

# Site and plant security

A robust security regime not only helps to protect the site and plant, but also machinery, supplies, tools and other vehicles.

Security for the construction phase **must** be planned before work starts and adhered to throughout the development, no matter how many phases there will be. There is a duty for the principle contractor 'to take reasonable steps to prevent access by unauthorised persons to the construction suite' under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. Any security measures need to be specific to the geography and requirements of that site.

## Hoarding:

- **Recesses:** It is essential to ensure that any hoarding avoids creating recessed areas, as these could enable anti-social behaviour, rough sleeping and loitering.
- **Structure:** Hoarding should be a minimum of 2.4m in height and of sturdy construction, with strong fixings internally. Heras and similar fencing is best used as an inner site defence.
- **Signage:** This must clearly show it is a development site and include contact details for reporting any concerns.
- **Climbing:** Avoid footholds or using materials that can allow climbing. Consider areas where street furniture and vehicles (if positioned close to hoarding), or items stored against the hoarding, could be climbed on to enable access over the top. Spiked collars make climbing a lamp column more difficult; angled extensions, fans and fence toppers can also help deflect climbers.
- **Maintenance:** Ensure damage is repaired immediately to limit opportunities for access. Highlight that there is a monitored site management system in place. The immediate removal of graffiti, especially if offensive, is essential.
- **Gates:** These must be full height, with no gaps underneath that can be crawled under. They should be fixed with hinges which ensure the gate cannot be lifted off. If any fixings must be external, the bolt/screw heads should be "burred" off. Any holes installed for access control must be designed with a security cowling or filled to avoid creating a foothold. Padlocks should be of disc design, closed shackle or shrouded. Long shackles must be avoided.

## Access:

- **Access points:** Minimise the number of entry points to limit opportunity for unauthorised access. Ensure a 'locking down' procedure is adopted with a clear line of responsibility.
- **Access control:** Fobs and codes can work well. Unless authorised, fobs must be handed in at the end of the day and not left in vehicles to be borrowed. Ideally fobs should be identifiable, therefore less likely to be mislaid. Any codes must be changed regularly – or immediately if someone has to be expelled from site.
- **Security guards:** Having 24/7 site security cover is highly advantageous.
- **Site alarms:** These can work well but must be monitored, with a suitable policy for authorised people in a nearby location to check immediately if they are triggered.
- **Signing in:** A signing-in system works well but must include a working 'signing-out' policy to ensure nobody has stayed behind for criminal purposes.



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## Plant and tools:

[www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) (SBD) is a police initiative which provides guidance on designing out crime and crime prevention.

[www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) is owned and run by the Master Locksmiths Association, a not-for-profit trade association, which offers a selection of approved products.

- **Immobilise:** Keys must be removed and locking mechanisms and anti-theft devices should be considered when plant and machinery is not in use.
- **Secure:** Plant and machinery should be stored in a secure compound, either chained to immovable objects, ground anchors or to each other, when not in use. Break throttle locks are also recommended.
- **Tracking systems:** These activate when machinery is being interfered with or moved, so that site security staff can alert the police. They also make plant less attractive thieves.
- **Accurate records:** Logs should be kept of owned or hired equipment, along with serial/registration numbers, to help identify stolen plant and machinery.
- **Vehicle Identification Numbers:** These must be kept up-to-date, secure, and include chassis and engine numbers.
- **DNA liquids:** Designed for tools, these liquids are traceable and should be used in conjunction with easily identifiable markings. Tool safes and high security storage sheds can also be useful.
- **Power tools:** These can be chipped and some use technology to immobilise them if used by anyone other than the owner. While this will not guarantee to stop theft, labelling that tools are protected can also help to reduce the crime.

## Buildings:

Security grilles for buildings should meet SBD advice and standards. There should be no gaps, no handles or fixings left exposed, which could be used to gain access. Wooden sheets and roofing felt are not suitable. Appropriate glazing, for example laminated, can be used and must meet the current SBD commercial guidance.

Suspended ceilings must not have enough space above which could enable unauthorised access.

## General:

- Adopt a culture of challenging anyone not carrying ID.
- Report any suspicious behaviour to the police.
- Secure scaffolding towers and ladders when not in use; scaffold alarms can be a deterrent.
- Site lighting should be low level to assist security patrols, must cover access points and only be accessible to authorised personnel. Cabling should be enclosed in a steel conduit.
- Store valuable materials, for example cable, copper, boilers, white goods and lead, in secure units or buildings, ideally with lighting, an alarm and CCTV.
- Visit **[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)** for more information and advice.

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in large print, another format or language, email us at **[communications@kent.police.uk](mailto:communications@kent.police.uk)**