

Longwick/Ilmer/Owlswick and Little Meadle NW  
Alert Notice  
Stolen Number Plates  
17 March 2024

On 8 March a member has stated that both sets of number plates on their car had been stolen either from their driveway overnight on the Thame Road end of the village, or at the Phoenix Trail by the railway line next morning.

### **Secure Number Plates with tamper resistant screws.**

The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your vehicle's number plates makes it harder for thieves to get your number.

### **For Wheels for locking , anti tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels.**

Stolen wheels are valuable, either as parts or for their scrap value. Using locking wheel nuts reduces the risk of your vehicle's wheels being stolen.

Advice on keeping your cars safe too:

### **Lock your vehicle.**

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open.

If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

### **Close windows and sunroofs to prevent "fishing"**

Leaving windows and the sunroof open invites fishing for items through the gap by hand or with, say, a bent coat hanger, which could also be used to unlock a door for them to get in. Thieves can be ingenious. Don't give them the opportunity.

### **Secure anything that's on the outside of your vehicle**

Anything left on roof-racks, tailgate racks, holiday top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when the vehicle is parked. The use of cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tools chests, which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still, don't leave things in them if you can avoid it.

### **Take it with you or hide it**

Your mobile phone, coins for the car park, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief. Remember, the cost of replacing a window is often much more than that of what is stolen. And it should go without saying that wallets, handbags, purses and credit cards should never be left in an unattended vehicle.

### **Hide electrical items and leave no clues**

Leaving sat nav mounts, suction cup marks on windows or cables on view gives it away that you have left a Sat Nav, smartphone or other device in your car. Even if they can not see the Sat Nav or iPad they might still break in to see if it is stored in the car, out of sight.

### **Tool theft from vans**

Vans are often targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. If you have to leave tools in a van overnight, it's a good idea to mark them clearly with your name / company name and address using paint pens and seal with a clear lacquer spray. Alternatively, you can use a variety of other property marking systems. Items that are clearly marked are less desirable and more difficult to sell on.

Consider using a lockable cabinet within your van to store tools – a number of security rated products are available. Small cameras are also designed to record inside vehicles.