

Heritage Crime – How at risk are you?

Assess the risk of crime and antisocial behaviour for your heritage asset

Heritage Sites Risk Assessment Tool

The number of incidents of crimes and antisocial behaviour against heritage assets is escalating. Based on experience, this tool has been devised to help you self assess the risk of heritage crime for your heritage asset. Understanding how likely you are to suffer from these crimes is essential, so that you can put in place preventative measures to help you avoid suffering the loss, cost, inconvenience and heartbreak that heritage crime causes.

Heritage crimes include:

- Metal theft
- Architectural theft
- Arson
- Illegal metal detecting
- Unlawful alteration and damage to listed buildings
- Unlawful alterations to buildings in Conservation Areas
- Unauthorised excavation
- Unauthorised fires
- Criminal damage to monuments
- Criminal damage to Listed Buildings
- Public Urination
- Graffiti
- Substance abuse
- Other forms of antisocial behaviour

How to use this risk assessment tool

Simply add up how many points you score for answering 'YES' to the risk factors below section (A), and then deduct the points you score for answering 'YES' to the prevention measures you have taken section (B), to indicate how at risk you are from heritage crime. If you answer 'NO' to any of the questions, don't include the points! If you consider an answer is 'YES' and 'NO' then only include 'HALF' of the points for 'THAT' question. Some of the questions may not be applicable to your asset, so don't include them when scoring the asset's risk. **Help us to help you – assess your risk today.**

(A) Add	
Risk factor:	Points
Is the heritage asset ever unoccupied for more than a day?	40
Is the heritage asset in a geographically isolated location? (Isolated is defined as neighbouring properties not able to see asset at all)	35
Has the asset been targeted by any of the crimes (listed above) in the last 12	35

months?	
Are any points of access obscured from view from neighbouring properties and/or passing traffic?	35
Are you unaware of the heritage legislation and restrictions placed on carrying out works to a heritage asset?	25
Are any parts of the asset made up from/covered by external metal? (e.g. lead flashing, lead drainpipes, bronze plaques, etc)	15
Is the heritage asset within 2 miles of a motorway or major road network?	15
Are there parking facilities on or near the heritage asset?	15
Is there easy access onto roof areas e.g. scaffolding, porches, waste bins, tall trees that aid access to the upper roofing areas?	10
Are ladders stored in open or easily accessible areas?	10
Does the heritage asset have anything of architectural worth that is easily removed? (e.g. doors, fireplaces, sought after types of stone, wooden panelling, staircases, statues)	10
Is the heritage asset built from any combustible materials, e.g. timber, thatch?	10
Is the heritage asset more vulnerable to damage? (e.g. one section of asset is made of glass)	10
Is the heritage asset within walking distance to licensed premises?	10
Is the heritage asset in an area highly populated by students?	10
Is the heritage asset near amenity facilities? (e.g. race course, football grounds)	10
Does the heritage asset and its surrounding area have places that are easy to loiter/sit?	10
Does the heritage asset have easily accessed blank walls/spaces? (i.e. easy places to graffiti)	10
Your total	

(B) Deduct

Prevention measures:	Points
Is there a Heritage Watch group set up in your neighbourhood?	30
Do you consider the level of crime and antisocial behaviour to be low in your neighbourhood?	30
Have local police been informed about incidents of heritage crime around/against the heritage asset and local people asked to keep an eye on the heritage asset?	20
Have vegetation and tall trees around the heritage asset, which could screen criminal activity, been cut back to maximise surveillance levels?	20
Is there a system in place for promptly restoring/repairing a heritage asset after a heritage crime has occurred?	20
Is there any clearly advertised CCTV coverage for the asset?	15
Has an electronic roof security system been installed to protect external metals?	15
Have forensic markings been applied to external metal, signage displayed and has the forensic marking kit been registered?	15
Is there a security alarm installed?	10
Are all points of access to the heritage asset secured at all times, e.g. gates, doors, windows, roof(s)?	10
Have all means of access been removed and/or stored securely, e.g. scaffolding, waste bins, ladders, etc?	10
Is the site kept well maintained/managed to encourage respect for the heritage asset, e.g. litter cleared away, fixing broken lighting, installing good locks?	10
Have relevant signs been used around the heritage asset, informing people about the restrictions in place because the site is protected, e.g. listing no fire lighting, no illegal metal detecting, no excavation?	10
Is the asset in a police patrolled/community warden/watch area?	10
Is there a fire alarm installed with an autodial to the emergency services?	10
Has the design of the roads near to the heritage asset been risk assessed?	5
Is the site surrounding the heritage asset kept clear of all combustibles?	5

Are all internal doors closed at night to limit fire spread?	5
Are there appropriate fire extinguishers available in the event of a fire?	5
Is everything of architectural worth that can be lifted secured down?	5
Are you aware the heritage asset is at a higher level of risk from heritage crime in spring/summer because of the extra hours of daylight and school holidays?	5
Are there uncomfortable fencing/walls used to restrict loitering around the heritage asset?	5
Is the heritage asset well lit in the areas that can be viewed by neighbouring properties or passersby?	5
Has anti climb paint been applied and clearly advertised on any lower roofs and drainpipes?	5
Are signs in place describing any height/weight restrictions applied to the heritage asset?	5
Do you actively seek to learn what legislation and restrictions are placed on carrying out works on a heritage asset?	5
Have any risk assessment for the heritage asset been carried out in the past?	5
Your total	

Your overall score (A minus B)

Refer to guidance to understand what your score means.

If your score indicates a high level of risk, you need further expert advice.

Contact the Communities Unit at Cheshire Constabulary Headquarter, Clemonds Hey, Oakmere Road, Winsford, CW7 2UA. Or e-mail: communities@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

You can contact your Area Crime Reduction Advisor by telephoning 101 and asking to be put through to your local area.

Risk Assessment Guidance

What does your overall score mean?

Less than 40: Low risk

Even at a low risk there is still a risk of crime and antisocial behaviour. You are recommended to carry out a yearly review of any crime prevention measures in place and let the neighbouring properties around the asset know that even when a heritage asset is at a lower risk of crimes and antisocial behaviour, a watchful eye is still needed.

Between 40 - 80: Potential risk

It is recommended that you review security procedures. Please consider the following prevention measures if they are not already in place and email communities@cheshire.pnn.police.uk to let them know that the asset is at potential risk and needs further protection:

- Ensure local policing team, community safety warden, watch volunteers and the local community are aware that your heritage asset is at a risk of crimes and antisocial behaviour and ask them to be vigilant and keep an eye out for anything suspicious.
- Keep the site well maintained/managed (to encourage respect for the asset) by :
 - o Cutting back vegetation and tall trees to ensure clear lines of sight from neighbouring properties
 - o Repairing/restoring the site back to its original state after a heritage crime occurs in order to discourage further similar acts of disrespect.
- Carry out risk assessment once a year.

More than 80: Considerable risk

You are strongly recommended to your review security procedures. Please consider the above and the following additional measures if they are not already in place and email communities@cheshire.pnn.police.uk to let them know that the asset is at considerable risk and needs further protection:

- Install clearly advertised CCTV coverage
- Install an electronic security system with an autodial to the emergency services that protects against fire and illegal entry to the site.
- Restrict access by locking all doors, gates and windows
- Carry out a risk assessment once every six months.

This is only a guide to lower the risks and it is surprising the lengths offenders will go to commit crimes and antisocial behaviour. Even if you are in the Low risk category, please remain vigilant.

Further information

You should always use 999 if a crime is in progress or likely to occur. You can also ring 101 if you want to report a crime or criminal damage that is not in progress, or Phone Cheshire Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 if you require anonymity.