historic England guidance on [insuring historic buildings and other heritage assets](#) is available.

#### **When to call 999:**

- A crime is happening right now
- Someone is in immediate danger, or there is a risk of serious damage to property
- A suspect for a serious crime is nearby

Otherwise, call **101** for the local police force. Some crimes may be reported online if it is not an emergency. Check online for the police force local to the place where the crime occurred to see if this service is available.

If you are deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, a text phone is available on **18000**.

You can report crime or suspicious behaviour anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**. Crimestoppers is a charity working independently of the police.

## 1.5 Terminology

The Historic England website contains a glossary that sets out definitions of terms used within heritage protection legislation and documents. The glossary can be accessed at [historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/hpr-definitions/](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/hpr-definitions/)

## 1.6 Countering new and emerging crime threats

In the same way that new crime trends and methods emerge and evolve, so, too, do the counter measures that can prevent crime or help to bring offenders to justice. Specialist technical and scientific expertise is secured through the Heritage and Wildlife Crime Innovation group, convened by Historic England in conjunction with the Centre for Heritage, University of Kent. This aims to:

- identify threats, risks and vulnerabilities within historic and natural environments
- identify the need for tactics or techniques and either adapt existing approaches or develop new ones
- secure funding and achieve implementation
- integrate these themes within research programmes from undergraduate to doctoral level, enhancing employment opportunities for students and early career researchers

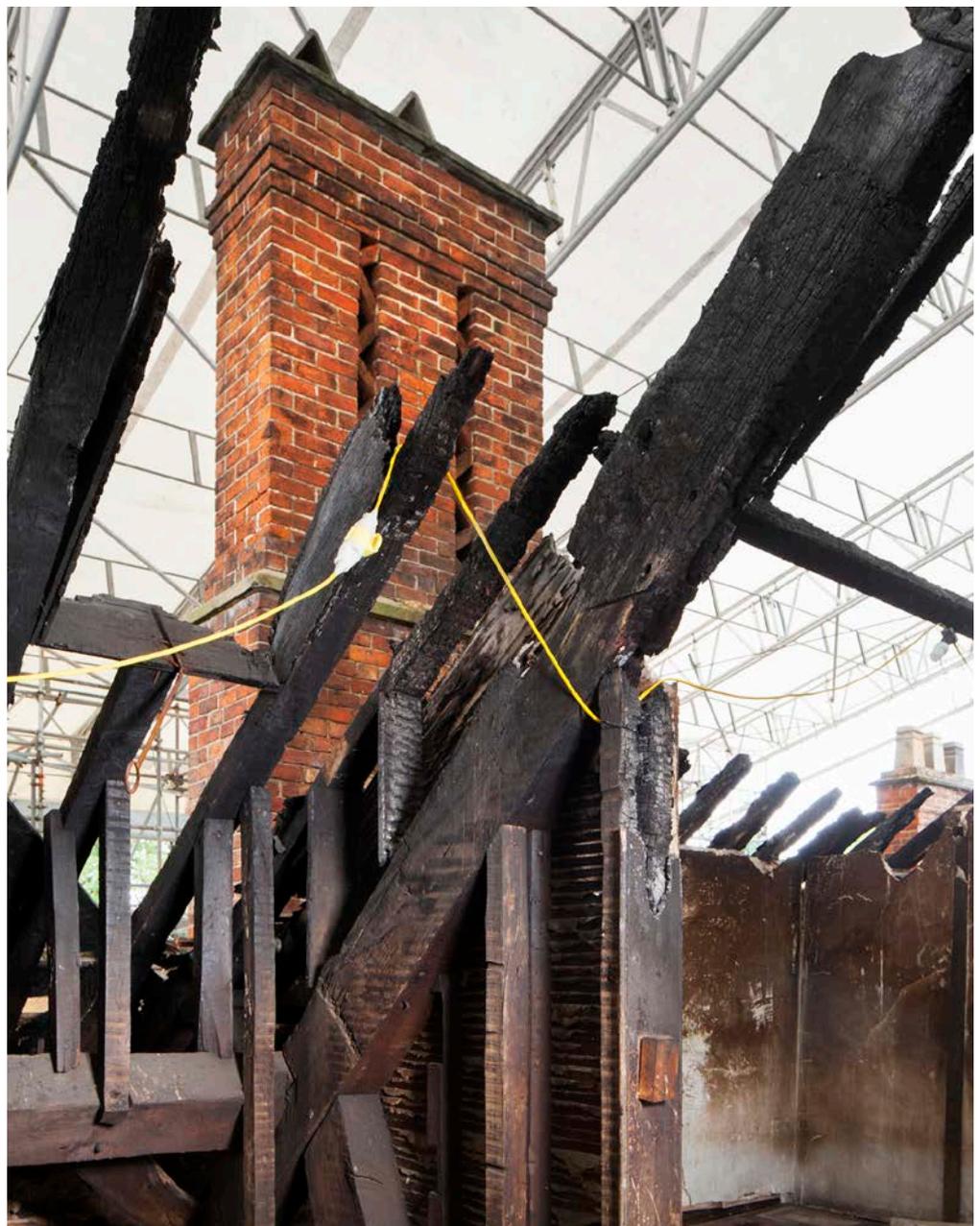
# 2

## Specialist heritage crime issues

### 2.1 Introduction

A number of heritage crime-related themes have been identified that are broad in terms of their potential impacts and that bridge a range of [designated heritage assets](#). These are briefly summarised below, together with points of contact where further information may be obtained.

Figure 2:  
Wythenshawe Hall,  
Wythenshawe Park,  
Manchester. This Grade II\*  
house was damaged by  
an arson attack.  
© Historic England



## 2.2 Hate crime

*‘Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person’s disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity.’*

– Crown Prosecution Service.

Some heritage crime offences may also constitute hate crime: for example, racist or homophobic graffiti on historic memorials. These matters are serious and are given high priority by the police. Such crimes are likely to be investigated by specialist hate crime officers. If suspects are identified, they may – dependent on the evidence – be charged with racially aggravated offences, such as criminal damage, which can attract a higher sentence on conviction. The impact of hate crime on victims can be extremely serious, and offences may be perceived as an attack against community members locally and more widely.

Offenders intent on committing hate crimes against particular communities may not only target heritage assets, but also people and other places, buildings or artefacts of significance. It is important that all such offences are reported to the police, so that the pattern of offending can be assessed and appropriate preventative and investigative strategies set. Where hate crimes against heritage assets have a wider community impact, early liaison with the police will enable a full community threat assessment to be carried out. This will ensure that active steps are taken to protect vulnerable people and places and to minimise community tension if necessary.

In the case of criminal damage involving graffiti, prompt removal is always advisable to avoid giving the impression that offending is tolerated. Where graffiti is offensive or promotes hatred, swift action is particularly important. Historic England issues guidance on [graffiti removal](#).

## 2.3 Cyber crime

Many criminal offences involve an online element or the use of technology.

Cyber-**dependent** crimes are those that can only be committed using a computer or ICT, such as introduction of malware. Cyber-**enabled** crimes are ‘traditional’ crimes that are increased in scale or reach by the use of computers or ICT, such as using a drone to capture images of a church roof to identify opportunities for theft. Cyber-**assisted** crimes are those that use networked digital technologies in the course of criminal activity that would take place anyway, such as online research before committing a burglary. Heritage assets or the individuals and organisations that care

for heritage assets may be liable to all these forms of cyber crime, ranging from the loss of irreplaceable images or data, to thefts of heritage assets assisted by online research.

Criminals may use the Internet to research a site to identify articles of value with a view to stealing them, to identify security weaknesses or means of access and escape, or to market stolen goods. It is important to consider careful management of publicly available information and imagery to limit the risk of cyber-assisted or cyber-enabled crime, balanced with the need to maximise public value and accessibility.

Detailed mapping and aerial photographs are already available online for many sites. With sites that are accessible or open to the public, it may not be feasible to prevent photography or drone use completely. However, staff, volunteers and local residents should be asked to be alert to unusual or suspicious behaviour. Owners and custodians of heritage assets should exercise caution about the information that they share online and on social media. Steps should be taken to limit information that refers to security measures (or the lack of) or occasions when the site will be unoccupied, or that enables criminals to identify high-value items or target particular features. Striking a balance between sharing information about heritage assets with the public and limiting the opportunities for criminals requires careful judgement. Where the public value is perceived to outweigh the threat of crime, a risk assessment should be conducted<sup>4</sup> and appropriate crime prevention measures taken.

Guidance and advice about cyber crime may be obtained from your local police force, and more specialist advice about cyber crime is available from the [National Cyber Security Centre](#).

## 2.4 Business crime and crime in town and city centres

This guidance is intended for a broad audience, including owners of historic buildings that may be businesses in their own right or host on-site businesses. The overlap with business crime is likely to be particularly relevant where heritage buildings or assets (for example, archaeological sites or monuments) are the basis of the business (for example, historic houses open to the public), or where heritage buildings/landscapes are occupied by businesses (for example, farms with listed buildings on the site).

The breadth of possible heritage assets that may be associated with businesses means that it is not possible to give specific crime prevention guidance here. The [National Business Crime Centre](#), overseen by the City of London Police, may be able to assist with more tailored advice.

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4 See Historic England 2023 [Heritage Crime Risk Assessment](#)

The [Secured by Design](#) organisation, which works alongside police forces to deliver crime prevention initiatives, is also a useful source of information. Specialist advice may be sought from a police crime prevention officer (also known in some forces as designing out crime officers or similar) or an accredited and independent security adviser with experience of dealing with listed and heritage properties<sup>5</sup>. Points of contact for specialist police crime prevention officers are available via the [Secured by Design website](#).

The significant transition in recent years to online shopping has led Government to announce significant funding allocations to revitalise town and city centres. This includes the announcement in September 2019 of £95 million for historic town and city centres<sup>6</sup>.

Investment and development in town centres may prompt concerns, in some quarters, about the suitability of designated and historic buildings for contemporary use. This may lead, for example, to applications to install modern security measures, such as shutters or reinforced windows, which may be at odds with the desire to conserve historic features or a historic street frontage. There is a risk that the number of applications for permission to install such measures increases quite rapidly, with the attendant loss of important historic facades, which themselves are a considerable visual asset for shoppers and visitors.

In all such cases, it is important to pay attention to [planning practice guidance](#) and other guidance relating to [conserving and enhancing the historic environment](#).

Where crime risks are considered to be significant enough to merit the installation of security measures that may require listed building consent or planning permission, or in the case of non-designated assets, it is important that there is both a rigorous assessment of the actual risk of crime and an assessment of the appropriateness of the measures proposed to remove or mitigate this risk.

The following steps should be considered in such cases:

- Seek advice from a police crime prevention officer or accredited and independent security adviser experienced in dealing with listed and heritage assets.
- Consult with an insurance company that has experience in dealing with heritage properties, to establish the security rating required to secure cover.

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5 Accredited crime prevention training for the police and others is provided by [Police Crime Prevention Initiatives](#)

6 Department for Culture, Media and Sport, press release, 14 September 2019.

- Early on, consult with the local authority conservation officer and Historic England caseworker.
- Consider crime prevention solutions that do not impact on the fabric or detract from the significance of the building and its setting: for example, a police compliant intruder alarm system, removing valuable items from display to an insurance rated safe when closed, deploying security staff.
- Consider potential Secured by Design-accredited, third-party tested, crime prevention products, which have minimal adverse effect on the fabric of the building and its setting.

Works that affect a heritage asset or its setting may need consent before they commence. If you are in any doubt, seek advice from your local planning authority before carrying out the works.

## 2.5 Terrorism and domestic extremism

Some heritage assets, notably historic buildings, may be subject to some level of threat from terrorism due to their prominence, their association with historic events or their present use. In London, for example, a number of listed buildings are occupied by government departments and other major organisations.

While offering detailed advice about preventative measures against terrorism lies outside the scope of this document, it is important to highlight that appropriate advice should be sought where there is a perceived threat. The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) is a good source of advice, and where more specialist input is required counter terrorism security advisers, based in local police forces, can assist. Contact details are listed on the [NaCTSO website](#).

Police counter terrorism security advisers may not be aware, though, of the special considerations that may apply to listed or designated buildings or sites. For example, the installation of security barriers or bollards may be a proportionate response to an assessed threat of terrorism, but it may not take account of any impact on the setting of listed buildings in the vicinity. Some security measures may be suitable in heritage contexts; where this is not the case, it may be possible to consider alternatives that may mitigate the risk. Where planning issues are being considered, early engagement with the relevant Historic England Regional Office is advisable. Where necessary, they can call upon specialist expertise in this area, which sits within the Historic England Government Historic Estates Unit.

## 2.6 Fire and arson

The risk of deliberate fires or arson committed against heritage assets can be very considerable and may pose a serious risk to life. Older buildings are often built with flammable materials, such as wood, wattle and thatch, and may be more susceptible to an outbreak of fire even if not deliberately set. [Vacant buildings](#) may be particularly vulnerable, and in some cases [enforcement action](#) may be necessary to protect them. Basic precautions include ensuring that suitable fire extinguishers are immediately available, that fire and smoke alarms are regularly tested and maintained, and that an evacuation plan is kept up to date and periodically reviewed and exercised. Installing fire protection measures requires specialist advice from the fire service and listed building consent may be required.

Motivations for fire setting include damage or vandalism, financial gain, concealment of other crime (for example, burglary), grievances or mental illness. It is important to be alert to the fact that small fires set within 50m of a building (for example, bins, rubbish or waste materials) could represent the start of a progressive escalation of criminal acts. Any threat of arson or a pattern of arson incidents near a heritage asset or building should be a cause for serious concern.

Heritage assets may also be damaged by fires on open land, for example fires lit recklessly at unlicensed music events or ‘raves’.

Many of the more general crime prevention approaches set out in this guidance will assist in deterring arson. However, due to the crime’s potential seriousness and the specialist nature of the threat, the risks of fire and arson must also be considered separately. The text below is quoted from [Arson Risk Reduction: Preserving Life and Heritage in the North West](#) (North West Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with Historic England, 2017).

*To reduce the likelihood and effects of arson, you should systematically assess your building from the perspective of potential arsonists. This involves walking round the inside and outside of the building, and deciding how easy it could be to set fire to it or material around it (e.g. waste bins) and for a fire to spread. Once you have identified fire risks, you can devise ‘control measures’ to deprive potential arsonists of the essential access and fuel they would need to start a fire.*

*Arson risk assessments should be carried out as part of the fire risk assessment required to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) 2005.*

*The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 sets out the fire safety management responsibilities for all premises except those used exclusively as single private dwellings. It requires premises to have a named ‘responsible person’ for fire risk assessments and resulting management actions.*

## 2.7 Night-time illumination and crime prevention

The question of street lighting and its effects on crime has become a significant issue in many areas in recent years, in particular as local authorities seek to achieve budget savings by turning off street lights late at night. Criminological research over the past 30 years or so suggests that illumination can have a positive effect on reducing crime, especially if it is precisely targeted<sup>7</sup>.

There is a short summary of the latest research in a [2015 College of Policing synopsis](#). This cites a paper by Farrington and Welsh (2002), which suggests that this reduction effect may be because illumination signals community investment and that an area is improving, leading to ‘increased community pride, community cohesiveness and informal social control’.

Current levels of crime and anti-social behaviour should be reviewed when considering the installation/maintenance of lighting, to establish cost-effectiveness. However, it is important to not simply take account of crime reduction effects. The Home Office Crime Prevention Unit Paper 28 (1991) emphasises the reassurance value of street lighting to those who are fearful of unlit public spaces. With heritage assets, appropriate and approved lighting arrangements may not only enhance night-time public appreciation of the locality and the heritage asset, but also, in some cases, help to reduce crime and, importantly, promote public perceptions of safety.

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<sup>7</sup> K. Pease 1999 ‘A review of street lighting evaluations: crime reduction effects’. In: Painter and Tilley (eds), *Surveillance of Public Space: CCTV, Street Lighting and Crime Prevention*, *Crime Prevention Studies*, 10, pp. 47–76.

# 3

## Crime prevention measures

Figure 3:  
Although not immediately apparent, the lead has been stolen from the roof of this church.  
© Simon Headley



### 3.1 Make crime harder to commit

Use physical security, such as locks and bolts, to reduce opportunities for crime. This is particularly relevant for unoccupied buildings and sites at risk of theft, criminal damage or arson. Security surveys by the police or an accredited independent crime adviser and guidance from [Secured by Design](#) can provide advice on how to reduce the risk of crime and deter offenders through the design of buildings and places.

- Store removable items of value in locked and secure locations, particularly if the property is left unsupervised, such as overnight.
- Take care that online descriptions and photographs do not inadvertently provide information about security, building layouts or valuable items that could be misused by criminals.

- Install security fittings for pictures and other portable items to prevent them being removed swiftly. Secure the edges of metal plaques, such as those on war memorials, to make removal more difficult. Doors and windows should also be secured, using appropriate British Standard locks where possible.
- Have a procedure for carrying out routine checks to ensure that all entrances, windows and skylights are securely locked and that security fixtures are in good condition.
- Ensure there are no combustible materials at or near the heritage asset that could readily be used by arsonists (see [2.6 Fire and arson](#), for more information about arson risks).
- Consider using physical security measures, such as anti-climb spike fence strips or anti-climb paint, and accompanying warning signs. Note that anti-climb paint may transfer to other surfaces, such as animals' or birds' feet, making it unsuitable in some heritage contexts.
- Ensure strict control of keys, alarm codes and so on, and adopt a systematic approach to locking the building, including ensuring that no one is secreted on the premises.

**Be aware that:**

Works that affect a heritage asset or its setting may need consent before they commence. This may include fitting locks or other security apparatus. If you are in any doubt, seek advice from your local planning authority before carrying out the works.

### 3.2 Deny access

Controlling access will make it more difficult for offenders to commit crime.

- Fencing, bollards and gates can be used to restrict access by people or vehicles, and may be particularly useful outside of opening hours or on fully private land. Care should be taken not to diminish the benefits of natural surveillance by passers-by.
- Physically preventing vehicle access to heritage assets can be very important, as cars and vans may be used to transport tools and ladders or to load and remove heavy stolen property from the site. For open sites, you may want to concentrate on areas adjoining access roads, and any areas where cars may be parked.

- Consider ‘defensive planting’, using thorny decorative plants, such as pyracantha or berberis, against walls and fences, and beneath windows, to make access more difficult and to deter anti-social behaviour. Note, though, that it may be unwise to allow foliage to grow against the walls of historic buildings as this may cause damp. Well-maintained hedgerows may be appropriate for open sites. The Royal Horticultural Society, in conjunction with Essex Police, has produced a [useful leaflet](#) on this approach to crime prevention.
- Changes in road or path surfaces can be used to indicate the boundaries of public access (accompanied by suitable signage. e.g. ‘No public access beyond this point’).
- Anti-climb paint on drainpipes (accompanied by suitable signage) may make it more difficult to access roofs to steal valuable metal roofing material and/or to gain access to a building via roof lights.
- Maintain suitable access and visitor control measures, such as tags and visitor entry systems. Understand that some manual digital locks have vulnerabilities if the code is not changed regularly.

**Be aware that:**

There is a potential tension between controlling access and the desire to be accessible to visitors and to have a setting that reflects the significance of the heritage asset. You may wish to concentrate your initial efforts on protecting key parts of the site or on out-of-hours access restrictions. However, in some cases, for example a church building, there may be a desire to keep the building open full time. Encouraging regular visitors can, in fact, help to watch over heritage assets and may also deter criminal activity. Access issues should form part of an overall crime prevention approach, alongside other measures.

Works that affect a heritage asset or its setting may need consent before they commence. If you are in any doubt, seek advice from your local planning authority before carrying out the works. Take care with the installation of structural features such as fences and gates, particularly on land with archaeological value such as scheduled monuments, and ensure that you obtain any necessary consent.

Warning signs should be used if anti-climb spike fence strips or anti-climb paint are used. Anti-climb paint needs reapplication, usually at least annually, to maintain its effectiveness, and it should not be applied below the height of 1.8m. It may transfer to other surfaces on animals’ or birds’ feet, potentially making it unsuitable in some heritage contexts.

### 3.3 Monitor exits

Monitoring the exits makes it more difficult for an offender to leave the site after they have committed an offence.

- Controlled exit gates can be used to prevent individuals from leaving a site unnoticed.
- You may undertake random searches of vehicles leaving the site if acceptance of this is made a condition of entry.
- Security tags inserted in small valuable items that are easily removable, together with associated alarms at the exit, can reduce the risk of theft.
- CCTV or automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) may be installed at high-value sites.

**Be aware that:**

Users of surveillance camera systems, such as CCTV and ANPR, may be required to comply with the [Surveillance Camera Code of Practice](#), or encouraged to comply voluntarily. Usage must comply with the [Data Protection Act 2018](#), and in some circumstances a Security Industry Authority licence may be required.

### 3.4 Move potential offenders away

Some activities that are perfectly legal in most places, such as riding a BMX or mountain bike, can cause illegal damage if carried out at historic sites. Visitors should be alerted to the nature of the site and directed to places where the activity may be carried out without any harm.

- Prevent vehicle access to sites, using hard landscaping such as walls, where a vehicle may significantly facilitate a crime: for example, lead theft from church roofs or theft of garden statuary or other heavy items.
- Off-road vehicles can cause serious damage when used on a site with buried archaeology, such as a scheduled monument. Consider collaborating with landowners and the local community to identify a more suitable site for such activity. Contact with the [Local Access Forum](#) may also be helpful.

- Landowners may permit metal detecting and surface soil to be dug, but this must not occur on scheduled monument sites, as buried archaeology could be destroyed. Clear conditions should be set if permission is granted (see 3.24). Clear signage at entrance points to land reinforces the fact that anyone found on that land without permission is trespassing and has no right to be there.
- Provide alternative activities that are tailored to the crime or anti-social behaviour problem. For example, if people are illegally removing souvenir artefacts from a historic site, allow them to accompany archaeologists on an organised dig and use the opportunity to educate them on the damage caused by illegal removal.
- Anti-social behaviour can occur where there is a convenient space to congregate. If this presents a problem at your site, avoid placing seating in sensitive spots, and instead provide seating in areas where damage is less likely to occur, or where those seated can provide informal surveillance.
- Encourage people to move to more suitable areas by using site lighting, signage and so on.

**Be aware that:**

Moving potential offenders away may work best in combination with measures that also make the rules clear, set boundaries and, for low-level misbehaviour, appeal to the conscience of offenders.

Interest in an archaeological site may focus on areas beyond the officially recognised boundaries. Metal detecting on a Scheduled Monument without the consent of Historic England is a criminal offence. Landowners may choose to prohibit legitimate metal detecting anywhere in the vicinity of an archaeological site and may wish to divert activity to another area that is not considered to be of archaeological interest.

### 3.5 Control tools/weapons

Items that could be used as a tool or weapon in committing a crime may be available at a heritage site. It is important to ensure that these do not provide an easy option for an opportunistic criminal.

- Wheeled bins can be used to climb on and to gain access to facilities; they can also be used to carry away stolen goods or set ablaze. They should, therefore, be secured, ideally locked and placed away from walls, windows and gates.
- When buildings are being repaired, scaffolding can provide easy access to normally inaccessible parts of the building, which may present a particular problem for buildings with lead roofing or other valuable features. Easy access can be prevented by removing ladders or securely boarding them, and it may be appropriate to install an alarm on the structure (seek advice from the insurance company). Neighbours should be alerted to the working days and times of legitimate workers so that suspicious activity is more likely to be noticed.
- Ensure there are no combustible materials at or near the heritage asset that could readily be used by arsonists. These include paper and fuel, as well as log piles and rubbish bins if they are close to a building. Arson is often committed by posting burning materials, fireworks or flammable liquids through a letterbox. Products are available from specialist security equipment suppliers to prevent the fire spreading if this occurs.
- Tools should be locked away when not in use to prevent them being stolen or used to facilitate a crime.

Be aware that:

It is important to ensure all volunteers and staff are aware of procedures concerning the secure storage of, and access to, any items that could facilitate an offence.

Threats of arson or any incidents of arson, including those near to a heritage asset or building, should be taken very seriously and should prompt an [arson risk assessment](#). Although many of the general crime prevention measures in this guide will help to reduce the threat of arson, this is a serious and specialist type of crime that requires specialist advice. The local fire and rescue service should be able to give advice about risk assessment and fire prevention, and the local neighbourhood policing team should have information about arson prevention, including advice from a specialist crime prevention adviser if required.

### 3.6 Extend the sense of community ownership

Encourage local interest and involvement by enhancing the sense of community engagement: encouraging people to take care of heritage assets and helping to show that they are valued.

It may be possible to build awareness and support for a building or other heritage asset and to improve its security by increasing public access to it.

- Make the most of existing heritage, archaeology, history and wildlife groups. Invite them to become part of a support network within the local neighbourhood. Additional training may be available for them to learn about heritage crime from Historic England, the police or other organisations.
- Talk to owners, tenants and managers of similar heritage assets in your area. Consider establishing a [Heritage Watch scheme](#), an initiative now extending nationally, or join the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
- Consider publishing local community history articles to promote the heritage asset and to show its relationship with the area.
- Use community radio, mobile phones and social media to contact members of the community and heritage groups in the area to alert them to crime trends or recent criminal activity.
- Consider involving local schools and youth groups, such as volunteer police cadets, in maintaining the site and its surroundings. Talk to neighbouring schools about the ways in which working on the heritage asset could fit into elements of the national curriculum.
- Engagement with local people and groups will vary according to the locality and environment. A watch scheme in a rural area may have a different membership to one in a coastal area, where, for example, sailing and diving clubs, statutory bodies such as the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and organisations such as the National Coastwatch Institution may help to look out for illegal activity at heritage sites.
- Provide incentives for people to become volunteers at the heritage asset. These might include privileged or out-of-hours access, training opportunities, recognition or employment references.
- Take time to engage the emergency services and, where appropriate, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, so that they understand the heritage value of the site and are familiar with it if they have to attend an emergency.

**Be aware that:**

Vigilante behaviour is not desirable. The police should be asked to intervene in any criminal behaviour.

For some assets, such as churches, restricting access may not be the best option. Regular visitors ensure that heritage buildings are known and cared about, and they may also deter criminals. Where a building needs to be kept open, you may wish to focus on measures such as increasing local vigilance (for example, a Heritage Watch scheme) and appropriate security technology.

### 3.7 Increase the potential for being seen

Offenders are likely to be deterred from committing a crime if they can be seen or are at risk of being surprised when offending.

- Consider installing sensor-linked security lighting, especially where the site is visible to neighbouring properties or overlooked by passers-by.
- Remove or cut back any overgrown trees and bushes that could allow criminals to operate out of sight. Be careful not to harm any planting that is part of the interest in the site or is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (where permission will be required).
- Consider providing access to any heritage assets that are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or rich in flora and fauna, to members of organisations such as local wildlife trusts.
- In the maritime environment, establishing 'dive trails', where interpretive material is provided for interested divers in the vicinity of protected wreck sites, can encourage responsible visitors to keep a watchful eye on sites and to deter anyone considering illicit access to the site. Similar approaches can be adopted on land.
- Noisy road, driveway or footpath surfaces, such as gravel, can alert residents or staff to the movement of vehicles or pedestrians, especially after hours.
- There are now sophisticated alarm systems available that can issue audio warnings to people who approach buildings and assets out of hours. Insurers will be able to advise on recommended systems.

- CCTV may be appropriate at some sites. If it is live monitored by staff or a central station, it can be used to identify suspicious behaviour and intervene appropriately. If it is used simply to record events, then it may still deter criminals from offending because it increases the chance of them or other evidence being identified.
- At appropriate venues, ANPR technology to record vehicle index numbers, body worn video (BWV) used by staff or unmanned aerial systems (UAS), also known as drones, may have a part to play in reducing and investigating heritage crime. It is likely that signage will be required to highlight to visitors that they may be monitored (see below).
- If a very high-risk scenario occurs, for example if premises are temporarily insecure or if temporary scaffolding is in place, then it may be proportionate to employ trained security staff or to seek the assistance of volunteers to monitor a building or site. This may also apply where high-value or significant archaeological finds are discovered on open land. Specialist advice may identify alarm technology suited to the particular security requirements of such sites.
- If visual monitoring equipment is used, it should be properly maintained so that images are clear.

**Be aware that:**

Users of surveillance camera systems, such as CCTV, ANPR, BWV or UAS, may be required to comply with the [Surveillance Camera Code of Practice](#), or encouraged to comply voluntarily. Usage must comply with the [Data Protection Act 2018](#), and in some circumstances a Security Industry Authority licence may be required. The likely requirement for signage to indicate the presence of surveillance camera systems may have implications for heritage sites, as it may detract from the heritage value of the site. Public authorities will also need to be mindful of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, if covert surveillance activity is in operation.

CCTV systems should be fit for purpose and regularly maintained, including checking that the recorded time/date is correct. Ensure that the resolution of recorded visual images is sufficient to enable identification of offenders at a standard acceptable as evidence at court.

### 3.8 Reduce the anonymity of visitors

A sense of anonymity when visiting a site can encourage offending behaviour, and there are some simple ways to address this.

- Greet visitors when they enter the site or during their visit. A friendly greeting is not confrontational, but informs criminals that there are people who are aware of their presence and may report suspicious behaviour.
- Where rights of way allow this, restrict the number of visitors.
- Consider installing ANPR in car parks or at entrances to large venues open to the public (see 3.7 above)
- CCTV can act as a deterrent because it removes anonymity (see 3.7 above).
- Inform neighbours if and when any works are planned on site and provide contact details for them to use if they wish to check whether workmen or visitors are meant to be on site.

**Be aware that:**

Criminals may sometimes pose as workers and wear stolen liveried work clothing or fluorescent jackets, hoping it will prevent questions being asked and maintain their anonymity. Make sure staff and local residents are always notified if work is planned so that criminals masquerading as workers can be identified.

### 3.9 Encourage local vigilance

Encourage local people and interest groups to be aware of the heritage assets in their area, particularly those at risk of heritage crime. Inform them of what to look out for and how to respond. Encourage them to make regular checks, if only informally, such as walking past when taking their dog out or on the way to work.

- Intruder alarms linked directly to authorised keyholders enable the police to be alerted to suspicious activities. Newer alarm systems can be set up so that a keyholder can speak directly to the offender to warn them that their presence has been noted and that the police are on the way. For the police to respond, you will need a [police compliant system and monitoring station](#).

- Linking fire alarms directly to keyholders can be useful, because an early alert can minimise the damage caused by fire, including arson. Where this is a potential risk, early liaison with the local fire and rescue service and local neighbourhood policing team is advisable. A [guidance document](#) is available, relating particularly to arson issues in North West England but with wider relevance, produced by the fire services in the North West in partnership with Historic England.
- Heritage groups and volunteers can benefit from training on crime prevention: understanding the significance of heritage assets locally and the heritage crime risks that exist. The Historic England heritage crime webpages provide detailed guidance. You may want to encourage volunteers to take on heritage crime prevention activity as part of their roles.
- Develop good relationships with neighbouring properties.
- Caution should be exercised when challenging people engaged in anti-social or criminal behaviour and physical intervention is not advisable. If a crime is in progress, if someone is in immediate danger, if there is a risk of serious damage to property or if a suspect for serious crime is nearby, then this is a matter for the police and you should dial 999. If someone is trespassing or is in an unauthorised area, asking if you can help them may identify whether or not they have made an innocent mistake. It may also be sufficient to deter them from offending.
- Ask staff, volunteers and local residents to be alert to people behaving suspiciously, such as paying unusual attention to or photographing valuable assets or using a drone to film in the vicinity of a lead-clad church roof.
- Provide an emergency telephone number to the local community, if appropriate, so that you can be reached directly with reports of suspicious behaviour, as some people may be reluctant to call the police.
- Encourage managers of a heritage asset to take the initiative to attract more visitors, perhaps for different reasons such as nature interest or recreation. A flow of visitors at different times of the day can help to ensure that a site is monitored regularly and any suspicious activity reported. The presence of visitors may also help to deter crime.
- Consider whether an unoccupied building might be let out on favourable terms to a guardian as a residence or place of work, or for community events. The rent could reflect the value of the effective security they offer and help to maintain the condition of the property.
- Random activation of lighting (and in buildings, music) can be an effective way to create the illusion of activity or occupancy.

**Be aware that:**

It is important to regularly test fire and smoke alarms, to have appropriate fire extinguishers readily available and to exercise emergency evacuation procedures. Liaise with your local fire service to share information about the potential hazards and heritage assets on site and to seek advice about fire and arson protection measures.

In case of fire or flood risk, it is important to have a simple plan to ensure that people are evacuated safely and that, if possible, the most significant and valuable items can be removed and secured in a safe location. This plan should be periodically updated and tested.

### 3.10 Strengthen formal surveillance

Make use of your own staff and other recognised authority figures to keep a look out for problems.

- It is helpful to build up a good working relationship with your local neighbourhood policing team (such teams are known by different titles depending on the local police force area). Each police force has a heritage crime liaison officer, known in some forces as a wildlife and heritage crime officer, or similar. They generally have force-wide responsibility, but may be a valuable point of contact or source of advice. By sharing information about heritage sites (especially those of greater significance and those at greater risk of crime), including any specific intelligence you are aware of about particular heritage crime threats, you can help to feed into their planned patrols. In the maritime environment, similar considerations apply to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
- Check with local police and fire and rescue services whether heritage asset locations are recorded on their GIS (mapping) databases. If there are particular risks or highly significant or valuable heritage assets, these can be recorded on databases so that crews attending incidents can be alerted to these issues before they arrive. The data for designated heritage assets can be obtained from Historic England and those for locally designated heritage assets from the local authority. When reporting crime or incidents, using the [‘what3words’ location identifier](#) may assist crews to find a precise location, particularly in remote or rural areas where a postcode may not be particularly helpful.
- Where appropriate and possible, consider providing on-site accommodation for staff employed at the heritage asset.

- You may wish to invest in CCTV cameras or other means of visually monitoring activity (see below and [3.7](#) regarding legal compliance considerations). Ensure that the resolution is sufficient to enable identification of offenders from recorded images at a standard acceptable as evidence at court. Alarm technology that detects movement within a defined area may be suitable in some cases.
- Forensic intruder sprays and grease are a type of formal surveillance because they can be used to identify people who have been in a certain area or touched a particular item, whether in a building or in the open air. Specialist advice on suitable products and their installation can be obtained from accredited crime prevention advisers.

**Be aware that:**

Offenders know that many CCTV cameras are unmonitored, but high-quality recorded images can offer vital information after a crime has occurred. Not only may suspects be identified, but also early viewing may enable items that the offenders have touched or discarded at the scene to be recorded and the crime scene to be secured promptly, thereby increasing the likelihood that offenders will be identified by forensic techniques. If CCTV monitoring equipment is used, it should be properly maintained so that images are clear.

Users of surveillance camera systems may be required to comply with the [Surveillance Camera Code of Practice](#), or encouraged to comply voluntarily. Usage must comply with the [Data Protection Act 2018](#), and in some circumstances a Security Industry Authority licence may be required. Public authorities will also need to be mindful of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 if covert surveillance activity is in operation (see also [3.7](#) regarding legal compliance considerations).

[Secured by Design](#) is an initiative supported by the National Police Chiefs' Council that provides advice on how to reduce the risk of crime through the design of buildings and places. Its website provides very useful guidance, independent of individual commercial suppliers.

### 3.11 Conceal targets

- Consideration should be given to protecting artefacts of historical significance or valuables that are small or easily removed.
- Consider securing such items in locked cabinets and/or using alarm systems. Ideally, such items should be located as far from access points as possible.
- Use security lighting or CCTV recording that is activated when visitors enter high-risk areas.
- Keep detailed photographic records of valuables, showing any damage or distinctive markings. Include a measurement scale in any image. Ideally, images should be securely stored in a remote location.
- Be alert to cyber-assisted or cyber-enabled crime<sup>8</sup>. Be cautious with your online presence. Do not reveal information about security issues or when sites will be unoccupied, and avoid uploading detailed photographs of valuable assets without carefully considering the security implications.
- Information signage at heritage assets, such as listed buildings or archaeological sites, is intended to encourage public engagement. Ensure that heritage crime risks are considered and that signage does not place too much information in the hands of criminals.
- Consider whether it is necessary to label key rooms that may be attractive to offenders, for example workshop, staffroom, office, archive store.

**Be aware that:**

A balance will need to be struck between engaging the public in the artefact or site and the risk of crime. Enhanced security measures may be preferable to removing artefacts from display or preventing the public from accessing a particular part of a site.

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<sup>8</sup> Cyber-**dependent** crimes are those that can only be committed using a computer or ICT, such as introduction of malware. Cyber-**enabled** crimes are ‘traditional’ crimes that are increased in scale or reach by the use of computers or ICT, such as using a drone to capture images of a church roof to identify opportunities for theft. Cyber-**assisted** crimes are those that use networked digital technologies in the course of criminal activity that would take place anyway, such as online research before committing a burglary.

### 3.12 Remove temptation

Items that are most likely to be attractive to an offender are those that are concealable, removable, available, valuable, enjoyable and disposable. If certain items or materials are at particular risk, removing them may need to be considered.

- In some cases, the significance or value of an artefact may be such that, taking into account the risk of heritage crime, it is more appropriate to remove the item completely or to display a replica. In such cases, it is advisable to seek the advice of your insurance company. If the item forms part of a designated asset, such as a fixture that is part of a building, consent from the local planning authority may be required.
- Ensure there are no combustible materials at the heritage asset that could readily be used by arsonists. These include paper and fuel, as well as log piles and rubbish bins if they are close to a building. Rubbish bins are often subject to arson attacks and consideration should be given as to where they are located.
- When replacing materials after a theft, such as lead stolen from a church roof, consider their appeal to an offender as part of the assessment of the overall conservation needs of the building.
- Cash donation boxes are often stolen from unoccupied heritage buildings, including churches. Commonly, the damage caused exceeds the value of cash stolen. Regularly emptying the boxes and encouraging donors to give money online can be effective ways of diminishing the risk.
- It is good practice to encourage visitors to take basic precautions with their own property to avoid attracting opportunistic criminals. This includes locking cars, with valuable items out of sight, and keeping portable items, such as mobile phones and cameras, to hand.

**Be aware that:**

Works that affect a heritage asset or its setting may need consent before they commence. If you are in any doubt, seek advice from your local planning authority before carrying out the works.

### 3.13 Mark and record movable property

The identification of valuable materials and artefacts by unique markings may not only deter offenders, but also increase the likelihood of catching the culprit, recovering the stolen items and prosecuting successfully. Signage at the site to show that marking has been used will act as a deterrent; in some cases, it may be a condition of insurance cover.

- Forensic marking technologies allow a unique mark to be placed on part of a heritage asset. This mark is invisible to the naked eye, but detectable by UV light or examination by a scientist. There are a number of products on the market suitable for a range of environments.
- Physical stamps are a low-cost solution that make ownership of stolen property instantly visible to legitimate potential purchasers. However, in some cases, this may detract from the object or involve work on a heritage asset that requires prior consent.
- Take high-quality photographs of your property in situ, including major items such as monuments and statuary, and label them clearly. Store the images securely, ideally at a remote location. This may be particularly useful for artefacts that are otherwise impossible to mark. Photographs should include a measurement scale so that dimensions are clear. It is particularly important to record identifying marks, serial numbers and damage. If items are stolen, photographs will increase the chances of recovery and a successful prosecution.
- There is also value in photographing the detail of architectural aspects of the building, in case of theft or damage. This may also assist where replacement is needed.
- Maintain an inventory of valuable artefacts and make regular checks to ensure that items are still present. [Object ID](#) is an established standard, recognised by Interpol and the FBI, for recording stolen art and antiques. Its guidance may be helpful in compiling an inventory.
- In the case of theft, prompt reporting to the police is recommended. Details of identifiable stolen property can be recorded on the [Immobilise website](#), which is used regularly by police forces to check recovered or suspicious property. Other databases are available for works of art and other specialist items. Police advice should be sought about recording details of specialist heritage stolen property and putting out media or social media appeals.

**Be aware that:**

Some forensic and property marking products may affect the value and significance of heritage assets. Seek advice before using them and consider whether consent will be required.

### 3.14 Make dealing in stolen goods more difficult

There is market demand for historic items and valuable materials, such as those stolen from heritage sites. Responsible auctions, publications and websites have policies about acceptable practice when buying and selling archaeological or historical artefacts. They will cooperate with law enforcement and provide information about sellers to the authorities.

- Report any suspicious sales activity to the police or local authority trading standards and encourage people to always question where reclaimed material is from and to ensure that it is legitimate.
- If a theft occurs, notify organisations that are likely to be contacted if stolen goods are found. These include the police, Immobilise and other organisations that maintain databases of lost or stolen art or antiques. Consider alerting reputable dealers who may be offered stolen items .

**Be aware that:**

It is preferable to prevent crime happening in the first place. However, if property is stolen, it is vital to ensure that it can be identified in some way if it is later found, either by property marking (if suitable) or by taking high-quality photographs that clearly show any unique identifying features and ideally include a measurement scale.

### 3.15 Deny benefits

Regardless of the type of crime, offenders are motivated by personal gain. This can be tangible, such as cash from selling stolen goods, or more abstract, such as the enjoyment and prestige among peers of applying graffiti to a prominent heritage asset. It is important to try and deny potential offenders the benefits of crime.

- Clean graffiti from a heritage asset immediately. This denies the offender the benefit of seeing their ‘tag’ on display. Historic England offers advice on [removing graffiti](#) from historic buildings and monuments.
- Carry out repairs to vandalism as quickly as possible. This not only removes the impact, but also deters copycat activity and reminds people that the site is cared for and monitored.
- Report stolen property promptly. Provide photographs and measurements, including any unique identifying features such as damage or maker’s marks. This may assist in identification and recovery.

**Be aware that:**

Cleaning products can damage heritage assets, sometimes more than the graffiti itself, and their use may require consent. If you are in any doubt, seek advice from your local planning authority before carrying out any works.

### 3.16 Reduce frustrations with a service or access

Although not justifiable, a small proportion of people may behave aggressively or commit criminal damage if they believe they are being excluded from certain areas or treated unfairly. Alcohol or drug consumption may escalate the risk of such behaviour.

- Wherever possible, explain reasons for any delays, restrictions or regulations.
- Provide a clear rationale for the inaccessibility of certain areas. An explanation as to why certain activities are not allowed in order to protect the site may increase compliance.
- If access to a heritage site is controlled, consider banning entry to anyone who is intoxicated. Suitable signage about conditions of non-admittance and the unacceptability of bad behaviour towards staff sets clear expectations.
- Ensure that staff and volunteers are trained in customer care and managing conflict situations. If violence is used or threatened, call the police.
- To ensure the safety of staff or volunteers in situations that are remote or have limited support, put a 'lone worker policy' in place and make sure that staff are aware of it.

**Be aware that:**

There are lone worker devices and apps available for smartphones (see [Secured by Design](#)).

### 3.17 Avoid escalation of disputes

The ways in which you respond to offenders or potential offenders can influence the outcome of a situation.

- Anti-social behaviour should be challenged, but should not involve physical intervention; in situations where violence occurs or is threatened, call the police.
- Hate crimes (or prejudice related crimes)<sup>9</sup> should always be treated seriously and reported to the police promptly.
- If anti-social behaviour or disputes are a regular problem, seek advice from the local neighbourhood policing team or consider using specialist training providers. Often, early intervention may prevent problems escalating, and in some cases diversion through mediation may be an option.
- Confronting an offender can result in the situation escalating and possible injury. Establish clear protocols for the safety of any staff and volunteers.
- If alcohol is available at the heritage site, ensure that staff are aware of licensing legislation and decline to serve individuals who are intoxicated.

**Be aware that:**

All staff and volunteers need to know how to behave if they are in a tense or conflict situation with the potential to escalate. Conduct periodic refresher training.

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<sup>9</sup> *'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity.'* – Crown Prosecution Service

### 3.18 Use calming measures

Reducing some of the triggers for anti-social behaviour can have the additional benefit of contributing towards a more welcoming environment for legitimate users, which in itself makes the heritage asset more secure and successful. In some cases, young or marginalised people may feel excluded from a heritage asset or that it is 'not for them'. Working with such people to identify and find solutions to issues that make them feel this way can be very worthwhile; it can encourage them to take an interest in and care about heritage in the future.

- In a situation where young people, for example, are perceived to pose a crime or anti-social behaviour risk to a heritage building or place, assess first whether this is actually borne out by evidence. If it is, organising local events that engage them with the subject matter, so that they understand its relevance to them, may encourage their involvement in care and conservation. The local neighbourhood policing team or fire and rescue service community team may be able to offer specialist advice on how to make such community engagement initiatives successful.
- If groups of people gather in a particular area and behave anti-socially, consider whether changes to the design or layout of the area, such as providing rubbish bins or moving seating to another location, might be effective in reducing the problem.
- Talk to groups whose activities may have an impact on the site, such as BMX riders and off-road vehicle users. Inform them of the heritage value of the place and the impact they are having, and engage them in working out a joint solution.
- Using a mixture of crime prevention techniques may be helpful in encouraging genuine visitors. For example, improving dusk to dawn lighting on a footpath and clearing vegetation to improve natural surveillance may encourage footfall and improve self-policing.

### 3.19 Increase local engagement

Preventing access to heritage assets, particularly those that are unoccupied or little used, can often be counter-productive because it may lead to abandonment and may cut off the asset from communities that can watch over it. Engaging local people and others who are interested in the asset promotes care and protection for places that are an integral part of local history. Widening the appeal and engaging with people who might not usually visit a heritage site promotes the benefits of heritage for all and encourages people to care for such places in their locality.

- Raise public awareness of heritage assets, particularly those most at risk, and encourage more visitors to use them or at least look in on a regular basis. Encourage the interest of your local media and community groups. Seek feedback about user experience and possible improvements.
- Consider establishing a [Heritage Watch scheme](#), an initiative now extending nationally, or join the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. This approach, based on ‘capable guardians’ looking out for heritage assets to keep them safe from crime, is suitable for buildings and landscapes and can be adapted for coastal and maritime environments, too.
- With unoccupied sites or landscapes, encouraging adaptive reuse by community groups, societies or businesses ensures that heritage assets are known about, used appropriately and cared for by visitors who are likely to keep a watchful eye on them. Encouraging people who walk their dogs or ride horses regularly in the area to keep an eye on sites and report any concerns may also be an effective way to engage with local people and secure their help to protect heritage assets.
- If a site is unoccupied, ensure that neighbours or local people are aware that you will always notify them in advance if work or on-site events are planned. This minimises the risk of criminals committing a ‘distraction offence’, pretending to be entitled to legitimate access, for example masquerading as builders in order to remove the lead roof from a church. Unoccupied buildings or sites may also attract unlicensed music events or ‘raves’, and early reports of suspicious activity to owners or the police may help to avoid the crimes and anti-social behaviour that can accompany such events.
- Encourage interest in heritage assets from young people or youth groups through schemes involving them in the maintenance, archaeology, historical research or promotion of the site.
- In instances where low-level crime or anti-social behaviour is a persistent problem, consulting the local police to explore the value of engaging with and educating offenders through out of court disposals may be an option. In this context, developing bespoke conditional caution and community resolution victim awareness programmes would seek to educate offenders about the impact of heritage crime.

**Be aware that:**

Visiting, using and occupying heritage assets, even infrequently, are likely to deter crime and ensure that any damage or neglect is noticed and reported. Engaging local communities in helping to protect buildings and places can play a vital part in ensuring that heritage assets are cared for and that the potential for heritage crime is reduced.

### 3.20 Discourage imitation or copied behaviour

If a site is not maintained and crimes such as theft or criminal damage are not addressed, it encourages people to think that further criminality will go unnoticed and be victimless, because no one appears to care. If possible, it is important that the heritage asset is shown to be actively maintained and regularly inspected.

- Ensure that trespassing, ignoring signage and low-level anti-social behaviour are not overlooked, as disinterest may be seen as legitimising such behaviour. In many cases, a few polite words of welcome or introduction can be enough to signal that there are ‘capable guardians’ looking after the site, and generally this will be sufficient to deter any undesirable behaviour.
- Prompt repairs and removing graffiti and litter help to create the impression that heritage assets are well maintained and may deter further crime. This is particularly relevant to [vacant buildings](#). Attention to non-heritage crimes, such as car crime, walk-in thefts or, in churches, collection box thefts, may help to discourage heritage crime offences, too. [Graffiti](#) that is offensive or constitutes a hate crime should be removed immediately.
- If valuable artefacts or materials are replaced following theft or damage, review all security measures because repeat crime is a risk. For example, after a lead roof has been stolen from a heritage building, its replacement is likely to be at risk unless further preventative measures are taken.

**Be aware that:**

Temporary security measures, such as boarding up windows and erecting security fencing, may themselves indicate that the premises are out of use and not regularly monitored. It may be preferable to carry out a full repair immediately, if possible.

### 3.21 Set rules

There are already laws that protect what can be done to certain types of designated heritage asset. Local authorities have the power to set by-laws that can restrict damaging behaviour. In addition, an owner can set rules or conditions for entry to a site. This can prevent inadvertent damage and reduce the risk of opportunistic crime.

- Rules should be directed towards minimising the risk of offences being committed and supporting owners, staff or volunteers to achieve this. The rationale for such rules is important, as arbitrary rules can reduce enjoyment and create unnecessary tension.
- Encourage compliance by wording signs to highlight that most people already comply. For example, rather than a 'No littering' sign, consider a more positive tone, 'Please help all of us preserve the beauty of this old building by placing your rubbish in the bins provided.' Advice on wording may be available from insurance companies or the police.

### 3.22 Display rules

The laws protecting heritage sites and any conditions of entry set by an owner need to be displayed clearly or they will not work as a deterrent.

- Consider putting up signage to inform visitors where activities are allowed or forbidden. Define private and out of bounds areas and specify routes to be used, employing landscaping and planting to encourage compliance where appropriate. Consider adding a map, especially for archaeological sites such as scheduled monuments, where the extent of the designated site may not be obvious on the ground.
- Signs should give information about:
  - the reasons for the rules (for example, this is a scheduled monument, one of the most important historic sites in England)
  - the consequences of breaking the rules (for example, there is a potential unlimited fine for criminal damage)
  - how to report anyone disobeying the rules/laws (for example, to report a crime in progress, dial 999 or for damage after the event, dial 101). You may wish to instigate a hotline to allow visitors to report incidents
- Use signs to alert potential offenders about protective measures you have in place at the heritage asset, such as property marking or regular checks by staff.
- Use temporary signs during high-risk periods to encourage passers-by to report suspicious activity. For example, when scaffolding is erected, you could use signs to inform the community about legitimate working hours.
- Visual signs are helpful to people who cannot read or whose first language is not English.

**Be aware that:**

Signage can impair the enjoyment of a place. To avoid this, think about the number, size and style of notices. In addition, signage must not detract from the heritage value of the site. Some signage may need consent. If you are in any doubt, seek advice from your local planning authority before putting up any signs.

### 3.23 Increase understanding and reduce prejudice

Offenders and potential offenders may not always be aware of the wider significance of heritage assets. Alerting them to the impact that heritage crimes have on the community and future generations may reduce the likelihood of offending behaviour.

- If your heritage asset is targeted, consider engaging with the media at a local or national level. Be prepared to answer questions concisely with details of the emotional and financial impact the crime has had, both on the site and the surrounding community and visitors. If relevant, emphasise the irreplaceable nature of the damage or theft. Do not discuss what security measures will be taken, but do explain how the public can help to prevent crime in the future. Your local neighbourhood policing team or police media department may be able to advise you.
- Be alert to the fact that some heritage crimes are also hate crimes<sup>10</sup>. As well as harming a heritage asset, such crimes may be intended to harm or create fear among people.
- Ensure that visitors are given the opportunity to learn about the historical and cultural significance of the site. Flagging up the importance of the site is a positive step towards encouraging others to help in its protection.
- War memorials are sometimes subject to damage or metal elements are stolen for scrap value. At commemorative sites, invite family members and the local community to provide individual stories about those commemorated. Display these stories prominently to draw attention to the value and personal meaning of the site. Remember to ensure that high-quality photographs are retained in case of theft or damage.

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<sup>10</sup> *'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity.'* – Crown Prosecution Service

### 3.24 Enable lawful behaviour

Offending behaviour is not always malicious, and behaviour seen as anti-social by some may simply be taken for exuberance by others. Make it easy for visitors to comply with rules and expectations.

- Provide bins and toilets where needed. Areas where misuse is intense may be those where signage or facilities are required.
- Clearly identify sensitive and non-sensitive areas by signage, perhaps reinforced by planting, grass cutting or a change in path surface dressing.
- In some situations, such as outside garden areas, it may be appropriate to create a clearly defined quieter zone and a separate zone where noisier or more activities or play are encouraged.
- Landowners may permit people to use metal detectors and to dig surface soil, provided that this does not occur on scheduled monument sites. Clear rules should be set if permission is granted, ideally in writing and accompanied by a map. They should set out who may enter the land for this purpose, during what time period access is permitted and any other conditions, such as how finds may be disposed of. Those given permission should be restricted to digging in the plough/top soil only and to report immediately any evidence of buried archaeology. They should be required to report finds to the [Portable Antiquities Scheme](#) run by the British Museum, in line with their guidance. Any artefacts falling within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 must be reported to HM Coroner.

### 3.25 Control use of drugs and alcohol

The use of drugs and alcohol can be a contributory factor to many offences, including heritage crimes. Consider if anti-social behaviour, theft or criminal damage offences may be linked to the availability of alcohol or to the consumption of alcohol or drugs on site.

- Consider which steps, such as controlling access or enforcing licensing laws, may help to deter consumption.
- ‘Street drinking’ or illicit drug consumption/dealing near a heritage asset may create an environment that appears rundown and neglected, and one that many people will avoid. This may have an adverse effect on the asset because it may deter visitors and be intimidating for residents, staff and volunteers, which, in turn, may lead to further decline and a context in which offences against heritage assets are not reported.

**Be aware that:**

Reducing the problems caused to heritage assets by street drinking or illicit drug consumption can be complex. Effective solutions may well require enforcement of the law and also situational measures, such as changes to the layout and night-time illumination of an area, in conjunction with social measures, such as enabling people to access rehabilitation or crime diversion schemes. The local neighbourhood policing team and local authority anti-social behaviour officer (known by different titles in some areas) will have the skills and experience to tackle complex issues such as this. As well as offering assistance and advice, they should be able to put you in touch with specialist crime prevention advisers and licensing staff if necessary.

# 4

## Quick Reference Summary: Heritage Buildings

Figure 4:  
Bayleaf Farmhouse, a  
timber-framed Wealden  
hall house originally from  
Chiddingstone in Kent,  
re-erected at the Weald  
and Downland Museum in  
Singleton, West Sussex.  
© Andy Bliss



### 4.1 Heritage crime against buildings

This category includes all standing buildings, whatever their purpose, such as houses, places of worship, farms and industrial buildings. It also includes war memorials, drinking fountains, boundary walls, gate-piers and ha-has. While the definition of ‘standing buildings’ is broad, it is important to note that different crime risks may apply depending on the type and state of the building under consideration. Buildings that are open and impossible to secure, such as ruins, may require different crime prevention solutions to those suitable for an enclosed building.

**Note:** An offence of burglary under the Theft Act 1968 requires proof of trespass, and it also requires a building to have a roof and walls.

Most buildings built before 1700 that survive in anything like their original condition, and also many dating from 1700 to 1850, will be listed. In total, some 380,000 buildings are listed on the [National Heritage List for England \(NHLE\)](#).

Approximately 2.5 per cent are listed at Grade I (of exceptional interest), 5.8 per cent at Grade II\* (of more than special interest) and 91.7 per cent at Grade II (of special interest).

It is important to recognise that designations may apply singly or in combination. Some buildings are protected as Scheduled Monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. A number of individual buildings in England have World Heritage Site status and some buildings form part of such a site alongside a landscape or archaeological component. The formal definition of [heritage asset](#) includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing). It is recognised that people may informally regard other local sites as of historical significance. The current record of nationally designated assets is available at [historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/](http://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/)

Historically, roofed buildings were designed to keep the elements out and to keep the occupants and contents safe. Over time, crime threats have changed and original design and security measures, such as those used in the medieval period, are not always effective against today's crime threats. Buildings may be attacked in order to steal fabric, especially metal, stone or architectural features. They may be damaged or even destroyed due to crime or anti-social behaviour. In some instances, a historic building may suffer collateral harm, such as damage to fabric as the result of a burglary or water ingress following the removal of lead flashings or a decorative rainwater hopper.

Unauthorised works by owners (that is, without appropriate consent) may also constitute a criminal offence. In assessing the crime risks to a building, the surroundings should be taken into account. This will bring to light issues such as access and natural surveillance, which are relevant to security. Parks and gardens can be heritage assets in their own right. If the setting of a building includes a large expanse of park or garden, which itself contains heritage assets, then it is recommended that a separate risk assessment for that area is conducted, using the Quick Reference Summary: Historic Landscapes.

## 4.2 Buildings as designated assets

The [NHLE](#) is the only official, up-to-date register of all nationally designated historic buildings and sites in England, with the exception of World Heritage Sites, which are designated by UNESCO. The principal designations for buildings as heritage assets are as follows:

### Scheduled monuments

Historic buildings or sites included in the Schedule of Monuments compiled by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The regime is set out in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas

Act 1979. This Act also designates five historic city centres (Canterbury, Chester, Exeter, Hereford and York) as areas of archaeological importance. This is intended to prevent important archaeological sites from being damaged or destroyed without at least allowing for some investigation and recording first.

### Listed buildings

The list maintained by Historic England includes buildings of national importance, ranging from simple structures such as milestones through to royal churches such as Westminster Abbey (Grade I listed), protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

### Registered parks and gardens

These may form part of the curtilage of a building. Registration is a ‘material consideration’ in the planning process, meaning that planning authorities must consider the impact of any proposed development on the landscape’s special character. For information about the different crime prevention approaches required, please see [Section 4](#).

### Registered battlefields

Historic England’s Register of Historic Battlefields identifies 47 important English sites. To merit registration, a battlefield has to have been the location of an engagement of national significance, and to be capable of close definition on the ground. The purpose of the register is to offer protection via the planning process. In some cases, memorials and other buildings stand within the defined battlefield area.

### World Heritage Sites

UNESCO has designated 20 cultural sites in England. Protection is secured via the planning system and the designations referred to above, which often apply to many individual heritage assets within such sites.

Offences against heritage assets include generic criminal offences, such as theft, criminal damage and arson. There is also a range of offences against specific heritage legislation, such as the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003.

### Conservation areas

These are defined by local authorities and allow extra planning controls and considerations to be applied to protect historic and architectural elements that make the place special.

### 4.3 Key threats

- Theft or unauthorised removal of fabric from a building. This may be historic fabric, such as architectural stone, leaded windows or oak roof screens. Lead roofing material may be of historic interest or it may be modern, but it is frequently stolen due to its high value. If roofing material is removed, there is a substantial risk of serious collateral damage to the building and its historic fabric being caused by water ingress. In addition to the loss of historic fabric, information about the building and its construction and evolution may also be lost.
- Theft of historic artefacts or removable items from within the building.
- Harm to the building as a result of crimes such as criminal damage or [arson](#).
- Anti-social behaviour in or near a heritage asset – for example, [graffiti](#) or public urination – which may cause harm to a building directly or create an environment where crime is perceived to flourish (which may prompt further offending).
- Unauthorised works that require [listed building consent](#) by owners or occupiers amount to a criminal offence, committed either by the person who carried them out or by anyone who caused them to be carried out. This applies to works inside and outside a building that predates July 1948, as well as to the [curtilage](#) of a building or other structure. Examples of such works include changing the windows, removing historic plasterwork and altering the plan form in a listed building. Consent is required for any changes that affect the building and so its special interest. Unauthorised works do not escape attention and many are identified during conveyancing. When acquiring a designated property, a purchaser should establish that all works have been approved (consented) or they may be liable for a fine and/or the cost of reinstatement.
- Illicit trading in cultural property removed from historic buildings.

**Note:** Some heritage crimes, such as racist or homophobic graffiti on a heritage asset, also constitute hate crimes. These may attract significant public concern and will be treated as a high priority by police.

## 4.4 Principal mitigation measures

**Note:** Some crime prevention measures may not be appropriate in historic areas or sites as they may cause damage to or detract from heritage assets. Consent may be required before certain work can be undertaken (for example, listed building consent or, in the case of places of worship under Ecclesiastical Exemption and their surroundings, an equivalent denominational authorisation).

Buildings generally have an inherent level of security. Additional situational or physical security measures, such as locks and alarms, can significantly improve security levels. However, in heritage buildings, two important aspects need to be considered. First, with listed or other designated assets, it may not be permissible or appropriate to instal some types of security apparatus or technology as it may harm historic fabric. Second, restricting access may work against a desire to promote public value and to make historic buildings accessible to the public. With some church buildings, accessibility may also reflect the ethos of the faith community. Importantly, therefore, making historic buildings accessible may form part of a social crime prevention strategy that seeks to engage local people or ‘capable guardians’ who will care for and watch out for the building, by joining a Heritage Watch scheme, for example. Often a blend of carefully chosen, cost-effective, situational and social crime prevention measures can help to reduce the risks while allowing promotion of public value and other accessibility considerations to be addressed.

Principal mitigation measures may include:

- Carefully managing publicly available information and imagery to limit the risk of cyber-enabled crime, balanced with the need to maximise public value and accessibility. Thieves, for example, may research information online to identify items to steal or potential weaknesses in security.
- Simple, well-placed signage that clearly defines public and private areas and highlights that security measures are in place. In some cases, illumination may act as a deterrent to night-time criminal activity. A careful balance needs to be struck, because signage and illumination may harm some sites and their settings. Consent may also be required. Signage should be carefully worded to avoid providing information that may attract criminal activity, such as illicit metal detecting.
- Creating the impression of occupancy by leaving lights on, playing music, putting up signs indicating that security guards, staff or volunteers regularly circulate, and so on.

- Using ‘hard landscaping’ (for example, walls) to limit vehicle access close to buildings.
- Installing security fittings for pictures or other portable items to prevent them being removed swiftly.
- Using crime prevention technology, such as alarms (including roof, intruder and fire alarms as appropriate), CCTV or ‘geo-fencing’ technology, which detects movement within a defined area. Such technology should be signposted where appropriate.
- Prompt repairs and removal of graffiti and litter to create the impression that heritage assets are well maintained. This is particularly relevant to [vacant buildings](#). Attention to non-heritage crimes, such as car crime, walk-in thefts or, in churches, collection box thefts may help to discourage heritage crime offences, too.
- Using defensive landscaping measures that deter inappropriate access (for example, installing anti-climb strips on fencing or planting thorny plants) or improving natural surveillance (for example, removing trees that obscure visibility of church roofs or installing night-time illumination), if permitted.
- Securing tools and climbing aids (ladders, wheeled rubbish bins, and so on), which can make crime easier to commit.
- Using forensic property marking, where permitted, including marking metal roofing material. Marked property should be highlighted by signage. This approach may require consent in the case of designated heritage assets.
- Replacing high-value or significant moveable items with replicas (after seeking appropriate consent where required). For example, in exceptional circumstances, where a building is affected by theft, a lead roof or part of it may be replaced with an [alternative metal roofing material](#).
- Ensuring strict control of keys, alarm codes, and so on and checking that relevant people such as neighbours or Heritage Watch scheme members know how to contact key holders in an emergency.
- A systematic approach to locking the building, including ensuring that no one is secreted on the premises. Periodic review of maintenance and suitability of security measures in place.
- Making neighbours and local guardians aware that they will always be notified before contractors work on the building, to prevent criminals posing as legitimate workers.

- Encouraging appropriate ‘adaptive reuse’ of heritage buildings to increase occupancy and natural surveillance, for example using a little-visited church for community events.
- Employing security personnel or encouraging staff or volunteers to take on a custodian or oversight role for sites. This may include volunteer police community support officers and volunteer police cadets.
- Establishing Heritage Watch schemes involving local people, historical and archaeological societies and other ‘capable guardians’. Visitors may also help to provide oversight of open buildings.
- Other bespoke social crime prevention initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence of heritage crime and anti-social behaviour and promoting community guardianship of heritage buildings. For example, in areas where anti-social behaviour is prevalent, initiatives aimed at encouraging local young people to visit and use heritage buildings to promote a sense of community ownership and care.
- Education and briefing for police officers, other law enforcement personnel and staff and volunteers so that they are aware of the significance of local heritage assets and are better able to respond to the risks to them.
- Where appropriate, and in less serious cases, using early intervention and consideration of diversion of offenders via the police, using Out of Court Disposals (such as Community Resolution and Conditional Cautions). These enable offenders to be educated about the harm caused by heritage crime offences and also provide reparation.
- Although not a preventative measure, good quality photographs are of vital importance in identifying and recovering stolen objects. Overall views and detailed photographs of unique markings, such as damage, repairs, markings or inscriptions, should be taken. Ideally, a scale marker or an object of known size should be included in the image.

## 4.5 Sources of advice/information

When assessing the crime risk to heritage assets in the landscape, Historic England is an important source of information and advice. More guidance and advice on heritage crime prevention can be found on the [Historic England website](#).

It may also be helpful to make contact with the local police, including, where appropriate, the heritage crime liaison officer or crime prevention officer (also known as designing out crime officers or similar). Alternatively, advice may be sought from an independent and accredited crime prevention adviser. Accredited crime prevention training for police and others is provided by [Police Crime Prevention Initiatives](#).

It is important to be aware that not all police or independent crime prevention advisers will have experience or training in dealing with historic assets, and some advice that would be helpful for modern buildings may not be appropriate in historic areas or sites. In particular, consent may be required before certain work can be undertaken. The insurer should also be contacted, as they may have specific requirements or restrictions, for example on contractor accreditation.

# 5

## Quick Reference Summary: Historic Landscapes

Figure 5:  
The Cursus barrow group  
and the Cursus in the  
World Heritage Site at  
Stonehenge, Wiltshire.  
© Historic England



### 5.1 Heritage crime in the landscape

This section focuses on landscapes including buried archaeology in landscape settings. For sites on or below the foreshore see [Section 4.3](#).

Heritage assets proliferate in the English landscape. For example, there are almost 1,700 registered parks and gardens and 47 registered battlefields in England. Heritage assets in the landscape include all designated assets in the open air that are inland or sit above the mean low-water mark – on or above the foreshore. Designated heritage assets in the historic landscape include World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments (under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979), listed buildings, registered battlefields, registered parks and gardens and conservation areas. Such assets are not confined to rural areas; many landscapes now sit within villages, towns and cities, even if historically they were rural. While World Heritage Sites are separately recorded by UNESCO, the current record of nationally designated assets is available online at [historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/)

It is important to recognise that designations may apply singly or in combination. For example, a scheduled monument may be located within a registered battlefield or World Heritage Site; a listed building may be within a registered park or garden. The formal definition of [heritage asset](#) includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing). It is recognised that people may informally regard other local sites as of historical significance.

Heritage within historic landscapes (including buried archaeology) may be exposed to a range of crime threats. Situated in the open air and not necessarily occupied, the area may be too large for access to be adequately controlled. As a result, a historic landscape is often more susceptible to criminal interference than an occupied building. Additionally, interference may only be detected some while after it has occurred, due to the remote nature of the site or infrequency of checks. Scheduled monuments may be damaged, for example, by unauthorised groundworks, off-road driving (Section 34, Road Traffic Act 1988: Sections 59 and 60 Police Reform Act 2002), or unlawful dumping of waste material (fly-tipping) within the boundaries of the monument. Illicit metal detecting (night-hawking) may involve theft from the landowner but may also interfere with buried archaeological layers, harming our future understanding of archaeological remains and battlefields. Parks and gardens may be at risk from thieves who steal architectural stone, garden statuary or other features. Open spaces, especially in urban areas, may attract anti-social behaviour, which, although not necessarily intentional, may present a threat to heritage assets due to recklessness or negligence. Unauthorised works by owners (that is, without appropriate consent) also constitute a criminal offence.

## 5.2 Designated assets in the landscape

The [National Heritage List for England](#) is the only official, up-to-date register of all nationally designated historical buildings and sites in England, with the exception of World Heritage Sites, which are designated by UNESCO. The principal designations for heritage assets in landscape settings are as follows:

### Scheduled monuments

Historic buildings or sites included in the Schedule of Monuments compiled by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The regime is set out in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This Act also designates five historic city centres (Canterbury, Chester, Exeter, Hereford and York) as areas of archaeological importance. This is intended to prevent important archaeological sites from being damaged or destroyed without at least allowing for some investigation and recording first.

### Listed buildings

The list maintained by Historic England includes buildings of national significance, ranging from simple structures such as milestones through

to royal churches such as Westminster Abbey (Grade I listed), protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Landscape settings may include buildings that are listed, ranging from dwellings to statues and fountains. Reference should be made to the accompanying [Quick Reference Summary: Heritage Buildings](#).

### **Registered parks and gardens**

These may form part of the curtilage of a building. Registration is a ‘material consideration’ in the planning process, meaning that planning authorities must consider the impact of any proposed development on the landscape’s special character.

### **Registered battlefields**

Historic England’s Register of Historic Battlefields identifies 47 important English battlefields. To merit registration, a battlefield has to have been the location of an engagement of national significance, and to be capable of close definition on the ground. The purpose of the register is to offer protection via the planning process. In some cases, memorials and other buildings stand within the defined battlefield area.

### **Military remains**

The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 protects military graves, including individual vessels and all military aircraft. Interference with military aircraft crash sites, including salvage or excavation operations, is prohibited without a licence.

### **World Heritage Sites**

UNESCO has designated 20 cultural sites in England. Protection is secured via the planning system and the designations referred to above, which often apply to many individual heritage assets within such sites.

Offences against heritage assets include generic criminal offences, such as theft, criminal damage and arson. There is also a range of offences against specific heritage legislation, such as the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, the Treasure Act 1996 and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003.

### **Conservation areas**

These are defined by local authorities and allow extra planning controls and considerations to be applied to protect historic and architectural elements that make the place special.

### 5.3 Key threats

- Theft or removal of heritage assets (including by illicit metal detecting) without authorisation from the landowner and/or on designated sites that are subject to legal protection, such as a scheduled monument. In many cases, such activity may also cause the loss of vital archaeological information and context. In designed landscapes (such as parks and gardens), statuary and other architectural features may be highly valuable and significant. However, displayed in the open air, they present a dilemma between accessibility and security.
- Illicit recovery of articles from the landscape, protected by the Treasure Act 1996, which is not reported to HM Coroner.
- Harm to heritage assets in the landscape as a consequence of activities such as fly-tipping, lighting fires or quad-biking.
- Harms to the landscape and associated buildings and monuments caused by crimes such as criminal damage (including graffiti) or [arson](#).
- Unauthorised works by owners, such as unauthorised groundworks on scheduled monuments, breaches in ha-has, the erection of a garden building or the destruction of parterres.
- Illicit trading in cultural property removed from historic landscapes.

**Note:** Some heritage crimes, such as posting racist or homophobic graffiti on a heritage asset, also constitute [hate crimes](#). These may attract significant public concern and will be treated as a high priority by police.

## 5.4 Principal mitigation measures

Note: Some crime prevention measures may not be appropriate in historic areas or sites as they may cause damage to or detract from heritage assets. Consent may be required before certain work can be undertaken (for example, listed building consent or scheduled monument consent or, in the case of places of worship under [Ecclesiastical Exemption](#) and their surroundings, an equivalent denominational authorisation.)

The environment of historic landscapes generally offers limited protection from heritage crime, as enhancements to the security and protection of large open spaces can be difficult and expensive to achieve. Isolating heritage landscapes with the aim of making them secure may be counter-productive, since lack of accessibility may diminish their public value and reduce the pool of potential ‘capable guardians’ who may care for and keep a watchful eye on vulnerable sites. However, a range of situational crime prevention measures (for example, CCTV) and social measures (for example, Heritage Watch schemes) may be used to mitigate threats to such landscapes while allowing public value and accessibility to be maximised.

Principal mitigation measures may include:

- Carefully managing publicly available information and imagery to limit the risk of cyber-enabled crime, balanced with the need to maximise public value and accessibility. Thieves, for example, may research information online to identify items to steal or potential weaknesses in security.
- Simple, well-placed signage that clearly defines public and private areas and highlights that security measures are in place. In some cases, illumination may act as a deterrent to night-time criminal activity. A careful balance needs to be struck, because signage and illumination may harm some sites and their settings. Consent may also be required. Signage should be carefully worded to avoid providing detailed information that may attract criminal activity, such as illicit metal detecting.
- Using crime prevention technology, such as alarms, CCTV or ‘geo-fencing’ technology, which detects movement within a defined area. Such technology should be signposted where appropriate.
- Prompt repairs and removal of graffiti and litter to create the impression that heritage assets are well maintained. This is particularly relevant to [vacant buildings](#) in landscape settings. Attention to non-heritage crimes, such as car crime, may help to discourage heritage crime offences, too.

- Using defensive landscaping measures that deter inappropriate access (for example, installing fencing or planting thorny plants) or improving natural surveillance (for example, removing trees that obscure visibility) in cases where this is justified, taking into account the heritage values of the site.
- Using forensic property marking, where permitted, at suitable sites. Marked property should be highlighted by signage. This approach may require consent in the case of designated heritage assets.
- Replacing high-value or significant moveable items with replicas (after seeking appropriate consent where required).
- Employing security personnel or encouraging staff or volunteers to take on a guardianship or oversight role for sites. This may include volunteer police community support officers and volunteer police cadets.
- Establishing Heritage Watch schemes involving local people, historical and archaeological societies, responsible metal detecting groups and other 'capable guardians'.
- Other bespoke social crime prevention initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence of heritage crime and anti-social behaviour and promoting community guardianship to protect historic landscapes. For example, in areas where anti-social behaviour is prevalent, initiatives aimed at encouraging local young people to participate in activities that promote a sense of community ownership and care.
- Education and briefing for police officers, other law enforcement personnel and staff and volunteers so that they are aware of the significance of local heritage assets and are able to respond to the risks to them.
- Where appropriate, and in less serious cases, using early intervention and consideration of diversion of offenders via the police, using Out of Court Disposals (such as Community Resolution and Conditional Cautions). These enable offenders to be educated about the harm caused by heritage crime offences and also provide reparation.
- Although not a preventative measure, good quality photographs are of vital importance in identifying and recovering stolen objects. Overall views and detailed photographs of unique markings, such as damage, repairs, markings or inscriptions, should be taken. Ideally, a scale marker or an object of known size should be included in the image.

## 5.5 Sources of advice/information

When assessing the crime risk to heritage assets in the landscape, Historic England is an important source of information and advice. More guidance and advice on heritage crime prevention can be found on the [Historic England website](#).

It may also be helpful to make contact with the local police, including, where appropriate, the heritage crime liaison officer or crime prevention officer (also known as designing out crime officers or similar). Alternatively, advice may be sought from an independent and accredited crime prevention adviser. Accredited crime prevention training for police and others is provided by [policecpi.com](#).

It is important to be aware that not all police or independent crime prevention advisers will have experience or training in dealing with historic assets, and some advice that would be helpful for modern contexts may not be appropriate in historic areas or sites. In particular, consent may be required before certain work can be undertaken. The insurer should also be contacted, as they may have specific requirements or restrictions, for example on contractor accreditation.

# 6

## Quick Reference Summary: Maritime Heritage Assets

Figure 6:  
A diver surveying on the  
wreck of HMS *Colossus*,  
Isles of Scilly.  
© Cornwall & Isles of Scilly  
Maritime Archaeology  
Society



### 6.1 Heritage crime in the maritime zone

This section deals with maritime heritage assets located within the inter-tidal zone/foreshore and at sea.

UK jurisdiction at sea extends to 12 nautical miles (22km), defined as territorial waters under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982. The UK has also claimed an exclusive economic zone, which extends up to 200 nautical miles (370km) from the coast, regarding the use and exploitation of marine resources, including energy production. Archaeological assets in this zone are defined as 'foreign ancient monuments'. England's coastline is densely populated with a proliferation of archaeological remains, including those in previously terrestrial areas, such as the land bridge now under the North Sea, wrecked vessels and military remains. Many are fully submerged up to and including the sub-tidal zone (the area exposed briefly at extreme low tides). Others sit within the inter-tidal zone, the area above the mean low-water mark and accessible at low tide. The [UK Wrecks Database](#) alone records some 70,000 locations, of which approximately 20,000 are named vessels. There are 54 designated wreck sites in English waters (as of 1 September 2019). Extensive numbers of sites or features are

recorded in [Historic Environment Records](#). However, relatively few wrecks or sites are designated or subject to other statutory protection, and many remain unrecorded.

Many waterside buildings and structures are designated as listed buildings, including harbour walls, quays, piers, lighthouses and waterfront properties. These structures often form or extend below the high-water mark. It is important to recognise that designations may apply singly or in combination. For example, selected buildings of ‘national importance’ may be scheduled as sites protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The formal definition of [heritage asset](#) includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing). It is recognised that people may informally regard other local sites as of historical significance. For more detailed guidance regarding buildings, please refer to [Section 4.1](#).

A range of heritage crime offences may be committed against maritime heritage assets. Some are unique to the maritime environment, such as unlawful interference with protected wrecks. Others, such as unlawful interference with buried archaeology on a scheduled monument, unauthorised works or criminal damage to a listed building, are common to both maritime and land-based environments.

## 6.2 Designated assets in the maritime zone

The [National Heritage List for England](#) is the only official, up-to-date register of all nationally designated historic buildings and sites in England. The principal designations for maritime heritage assets in the maritime environment are as follows:

### Protected wrecks

The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 allows the Secretary of State to designate a protected area around a wreck to prevent uncontrolled interference. These protected areas are likely to contain the remains of a vessel or its contents, which are of historical, artistic or archaeological importance.

### Military remains

The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 protects military graves, including individual designated vessels and all military aircraft, from unauthorised interference. Salvage or excavation operations are prohibited without a licence.

## Scheduled monuments

Historic buildings or sites included in the Schedule of Monuments compiled by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The regime is set out in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. In the maritime environment, this includes wrecks in the inter-tidal zone and also (as at September 2020) 13 fully submerged scheduled sites.

## Listed buildings

The list maintained by Historic England includes buildings of national importance, ranging from simple structures such as milestones through to royal churches such as Westminster Abbey (Grade I listed), protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It also includes buildings in the inter-tidal zone or foreshore, such as pleasure piers and harbour walls.

## World Heritage Sites

UNESCO has designated 20 cultural sites in England. Protection is secured via the planning system and the designations referred to above, which often apply to many individual heritage assets within such sites.

It is important to note that while the proportion of designated sites in the maritime environment remains low in relation to those that are recorded, this may not necessarily indicate that the latter are, in all cases, of lesser significance.

Offences against heritage assets include generic criminal offences, such as theft, criminal damage and arson. There is also a range of offences against specific heritage legislation, including those referred to above and legislation such as the Treasure Act 1996, the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Property found in the sea or on the shore may come from a vessel and, therefore, be considered 'wreck' material. Section 236 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 requires wreck material to be reported to the Receiver of Wreck. Reports of any recovered wreck material must be made within specified timescales. (See [Sources of Advice/Information](#) below for contact details.) Wreck material is not treasure. Any [treasure found on the foreshore](#) (between high and low mean water) that does not come from a wreck must be reported to HM Coroner.

## Conservation areas

These are defined by local authorities and allow extra planning controls and considerations to be applied to protect historic and architectural elements that make the place special.

### 6.3 Key threats

- Uncontrolled salvage of material from wrecks, resulting in loss of archaeological information about stratigraphy and the context from which the material has come.
- Unlawful salvage from designated wreck sites or failure to report salvage to the Receiver of Wreck (potential breach of maritime legislation and/or theft/handling stolen goods offences).
- Interference with protected wrecks through activities such as dredging.
- Illicit recovery of wreck material from the maritime environment (not reported to the Receiver of Wreck) or treasure from the foreshore (not reported to HM Coroner).
- Interference with designated heritage assets, such as scheduled monuments, in the inter-tidal zone through activities such as bait digging or illicit metal detecting. Such activity may destroy fragile archaeological evidence of ancient landscapes.
- Other unlawful activity in the maritime environment, such as criminal damage caused by graffiti or [arson](#), which harms heritage assets.
- Illicit trading in cultural property removed from historic maritime sites.

**Note:** Some heritage crimes, such as racist or homophobic graffiti on a heritage asset, also constitute [hate crimes](#). These may attract significant public concern and will be treated as a high priority by police.

## 6.4 Principal mitigation measures

**Note:** Some crime prevention measures may not be appropriate in historic areas or sites as they may cause damage to or detract from heritage assets. Consent may be required before certain work can be undertaken (for example, listed building consent in the case of a pier). Work on a protected wreck site would require a licence under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973, and also, potentially, a marine licence, depending on the type of work to be undertaken.

The maritime environment itself offers some degree of protection from crimes against wrecks, features and sites, since it may be remote and/or difficult to access and may require specialist training and equipment to operate in. Conversely, the lack of capable guardians, community surveillance and, suitable scientific and technological crime prevention measures present different crime prevention challenges to those that apply on land.

Principal mitigation measures may include:

- Carefully managing publicly available information and imagery to limit the risk of cyber-enabled crime, balanced with the need to maximise public value and accessibility. Thieves, for example, may research information online to identify items to steal or potential weaknesses in security.
- Simple, well-placed signage at appropriate sites, highlighting that security measures are in place. In some instances, in the foreshore area, and where feasible, illumination may act as a deterrent to night-time criminal activity. Signage should be carefully worded to avoid providing detailed information that may attract criminal activity, such as illicit metal detecting.
- Prompt repairs and removal of graffiti or other signs of crime to create the impression that assets are well maintained. This is particularly relevant to [vacant buildings](#).
- Using crime prevention technology at suitable sites (for example, CCTV overlooking sites in the inter-tidal zone).
- Using forensic property marking, where permitted, at suitable sites, including unique identifier security marking when a marine product becomes available. Marked property should be highlighted by signage. This approach may require consent in the case of designated heritage assets.
- Encouraging more 'licensees' to act as custodians for protected wreck sites.

- Establishing ‘dive trails’ (including provision of interpretive material to licensed divers) in the vicinity of sites, thereby encouraging responsible visitors to keep a watchful eye on sites and deter anyone considering illicit access to the site.
- Establishing Heritage Watch schemes or linking with Marine Watch schemes, diving clubs, historical and archaeological societies and other ‘capable guardians’ operating in the maritime environment. This may potentially include statutory agencies, the [National Coastwatch Institution](#) and the [Protected Wreck Association](#).
- Other bespoke social crime prevention initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence of heritage crime and anti-social behaviour and promoting community guardianship in the maritime environment. For example, in areas where anti-social behaviour is prevalent, initiatives aimed at encouraging local young people to participate in activities to promote a sense of community ownership and care.
- Education and briefing for police officers, Maritime and Coastguard Agency officers and other law enforcement personnel so that they are aware of local maritime heritage assets and are alert to the risks to them.
- Where appropriate, and in less serious cases, using early intervention and consideration of diversion of offenders via the police, using Out of Court Disposals (such as Community Resolution and Conditional Cautions). These enable offenders to be educated about the harm caused by heritage crime offences and also provide reparation.
- Although not a preventative measure, good quality photographs are of vital importance in identifying and recovering stolen objects. Overall views and detailed photographs of unique markings, such as damage, repairs, markings or inscriptions, should be taken. Ideally, a scale marker or an object of known size should be included in the image.

## 6.5 Sources of advice/information

When assessing the crime risk to heritage assets in the maritime environment, Historic England is an important source of information and advice. More guidance and advice on heritage crime prevention can be found on the [Historic England website](#).

Contact with the specialist maritime team may be made via email: [maritime@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:maritime@historicengland.org.uk)

For more detailed information about protected wreck sites, see [historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/accessing-englands-protected-wreck-sites-guidance-notes/heag075-guidance-notes-for-divers-and-archaeologists/](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/accessing-englands-protected-wreck-sites-guidance-notes/heag075-guidance-notes-for-divers-and-archaeologists/)

The Receiver of Wreck at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (contactable by email at: [row@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:row@mcga.gov.uk) ) is also an important source of advice. See [gov.uk/guidance/wreck-and-salvage-law](https://gov.uk/guidance/wreck-and-salvage-law)

It may also be helpful to make contact with the local police, including, where appropriate, the heritage crime liaison officer or crime prevention officer (also known as designing out crime officers or similar). Alternatively, advice may be sought from an independent and accredited crime prevention adviser. Accredited crime prevention training for police and others is provided by [policecpi.com](https://policecpi.com).

It is important to be aware that not all police or independent crime prevention advisers will have experience or training in dealing with historic assets, and some advice that would be helpful for modern contexts may not be appropriate in historic areas or sites. In particular, consent may be required before certain work can be undertaken. The insurer should also be contacted, as they may have specific requirements or restrictions, for example on contractor accreditation.

The Protected Wreck Association may also be a useful source of advice and information. See [protectedwrecks.org.uk/](https://protectedwrecks.org.uk/)

National Historic Ships UK, which advises owners of historic ships and boats on a range of areas including security, provides guidance similar to that produced by Historic England for listed buildings. See [nationalhistoricships.org.uk/](https://nationalhistoricships.org.uk/)

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## Where to get further advice

This section refers only to principal publications and organisations. Other references and points of contact are set out in relevant parts of the text. See [Section 1.4](#) for information about securing more detailed or specialist crime prevention advice.

### Historic England: publications and webpages

Conserving War Memorials: Cleaning

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conserving-war-memorials-cleaning/](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conserving-war-memorials-cleaning/)

Graffiti on historic buildings and monuments: Methods of removal and prevention

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/images-books/publications/graffiti-on-historic-buildings-and-monuments/](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/graffiti-on-historic-buildings-and-monuments/)

Heritage Crime (This section on the Historic England website sets out information about heritage crime and advice on how to tackle it.)

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/heritage-crime/](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/heritage-crime/)

Metal Theft from Historic Buildings: Prevention, response and recovery

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/places-of-worship/places-of-worship-at-risk/metal-theft/](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/places-of-worship/places-of-worship-at-risk/metal-theft/)

### Other Organisations

Arts Council, National Security Adviser – Advice on security for museums and galleries

[artscouncil.org.uk/protecting-cultural-property/security-resources](https://artscouncil.org.uk/protecting-cultural-property/security-resources)

College of Policing – Effective crime reduction measures

[whatworks.college.police.uk/Pages/default.aspx](https://whatworks.college.police.uk/Pages/default.aspx)

Heritage Watch – A watch scheme focused on the protection of heritage assets and supported by Historic England

[heritagewatch.co.uk/](https://heritagewatch.co.uk/)

National Business Crime Centre, overseen by the City of London Police

[nbcc.police.uk](https://nbcc.police.uk)

National Cyber Security Centre – The UK’s independent authority on cyber security

[ncsc.gov.uk/](https://ncsc.gov.uk/)

National Historic Ships UK – Advice for owners of historic ships and boats on a range of subjects, including security. Offers guidance similar to that provided by Historic England for listed buildings

[nationalhistoricships.org.uk/](https://nationalhistoricships.org.uk/)

Portable Antiquities Scheme – Based at the British Museum, with finds liaison officers based at city/county level to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by the public

[finds.org.uk/](https://finds.org.uk/)

Receiver of Wreck (Maritime and Coastguard Agency)

[gov.uk/government/groups/receiver-of-wreck](https://gov.uk/government/groups/receiver-of-wreck)

Secured by Design – Official police security initiative that provides advice on how to reduce the risk of crime through the design of buildings and places

[securedbydesign.com/](https://securedbydesign.com/)

### **Trade organisation**

British Security Industry Association

[bsia.co.uk/](https://bsia.co.uk/)

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## Summary table

### Increase the effort

<p><b>1 Make crime harder to commit</b></p> <p>Remove valuable items</p> <p>Secure pictures/ metal plaques</p> <p>Control keys/ alarm code</p> <p>Security surveys</p>	<p><b>2 Deny access</b></p> <p>Restrict vehicle access</p> <p>Distance parking so heavy items are more difficult to remove</p> <p>Defensive planting</p> <p>Restrict access to roof</p> <p>Anti-climb paint</p>	<p><b>3 Monitor exits</b></p> <p>CCTV and other visual monitoring</p> <p>Consider controlled exit gates</p> <p>Make random searches of vehicles a condition of entry</p>	<p><b>4 Move potential offenders away</b></p> <p>Provide designated spaces for disruptive activities</p> <p>Review seating locations</p> <p>Vary lighting to move people to suitable areas</p> <p>Consider restrictions on activities such as metal detecting or off-road driving</p>	<p><b>5 Control tools/weapons</b></p> <p>Lock away ladders and tools</p> <p>Alert community to higher crime risks where scaffolding erected</p> <p>Keep wheeled bins secure and away from access points</p> <p>Prevent access to combustible materials</p>
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### Increase the risks

<p><b>6 Extend the sense of community ownership</b></p> <p>Maintain site</p> <p>Set up a Heritage Watch group and encourage 'capable guardians' to use and watch over heritage assets</p> <p>Incentivise volunteering</p>	<p><b>7 Increase the potential for being seen</b></p> <p>Tree thinning, removing excess foliage</p> <p>Illumination where the site can be observed by neighbours/ passers-by</p> <p>Noisy ground surfaces, such as gravel</p> <p>Visual monitoring, such as CCTV</p>	<p><b>8 Reduce anonymity of visitors</b></p> <p>Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)</p> <p>Greeting visitors reduces anonymity</p> <p>Tell neighbours about any planned works</p>	<p><b>9 Encourage local vigilance</b></p> <p>Training for staff and volunteers to incorporate crime prevention</p> <p>Check fire/smoke alarms, hold regular fire drills, assess arson risks</p> <p>Interior lights or music on time switches to provide illusion of occupancy</p>	<p><b>10 Strengthen formal surveillance</b></p> <p>Consider on-site accommodation for staff</p> <p>Maximise staff/ volunteers at times of greatest risk</p> <p>Consult Secured by Design</p> <p>Update police to help them target their activity</p> <p>Forensic marking</p>
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## Reduce the rewards

<p><b>11 Conceal targets</b></p> <p>Secure any valuables</p> <p>Place valuable objects well away from visitor access</p> <p>Set security lights to come on when visitors are in prohibited areas</p> <p>Be alert to cyber crime and limit online information /images that may help criminals</p>	<p><b>12 Remove temptation</b></p> <p>Remove high-value items or install replicas</p> <p>Minimise cash on site – enable online donation</p> <p>Consider alternatives to lead for roofing replacement (if permissible)</p> <p>Ensure there are no combustibles on site</p>	<p><b>13 Mark and record movable property</b></p> <p>Consider forensic marking techniques</p> <p>Visible marking may be appropriate in some cases</p> <p>Make an inventory of high-value items, with photographs showing identifiable marks and measurement scale</p>	<p><b>14 Make dealing in stolen goods more difficult</b></p> <p>Report any suspicious activity at trade and auction sites</p> <p>In case of theft, notify property details to police, Immobilise and other organisations</p>	<p><b>15 Deny benefits</b></p> <p>Remove graffiti and vandalism promptly</p> <p>Liaise with organisations which register stolen art and antiques to ensure photographs of valuable items are available responsible dealers who conduct ‘due diligence’ checks to avoid purchasing stolen articles</p>
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## Reduce provocations

<p><b>16 Reduce frustrations with a service or access</b></p> <p>Decline to admit intoxicated people</p> <p>Explain delays or why access is restricted to certain areas</p> <p>Train staff/volunteers in customer care and conflict resolution</p>	<p><b>17 Avoid escalation of disputes</b></p> <p>Confrontation may aggravate anti-social behaviour – consult local neighbourhood policing team re clear advice for staff/volunteers</p> <p>Ensure staff are aware of licensing regulations and decline to serve intoxicated people</p>	<p><b>18 Use calming measures</b></p> <p>Engage marginalised groups on site to enable positive engagement</p> <p>Consider using layout and lighting to encourage positive behaviour</p>	<p><b>19 Increase local engagement</b></p> <p>Encourage local people to watch out for suspicious behaviour, such as bogus builders or illicit raves</p> <p>Seek feedback about site and possible improvements</p> <p>Encourage adaptive reuse by community groups, clubs and businesses</p>	<p><b>20 Discourage imitation or copied behaviour</b></p> <p>Do not ignore trespass and anti-social behaviour; it may legitimise misbehaviour</p> <p>Remove litter or evidence that suggests neglect</p> <p>Repair vandalism swiftly</p> <p>Remove graffiti promptly (especially if hate crime or offensive)</p>
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## Remove excuses

<p><b>21 Set rules</b></p> <p>Display rules and by-laws and explain rationale</p> <p>Use rules to support owners, staff and volunteers to minimise risk of crime</p> <p>Advice on wording for signs may be available from insurance companies or police</p>	<p><b>22 Display rules</b></p> <p>Erect signage, such as ‘No metal detecting’, ‘No vehicles’</p> <p>Set up a hotline for visitors to report incidents</p> <p>Alert potential offenders to security measures</p> <p>Use visual signs to help those who are unfamiliar with English or cannot read</p>	<p><b>23 Increase understanding and reduce prejudice</b></p> <p>Explain impact of theft of significant or valuable items</p> <p>Post stories of people remembered on war memorials</p> <p>Respond promptly to any hate crime incidents</p>	<p><b>24 Enable lawful behaviour</b></p> <p>Possibility of separate areas for quiet and noisy activities</p> <p>Clearly sign sensitive areas</p> <p>Provide bins and toilets</p> <p>Require lawful metal detectorists to comply with conditions and report finds to Portable Antiquities Scheme</p>	<p><b>25 Control use of drugs and alcohol</b></p> <p>Consider access conditions/licensing laws to deter problems caused by intoxication</p> <p>Where ‘street drinking’ or illicit drug taking is a problem, liaise with police and local authority</p>
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## Contact Historic England

### East of England

Brooklands  
24 Brooklands Avenue  
Cambridge CB2 8BU  
Tel: 01223 582749  
Email: [eastofengland@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:eastofengland@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

### Fort Cumberland

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### London and South East

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Cannon Bridge House  
25 Dowgate Hill  
London EC4R 2YA  
Tel: 020 7973 3700  
Email: [londonseast@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:londonseast@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

### Midlands

The Foundry  
82 Granville Street  
Birmingham B1 2LH  
Tel: 0121 625 6888  
Email: [midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

### North East and Yorkshire

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Email: [northeast@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:northeast@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

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# Historic England

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