

Consider setting up an asset register for the whole allotment scheme with a designated person responsible for maintaining records and registering valuables.

Consider holding regular property marking days involving the local police and other agencies.

Consideration should be given to spray painting basic tools (Spades, forks, and the like), a gaudy colour. This makes them less attractive to thieves, makes them easily identifiable and does not detract from their efficiency as a working tool.

### Signage

Fix in place weatherproof signs, which are clearly visible to users and passers-by, these should display rules such as who is allowed in, opening hours, contact details of allotment provider and how to report crime or ASB.

### CCTV

Allotments often have no mains power, so CCTV is mainly limited to: Trail cameras or something like the U-Watch cube.



(generic image of a trail camera)



[www.uwatch.co.uk/the-cube](http://www.uwatch.co.uk/the-cube)

Both types of camera are now available with solar power as well as standard battery power. Some can have sim cards fitted to them to alert you when an activation has occurred.

All the information on these cameras is readily available on the internet, so you can choose the type and specification most suited to your needs.

### Allotment Associations & Members

Is adequate information provided on what is expected of allotment holders regarding their responsibilities?

Are tenancies regularly reviewed regarding maintaining shed security and upkeep?



## ALLOTMENT SECURITY

Durham Constabulary does not endorse any products. All research into the product is the responsibility of the individual concerned. However were possible products used should be endorsed by Secured by Design

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/>

or sold secure

<https://www.soldsecure.com/>

All their products are tested and when passed are approved by every Police force in England and Wales and insurance companies alike.

## ALLOTMENT SECURITY

General  
Recommendations  
& Advice



If you need to contact the Crime Prevention Department please use [crimepreventionofficers@durham.police.uk](mailto:crimepreventionofficers@durham.police.uk) we will respond as soon as we can to your query.

PREVENT CRIME  
PROTECT COMMUNITIES

Follow this advice to help keep your allotment secure.

### Top Tips

- Avoid leaving anything valuable on your allotment
- Secure your shed and the perimeter
- Keep vigilant and report crimes and anti-social behaviour
- Keep serial numbers, an inventory and photographs of anything valuable, safe at home

### Perimeter

Perimeter fencing should be in good condition, without holes or gaps for a criminal to get through. Consider planting thorny shrubs inside the fence at low level to deter climbing. However, do not plant thick vegetation where it faces public areas as open surveillance into your allotment is a big deterrent as the criminal will not want to be seen.

Trim back and thin out vegetation or trees that are overgrown and adjacent to perimeter fencing or gates as they may be used to easily climb into and out of your allotment.

Ensure that the public facing side of the gates are screened to prevent being used to climb over.

Do not place waste heaps or recycling bins/composters or other large containers next to perimeter fencing otherwise the criminal may use the spoil as a climbing aid and it could help hide the criminal from view.



### Vehicle Access

Vehicle gates should be strong and be unable to be lifted off their support brackets.

Strong key operated locks should help prevent opportunists but if necessary could also be reinforced with a security chain. Choose police approved 'Sold Secure' gold standard products and padlocks to no less a standard than CEN Security Grade 4.



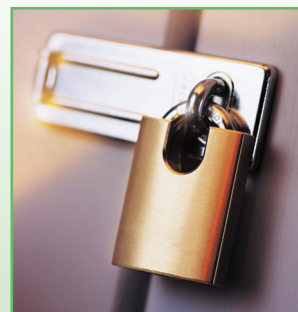
### Sheds

Sheds will be less likely to be targeted if they are in view of passers-by or neighbouring properties.



Doors, frames and walls should be in good condition. Hinges should be secured with threaded coach bolts and back plates or large back washers.

Close shackled padlocks should be used on doors. Windows should be secured and preferably blocked up with internal metal mesh.



Floors and walls can be lined with plywood or metal sheeting to make them stronger and more resistant to attack.

Fix chains/anchor points to walls/floor to secure heavy/valuable items and tools. If no heavy items are available to chain tools to, fill a bucket with concrete and embed a chain.

Try to avoid leaving expensive items and tools in your shed. Where possible use tamper proof screws on locks and hinges or drill out heads of screws once fixed in place.

### Secure Storage Container

Consider investing in one large secure metal alarmed container for the storage of valuable items for all allotments.

Doors should face toward public areas or properties. Key security must be controlled.



### Property Marking

Visibly paint/mark property with postcode or other identifying marks. Note serial numbers and record/register on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

Keep photos of valuable equipment.

