



MAY 2008 BULLETIN

CRIME REDUCTION

Beauty spot – thefts from motor vehicles

As the weather becomes warmer with the onset of spring and summer, many people like to celebrate the end of winter by escaping in their cars to visit some of the many places of outstanding beauty around our lovely county. Having arrived, the natural impulse is to leave the car and go for a pleasant walk to enjoy the surroundings.

Unfortunately at the very time when the poet tells us that our fancy should be turning to thoughts of love, the criminal mind is turning to thoughts of theft and easy pickings. These people are predators and cars left at the beauty spot car parks and their contents are favourite prey! So remove the opportunities and reduce the chances of becoming a victim by taking the following advice:

When parking, try to leave the car where it is overlooked from the road, neighbouring buildings or an area such as a picnic site where other people can act as natural guardians.

Try to park near to other vehicles.

Satellite navigation systems are an increasing object of desire to criminals. If you have a portable system always take it with you when you leave the car, together with the support cradle and suction pads. And remember to wipe away any suction pad marks left on the windscreen or dashboard, as thieves will look out for these.

Don't leave satnavs or other valuables such as purses or handbags in the glove compartment or try to hide anything under the seat – thieves will check there first.

Mark your satellite navigation equipment system and any other 'in-car' entertainment systems such as audio and video players with your postcode and house number. Remember also to register it at www.immobilise.com.

Make a note of the make, model and serial number of the equipment and keep the note somewhere safe – not in the car.

Lock all doors and windows, not forgetting the sunroof, when leaving your car.

Don't leave anything on view in your car. Thieves are opportunists and it only takes a moment to break in. Remember that even an empty bag or a coat left on a back seat of a locked car can be sufficiently tempting for a thief to smash a window. So, whenever you can take property with you when you leave the car but if this really is impossible, lock it in the boot out of sight.