



Heritage crime includes all of the following:

- Advertising/fly posting
- Anti-social behaviour
- Architectural theft
- Arson
- Criminal damage/graffiti
- Metal theft
- Planning enforcement refusal
- Public urination (The Rows, Chester)
- Unauthorised development
- Unauthorised excavation
- Unauthorised fires
- Unauthorised metal detecting
- Vehicular damage

You will see from the list no single agency can tackle all these issues along. It requires a partnership response and support by community groups — the most important partner. The agencies will not always be aware of these issues and are reliant on local community groups to provide them with the information.

The Cost

The cost to communities of heritage crime is enormous, not just in monetary value, but in social costs. Think about the impact of the local church being damaged: no Services, no Sunday School, weddings and christenings cancelled.

The financial costs are often considerable.

How do you source materials for a building that is hundreds of years old? You cannot just pop along to the local hardware store.

History fascinates people. It brings in tourists, which generates investment in the local economy. These sites are often crucial to many people's livelihoods.

Many of you may remember the theft of the War Memorial from Willaston. The thieves sold it as scrap and it was melted down, lost, irreplaceable! How could anyone in good conscience do such a thing to the memorial of so many brave people to whom these same people owe the freedom they enjoy today?

How do I join Heritage Watch?

A member of the Rural Crime Team will contact local groups with a vested interest in protecting our history.

Cheshire Police Rural Crime Team



You can follow any operations or incidents of heritage crime on the Rural Crime Team's Facebook page by clicking on the QR code.

Calling 999 (you will be asked which emergency service you require)

This is the emergency number for all the services and this should be called when:

- Someone's life is in danger (for example, a car crash)
- A crime is happening or you believe one is about to happen (theft, burglary, damage)
- There is serious risk to a person or to others (someone is threatened with a knife)

Calling 101 (please press option 1 to report a crime or provide information)

This is a non-emergency number for the police. This should be called when the incident has already occurred and is not on-going at the time of the call, for example:

- A burglary or damage has occurred overnight and is not ongoing when you arrive at the premises
 - A theft has occurred but you are not sure when it happened
 - To report any anti-social behaviour
- During the call, please remember to state you are calling from or for a heritage site.

You can also report non-urgent incidents online at cheshire-police.uk

When you are transferred to a Force Control Room call handler, these are some questions you will be asked:

- Your name
- Your address or business
- Your contact number

What has occurred or exact description of what you have seen, for example:

1. Have you been broken into?
2. Has something been stolen? If so, what? Did you see the offender? When was the item last seen?
3. Has something been damaged? If so, what has been damaged? When was it damaged?
4. There is an issue of ASB. What exactly? Who is causing this? Youths, adults, street drinkers? Do you have any descriptions? Time of day it is occurring.

If you have any descriptions of any people you will be asked a number of questions:

1. Male/female
2. Age
3. Height
4. Hair (colour and length/style)
5. Build (tall, stocky, slim)
6. Clothing (trainers, shoes, hooded top, shirt, t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms, jeans)
7. Other distinguishing features (shaved or unshaven, wearing glasses, carrying anything, scars, tattoos)
8. Direction of travel (names of streets if you know them)

If you have seen a vehicle in the area or used in any incidents you'll also be asked:

1. Make and model
2. Colour
3. Type (estate car, van)
4. Registration number (even a part number helps)
5. Direction of travel

Cheshire Police
ALERT

Registering with this site is completely free, and not only allows you to receive messages about your local area, but also allows you to feed back information to your local policing teams to help them better police your neighbourhood. Go to: www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk



Neighbourhood Watch

There are different membership models to offer flexibility to suit you. At the heart of each one are you, your neighbours, and your community. Once you have joined as an Individual Member, you have the option to become a Scheme Member by either joining a local scheme or starting one up. Go to www.cheshirenw.org or www.ourwatch.co.uk



Resident's Voice

It is important to us that we know about the issues that cause you concern. We have set up a survey where you can tell us about the things you would like us to focus on in your area. Go to: www.cheshire.police.uk/residentsvoice



CONTACTING CHESHIRE POLICE

Abuse of the 999 system is an offence and may lead to prosecution.

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<p>1</p>  <p>999</p> <p>IN AN EMERGENCY</p>
<p>2</p>  <p>101</p> <p>WHEN IT'S LESS URGENT THAN 999</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>REPORT ONLINE NON-URGENT INCIDENTS</p> <p>cheshire.police.uk</p>

Heritage Watch is supported by the agencies below, who are all committed to working together to support local communities to protect our heritage:

- Cheshire Constabulary
- Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Chester University
- English Heritage
- National Trust
- Historic England



Why Heritage Watch?

Have you ever visited a historic house, looked inside an old church or walked around some of Cheshire's most ancient monuments?

Cheshire has a wealth of sites of historical interest; in fact we are fortunate enough to have over 560 heritage sites.

Now consider for one moment if future generations were denied the opportunity to enjoy these sites, to learn from them, as you and your children have been able to do.

Partner agencies have been looking at the problem of heritage crime and have come together to see what can be done to protect heritage assets for future generations.

What is heritage crime?

Heritage crime is any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings.

Some heritage assets are protected by specific legislation to prevent harm

caused by damage or unlicensed alteration.

However, other crimes such as theft, criminal damage, arson and anti-social behaviour offences can also damage and harm heritage assets and interfere with the public's enjoyment and knowledge of their heritage.

Heritage assets are sites which are considered to have a value to the heritage of England and include:

- Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- World Heritage Sites
- Protected marine wreck sites
- Conservation areas
- Registered parks and gardens
- Registered battlefields
- Protected military remains of aircraft and vessels of historic interest
- Undesignated but acknowledged heritage buildings and sites.
- Cultural Property for example historical artefacts, boats and trains.