



Historic England



Heritage Crime Risk: Quick Assessment Tool

Step 1: Locate your heritage asset

Use [National Heritage List for England](#) to generate a map showing the location of most designated heritage assets.

Use your local authority website and their [Historic Environment Record](#) to locate conservation areas, locally designated heritage assets and other non-designated sites of historic interest.

Step 2: Consider the level of crime in the area

Use the [Police.uk](#) website to see local crime incidents and find local police contacts

Step 3: Assess the level of risk facing the asset

Use the table below to assess the level of risk facing the asset. If you tick more than two red category questions or four in total your property is potentially at considerable risk.

Risk	Type of Heritage Asset					
	Buried Ruins and Archaeology	Upstanding Ruins and Archaeology	Park or Garden	Listed Building - Residential	Listed Building - Non Residential	Memorial and Public Art
Is the asset long term unoccupied? (empty for more than thirty days) or is it left open without supervision?						
Does the asset have accessible external metal? (lead, copper)						
Is there a lack of supervision of the asset?						
Can vehicles access the site easily – including ‘out of hours’?						
Is the asset showing signs of neglect?						
Is there a lack of awareness in the local community of the importance of the asset?						
Is there a lack of security measures (eg alarms, fire detection, robust locks, gates) at the asset?						
Is the local crime rate high?						
Are there ongoing construction works in the area?						

Step 4: Consider appropriate crime prevention measures

Having assessed the general crime threat (Step 2) and the vulnerability of the site (Step 3) focus your attention on the sites most at risk.

References in the table below are to the numbered crime prevention techniques set out in the Heritage Crime Prevention Summary Table (see page 4) that are most likely to be useful in these circumstances. See our [Preventing Heritage Crime](#) webpages for further information.

		Type of Heritage Asset				
Hazard	Earthen Monument	Upstanding Ruins	Park or Garden	Listed House	Listed Public Building	Memorial
Unoccupied	2, 4, 6, 7, 9,10, 21, 22,23	2, 4, 6, 7, 9,10, 21, 22,23	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6, 7, 8, 9,10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,7,9, 10, 12, 13, 15,18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,7,9, 10, 12, 13, 15,18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10,21, 22, 23
Left open for periods	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23
Exposed metalwork	Not applicable		1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10,12, 13,19	1,2,3,5,6,7,9, 10, 12, 13,19	1,2,3,5,6,7,9, 10, 12, 13,19	1,2,5,6,7,9,10, 12, 13,19
Urban with anti-social behaviour	2,4,6,7,9,10,1 8,19,21,22,23, 24,25	2,4,6,7,9,10,1 8,19,21,22,23, 24,25	2,4,6,7,9,10,17,18,19, 21,22,23,24,25	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Urban deprived	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Remote location	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23	2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23				

Heritage Crime Prevention Summary Table

Increase the Effort	Increase the Risks	Reduce the Rewards	Reduce Provocations	Remove Excuses
<p>1 Make crime harder to commit</p> <p>Remove valuable items.</p> <p>Secure edges of metal plaques.</p> <p>Improve locks</p> <p>Security surveys.</p>	<p>6 Extend sense of community ownership</p> <p>Maintain site.</p> <p>Use Neighbourhood Watch-style groups.</p> <p>Set up a Heritage Watch group.</p>	<p>11 Conceal targets</p> <p>Hide any valuables.</p> <p>Place valuable objects at a maximum distance from visitor access.</p> <p>Security lights activated when visitors enter prohibited areas.</p>	<p>16 Reduce frustration with service or access</p> <p>Frequent guided tours starting at different points to avoid delays.</p> <p>Make sure it is clear why access is restricted to certain areas.</p>	<p>21 Set rules</p> <p>Display bylaws.</p> <p>Keep regulations updated.</p>
<p>2 Deny access</p> <p>Restrict vehicular access.</p> <p>Grow spiky plants.</p> <p>Restrict access to roof.</p> <p>Locate parking at distance so heavy items hard to remove.</p> <p>Anti-climb paint.</p>	<p>7 Increase potential for being seen</p> <p>Tree thinning, removal of excess undergrowth.</p> <p>Encourage use of public buildings and spaces.</p> <p>Security lighting where the site is visible by neighbours.</p>	<p>12 Remove temptation</p> <p>Take maintenance tools and cash off-site overnight.</p> <p>Consider alternatives to lead for roofing replacement.</p> <p>Ensure there are no combustibles on-site.</p> <p>Regular risk surveys across site to establish common trends</p>	<p>17 Avoid escalation of disputes</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour may be aggravated by confrontations - talk to your community policing team for advice.</p>	<p>22 Display rules</p> <p>Erect signage (eg no metal detecting, no vehicles)</p> <p>Advice on wording for signs may be available from sources such as insurance companies or police.</p> <p>Instigate hotline for visitors to report incidents.</p>
<p>3 Screen exits</p> <p>CCTV.</p> <p>Access barriers where appropriate.</p> <p>Make random searches of vehicles a condition of entry.</p>	<p>8 Reduce anonymity of visitors</p> <p>Timed Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)</p> <p>Develop information sharing process.</p> <p>Greeting visitors reduces feeling of anonymity.</p>	<p>13 Mark property</p> <p>Consider forensic marking techniques.</p> <p>Visible marking may be appropriate in some cases.</p>	<p>18 Use calming measures</p> <p>Play classical music at sites which are hotspots for problem behaviours.</p> <p>Sweet-smelling plants in vulnerable places.</p>	<p>23 Increase understanding</p> <p>Advertise the cost of replacing valuables after thefts.</p> <p>Post stories of people remembered on war memorials.</p>
<p>4 Move potential offenders away</p> <p>Provide designated spaces for disruptive activities.</p> <p>Review seating positions.</p> <p>Enforce disabled bay parking.</p> <p>Vary site lighting to move people to where you want them.</p>	<p>9 Encourage local vigilance</p> <p>Training for staff and volunteers to incorporate crime prevention.</p> <p>Alarms linked to key holders.</p> <p>Interior lights on time switches to provide signs of occupancy.</p> <p>Consider initiatives such as wildlife days to attract new volunteers.</p>	<p>14 Make dealing more difficult</p> <p>Dated and police-validated photographic record of assets.</p> <p>Remove any suspicious activity at trade and auction-sites.</p>	<p>19 Increase local engagement</p> <p>Organise events for local community, engaging with disenfranchised groups.</p> <p>Encourage visitors to provide feedback about the site and possible improvements.</p>	<p>24 Enable lawful behaviour</p> <p>Provide bins and toilets where needed.</p>
<p>5 Control tools/weapons</p> <p>Lock away ladders and tools.</p> <p>Alert community to higher crime risks where scaffolding erected.</p> <p>Keep wheelie bins away from access points.</p>	<p>10 Strengthen formal surveillance</p> <p>On-site accommodation for staff.</p> <p>Maximise staffing at times of greatest risk.</p> <p>Consult Secured by Design (www.securedbydesign.com/).</p> <p>Give police updates that might help them to target their activity</p>	<p>15 Deny benefits</p> <p>Remove graffiti and vandalism quickly.</p> <p>Liaise with Art Loss Register and similar organisations to ensure photographs or valuable items are available to those scanning stolen goods markets</p>	<p>20 Discourage imitation</p> <p>Remove litter.</p> <p>Quick repair of vandalism.</p> <p>Security lighting around.</p>	<p>25 Control drugs and alcohol</p> <p>Allow alcohol on-site only at organised events.</p> <p>Blue lighting in toilets.</p> <p>High price on-site alcohol sales.</p>

This document has been prepared by Mark Harrison. It is one of a series of six documents on Heritage Crime. These documents fall into two categories: Heritage Crime: Prevention and Heritage Crime Law Enforcement.

Prevention



Enforcing the Law



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

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