

Industrial machinery (plant) theft

Your guide to crime prevention

Insecure building and engineering sites, as well as farms, can advertise rich pickings for thieves who are looking to steal and trade in plant (industrial machinery) or use it to carry out cash machine crimes.

Types of plant include:

- farming equipment (such as tractors and combine harvesters)
- static machinery (such as generators)
- large industrial vehicles (such as forklift trucks, diggers and cranes)
- off-road vehicles (such as quad bikes and four-wheel drives).

Kent Police works with industrial companies, developers and landowners across the county to reduce incidents of plant theft and to track down and return stolen items.

Secure your site

- Make sure boundary or perimeter fencing is secure and well maintained.
- Consider the best location for site offices.
- Make sure windows are fitted with grilles or shutters, and doors with strong locks.
- Keep offices, buildings and storage containers locked when not in use.
- Consider installing CCTV systems, security lighting and alarms to deter intruders and help you to monitor activity on site.
- Make sure expensive tools and materials such as cable, copper pipe or construction equipment are locked away after use.
- Control access to the site, for example using barriers or gates.
- Make sure only nominated key-holders keep sets of keys to your premises.
- Make sure staff are trained in security measures and remain vigilant at work.
- Consider other safety measures, like identity cards or security staff, if necessary.

Protect valuable equipment

- Register any off-road vehicles with the DVLA at www.dft.gov.uk/dvla
- Remove ignition keys and secure machinery when not in use.
- Fit plant with alarms and immobilisers if you can.
- Consider fitting mechanical deterrents (industry recognised locking systems on steering and brakes) or remove the plant battery or fuse to deter thieves.
- Consider installing tracking systems to help trace any missing property.



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- Paint equipment in your corporate colours, making it less attractive to thieves.
- Security-mark plant and parts with a unique number so they can be more easily identified – there are a number of forensic solutions you can buy for this purpose.
- Fit a secure plate to items of plant, which details your company name, a unique identifier and a 24-hour telephone number, so police can call you to check equipment they see on the move.

Monitor plant use

- Make sure someone constantly monitors where equipment is, who is responsible for it and how it is secured when not in use, regardless of its value.
- If you hire plant, make sure it is returned promptly and check and record the identity of the person collecting it before letting it go.

Register your property

For information about the Construction Equipment Security and Registration (CESAR) national plant-marking scheme:

- Call: **0845 0700 440**
- Email: **enquiries@cesarscheme.org**
- Visit: **www.cesarscheme.org**

You can register other valuable items on a property database such as **www.immobilise.com**, so that it can be traced back to you if it is recovered.

Contact us

Report a crime

- Report a non-urgent crime online **www.kent.police.uk/report**
- Call **999** if a crime is in progress or life is in danger
- If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
- Visit your nearest police front counter to report non-urgent crime

News, information and advice:

- Speak to an officer – at a police surgery, at a front counter or by calling **101**
- Visit our website – **www.kent.police.uk**
- Follow **@kent_police** or your district account on Twitter
- Find us on **Facebook**

For details of all the ways to contact us, visit **www.kent.police.uk/contactus**

For other information guides in this series, visit www.kent.police.uk/yourguide