

Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

Guidance Note

Perimeter Security



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Fencing

In many cases, the fences around your home are the first line of defence.

The front, rear and side boundaries have different functions where security is concerned:

- 28% of domestic burglaries are committed from the front of the house.
- 7% from the side and 62% from the rear. In addition 3% gain access via the roof. This should help to determine your priority areas.

Check Your Boundaries

Walk round the whole perimeter of your property. Check your fences, gates shrubbery and hedges. Look for possible points of entry and hiding places.

Check for good visibility from surrounding houses and roads where appropriate.

Front Boundaries

Low boundaries at the front give maximum visibility. Burglars will feel safer if they can hide behind high fences/ hedges and be obstructed from the view of passers-by from the road.

For Further Crime Prevention Advice:-

For Norfolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Architectural Liaison Officer (ALO)

For Suffolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team

Rear and Side Boundaries

The height of rear and side fences should be 1.8m. If your boundary is particularly vulnerable the height can be increased with trellis. This can be attractive and will act as a deterrent as it's difficult to climb over without breaking the fence or making a noise. Gates can also have trellis fitted above them.

Gates

All gates should be fitted with lockable slide bolts and be locked with a sturdy padlock to stop someone reaching over to gain entry. If you use your side / rear gate to exit your property then a surface mounted mortise lock can be fitted which allows the gate to be locked / unlocked with a key from both sides.

Additional Measures and Information

Foliage against a fence can provide an effective barrier, especially if a prickly shrub is planted, and can also improve appearance. A four foot box hedge at the front is ideal as it provides natural surveillance as well as a wide barrier for anyone to cross over and makes a potential burglar feel vulnerable because he can be seen.

If you feel that you need something such as barbed wire or other topping along the tops of walls and fences, you are advised to get in touch with the Crime Reduction Officer for advice. They will be able to give you advice regarding your responsibilities under the Occupiers Liability Act.

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