



**Buckinghamshire
Basic Command Unit**

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Metal Related Thefts

Over the past few months the Hughenden, Hazlemere & Chepping Wycombe Police area has observed an increase in theft of metal. The metal is either being stripped from private and/or commercial properties, e.g. lead flashing being removed, or is being taken from a home owners garden or driveway where scrap metal is clearly visible to the general public.

The police are also receiving daily reports of vans and recovery trucks that are cruising the area looking for the opportunity to collect what the van's occupants deem to be unwanted scrap metal, or to use it as an excuse to trespass upon your property.

In some instances reported to the police, cycles that have been left unsecured in the front garden and old cars have also been taken.

The more vulnerable properties appear to be those having building or renovation work being carried out or those where scrap metal is left in full view of the public, e.g. an old radiator.

If the metal upon your property is of value to you then lock the item up and put it out of sight of prying eyes and don't send an open invitation to those who will profit from your loss.

If you genuinely have scrap metal that you want to be collected by a scrap merchant or "rag and bone" man then leave the item at the entrance of your property, like you would do with your wheelie bin. Alternatively take the scrap to a local scrap dealer and profit from your own recycling or take it to your local authority recycling centre.

The police have had some success in targeting those who collect scrap metal by working in partnership with The Environmental Agency, as scrap metal is classed as a waste product and those transporting metal need a licence. Operating without a licence can result in a large fine.

If you do observe any suspicious vehicles in the area then please call the police.

Please be vigilant and help prevent crime.

Regards

Hughenden, Hazlemere & Chepping Wycombe Neighbourhood Police Team