

# Advice on Preventing Theft from Farms & Outbuildings

Please take these simple steps to reduce the likelihood of you being a victim of crime:

## Farm buildings

In your barns and outbuildings there is valuable equipment that will appeal to thieves - e.g. power tools, quad bikes, machinery and diesel. Isolated buildings, machinery and live stock present the greatest risk.

- Make sure valuable equipment is stored in a secure building behind a strong locked door, or use a metal cage and keep it locked when unattended.
- When not in use, lock doors to barns and outbuildings at all times.
- Use locks that comply with the British Standards, good quality locking bars and high security padlocks.
- Windows can be an open invitation to thieves - protect them with metal bars or grilles.
- Improve security for your diesel & fertiliser.

## Farmhouses

Farmhouses are often in isolated locations and can be vulnerable to crime if not properly secured.

- Make sure that doors are kept locked - even when you're on the premises.
- Fit locks to all ground floor windows
- Make sure doors and windows are well maintained and in a good state of repair
- Fit mortice deadlocks that comply with the British Standards to all external doors and reinforce with locking bolts.
- Investing in timers that turn lights on and off inside the house if you go out at night and consider installing security lighting outside.

## Perimeter

A secure perimeter around your fields and out buildings will help deter thieves from targeting animals such as sheep and horses. Take action.

- Check fences and hedges bordering rural properties to identify weak-spots that could provide unnoticed access to criminals or vehicles and secure where necessary.
- Consider restricting access at your entrance to prevent unwelcome vehicles entering. Make sure gates cannot be lifted off the chain or hinges. Use approved locks and chains.
- Install security lighting around yards, outbuildings and isolated locations. Consider installing perimeter alarms, where practical.

## Machinery and tools

Machinery and tools are very valuable to thieves so try and secure your property.

- Lock or immobilise vehicles and equipment when not in use. Remove keys from cars, tractors and other vehicles left unattended.
- Avoid leaving machinery in isolated locations or fields - particularly near roads - where they can be removed without attracting attention.
- Visibly mark your machinery and tools - this not only acts as a deterrent to thieves but also helps the police reunite stolen property to the rightful owners if it is recovered. Keep a list of tools, together with serial numbers and any identifying marks. You can do this at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- Keep tools locked away when you're not using them, as well as being stolen a burglar can use them to access your secured property.