



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Bird Grove Farm
Hilderstone
ST15 8SL

Contact:: Claire Fernyhough

Date: 25th February 2026

Dear Mark

Target hardening

With reference to my visit on 20th February 2026 and the survey carried out on the above property, I am now able to make the following recommendations. The recommendations are seen as appropriate in order to address the current level of risk at this site.

The risk level has been based upon information as stated by you, my observations, and statistical data where available. Any variation to the perceived level of security risk because of a change in working practices, personnel, equipment etc. may render this report ineffective and it is advised that contact is made with the sender at the earliest possible opportunity. The vast majority of crime is preventable and therefore good crime prevention will reduce your vulnerability to the effects of disruption by way of loss, damage or theft and minimise any reputational damage to your business.

The entrance to your property is reasonably secure with the access controlled gating which leads to the main yard and house, and the galvanized farm gates on the 2 access points to the dog exercise field however, the actual boundary of your land would be more easy to breach by climbing over the wooden rail fencing or cutting the barbed wire fencing. I note however that you have more robust fencing ready to be installed once the weather improves. Given some suspicious incidents in the area recently, and incidents experienced by your neighbours, my main concern would be the amount of vehicles, equipment and materials you have stored on the yard. These are all quite easily visible by anybody if they wanted to scope out your property from the adjoining field. You have various trailers and agricultural vehicles on the yard as well as various other materials including metal, all of these things which are attractive to thieves and regularly targeted in rural communities.

To prevent being targeted I recommend you store the vehicles, equipment and other materials out of sight within a barn/outbuilding. This building should be large enough to house all your vehicles and equipment fully enclosed with the access doors secured, similar to the barn already in situ on your property. Please also consider tethering vehicles and trailers to ground anchors with security chains rated to SoldSecure Silver standard as a minimum. I know you have Datatag or a similar marking system on your agricultural vehicles and I'd recommend also purchasing a forensic marking kit for your tools, materials etc and ensuring deterrent signage is displayed.



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You have CCTV covering the entrance to your property and part of the yard and it'd be worthwhile extending this to cover your boundary perimeter where it meets the fields. It'd also be useful to install an intruder alarm within the secure barns. Dusk 'til dawn lighting covering the yard is preferable to ensure it is constantly lit overnight.

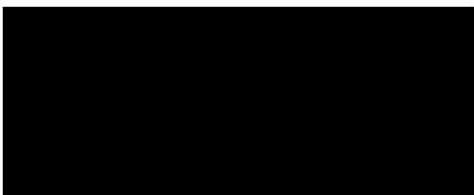
With regard to security products please look at www.securedbydesign.com which is the official police security initiative providing a recognised standard for all security products that can deter and reduce crime. There are many accredited manufacturers of security products including fencing and gating available through this website. Further information on accredited security products is also available at www.soldsecure.com.

All security equipment installed should be to the relevant British Standard and/or Loss Prevention Certification Board Standard. Installers should be certified to install such equipment to obtain the maximum crime resistance from the product.

The recommendations contained within this report are the professional statements of the author. As such, they represent what we believe to be the best advice in terms of 'doing all that is reasonable to prevent crime and disorder' under the terms of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. All comments and recommendations are 'Site Specific'. Crime prevention advice is given free without the intention of creating a contract. Neither the Home Office or the police service take any other legal responsibility for the advice given.

Should you require any further advice or information please do not hesitate to contact us/me.

Yours sincerely



Claire Fernyhough
Crime Prevention Officer
Early Intervention & Prevention Unit