



Environmental Visual Audit

Ref No: 025-1-2020

**For: Safer Streets Funding Bid
Whitley Ward
North Yorkshire**

Prepared by: **Mr. Richard Ball, MPlan**
Designing Out Crime Officer
Email: Richard.Ball@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk
Telephone: 01609 643 900

26 March 2020

Contents

1. Executive Summary	2
2. Scanning	2
2.1. Rural Crime.....	2
2.2. Whitley Ward	3
2.3. Topography	4
2.4. Road Network	4
2.5. Burglary Count.....	4
2.6. Burglary Benchmark	4
2.7. Repeat Victims.....	5
2.8. Modus operandi examples for burglary.....	5
3. Analysis.....	5
3.1. Access & movement	5
3.2. Structure	6
3.3. Surveillance	7
3.4. Ownership	7
3.5. Physical protection.....	7
3.6. Activity	8
3.7. Management and maintenance	8
4. Response	8
4.1. Target Hardening - Improving home security measures	8
4.2. Intruder Alarm Systems	8
4.3. Enhancing Defensible Space and Demarcation	9
5. Conclusion	9

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Whitley Ward: Selby 010C (E01027923) and Selby 010D (E01027924) LSOAs

- 1.2. Burglary has a disproportionate impact upon rural communities across North Yorkshire with repeat victimisation of farms a particular issue. North Yorkshire has experienced a significant increase in the cost of rural crime of 86.7% between 2017 (£958,652) and 2018 (£1,789,478).

The OPFCC for North Yorkshire has made dealing with rural crime a priority for the force.

- 1.3 Scanning and analysis shows that the Whitley Ward consisting of the Selby 010C (E01027923) and Selby 010D (E01027924) LSOAs has a unique set of circumstances that make dwellings and farms in the area vulnerable to burglary.

Road networks in particular make Whitley vulnerable to cross border crime from West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Humberside.

- 1.4. Whitley Ward meets the Home Office benchmarks as a defined geographical area, with a suitable population size and a burglary ratio over 8.29 to be considered for a Safer Streets Fund bid.

1.5. Principle Recommendations:

- Dwellings - Upgrade locking furniture to dwelling rear doors, garage doors and sheds across the Ward to resist and deter burglaries and attempted burglary.
- Farms – Sensor alarms placed in strategic locations around a farm that trigger CCTV, lighting and an audible signal, that could also be linked to a mobile phone app will enable the farmer to respond to illegitimate activity straight away and deter any crime from taking place.
- Fields – Bund fields at strategic locations to prevent access to the field and protect the rear of vulnerable properties.

2. Scanning

2.1. Rural Crime

- 2.1.1. The National Rural Crime Network states that there is a damaging cycle in rural communities where a loss of confidence in police leads to under-reporting of crime. NRCN research estimates that over one third of crimes in rural areas go unreported, meaning rural crime is underestimated officially then is not prioritised, leading to perceptions of poor response, which in turn discourages reporting, and so the cycle starts again.

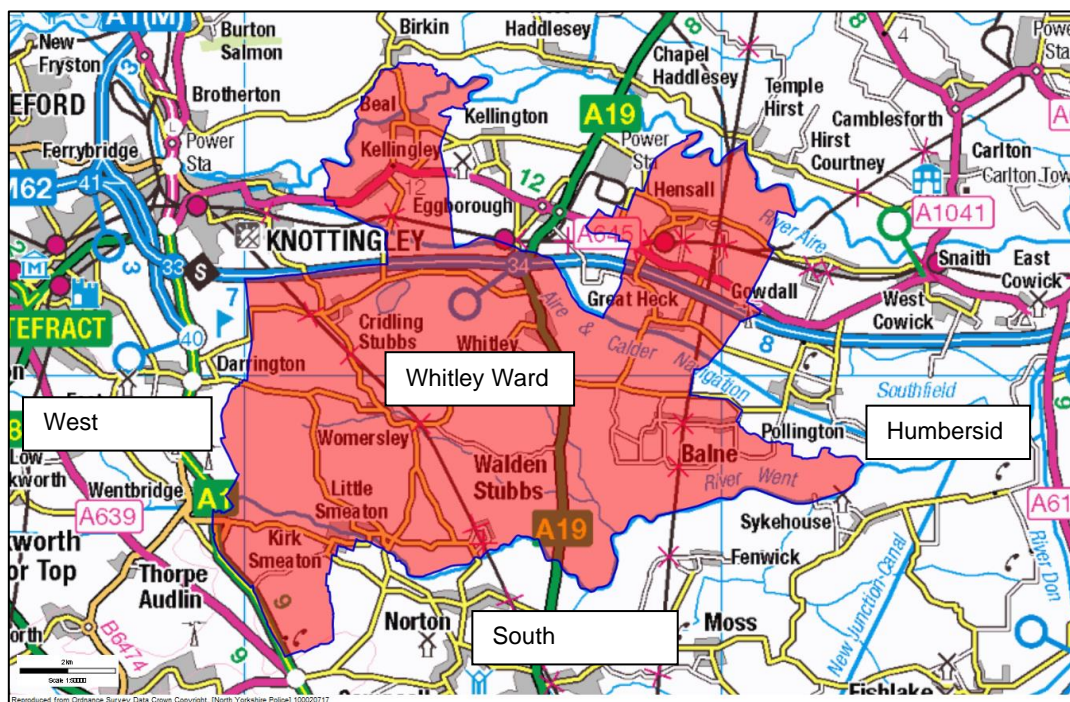
- 2.1.2. When we look at how safe victims of different crimes feel in their own home, particularly after dark, we notice that a number of what might be considered rural specific crime victims feature at the top of lists of those who feel unsafe. Albeit not proven to be directly causative there is a relationship that suggests that certain types

of rural specific crime and in particular burglary can be highly impactful on feelings of security.

- 2.1.3. One of key objectives of the Police and Crime Plan for North Yorkshire is to improve its response to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of communities that are hard to reach, either physically, such as isolated rural communities, or due to socioeconomic and other circumstances.

2.2. Whitley Ward

- 2.2.1. The Selby 010C (E01027923) and Selby 010D (E01027924) LSOAs form the Whitley Ward located in the Selby District of North Yorkshire. It is situated at the southern tip of the county and is bordered by West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Humberside.



- 2.2.2. The Ward has a population of 4,586 (mid 2017) and has 1,778 households (2011 Census). The main conurbations in the Ward are Hensall, Kirk Smeaton and Whitley.



Hensall



Kirk Smeaton



Whitley

2.3. Topography

Topographically the area is flat and predominately agricultural. For large parts of the Ward the field boundaries are only delineated by grass verges.

2.4. Road Network

The M62 motorway is a major route through the Ward linking Knottingley and Pontefract to the west to Hull in the east. Junction 34 of the M62 gives access to the A19 trunk road which provides a link north to Selby and south to Doncaster. The A1(M) forms part of the boundary of the Ward to the west. A network of minor roads and farm tracks complement the major routes, making the area very permeable.

2.5. Burglary Count

	E01027923												Total
	2017			2018			2019			2020			
	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4		
Aggravated dwelling burglary								1		1	1		3
Attempted burglary business or community building													5
Attempted dwelling burglary	2			1	1							1	4
Attempted other residential building Burglary				1		1		1				1	4
Burglary business or community building	1	2	3	1	1	5	6	3			5	6	34
Distraction dwelling burglary							1						1
Dwelling Burglary	1	5	3			4	2	1	4	1	4		25
Other residential building Burglary	1	3	1	3	3	3	7	1	2			2	26
Grand Total	5	10	9	5	5	12	18	5	7	7	12	3	98
	E01027924												Total
	2017			2018			2019			2020			
	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4		
Aggravated dwelling burglary										1			1
Attempted burglary business or community building						1							1
Attempted dwelling burglary			2	1		1		1				1	6
Attempted other residential building Burglary				1				1					2
Burglary business or community building	7	1			2		1	5	2	2	2	1	23
Distraction dwelling burglary													
Dwelling Burglary		7	4	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1		20
Other residential building Burglary	1	1		1			1	2	1	4	1		12
Grand Total	8	11	6	4	5	2	9	5	5	7	2	1	65
	Whitley												
Aggravated dwelling burglary	1												
Attempted burglary business or community building	4												
Attempted dwelling burglary	11												
Attempted other residential building Burglary	6												
Burglary business or community building	57												
Distraction dwelling burglary	1												
Dwelling Burglary	45												
Other residential building Burglary	38												
Grand Total	163												

2.6. Burglary Benchmark

- The population for Whitley Ward is 4,586 (2017 mid-year estimate).
- Average burglaries over three years is 60.
- Rate per 1,000 population = 13.08.

2.6.1 Adjusted for underreporting, the average burglary number is 74 giving a rate of 16.1 per 1000 population.

2.7. Repeat Victims

Of the 166 burglaries recorded by North Yorkshire Police for the period March 2017 to February 2020, 64 involve repeat locations, mainly of farms.

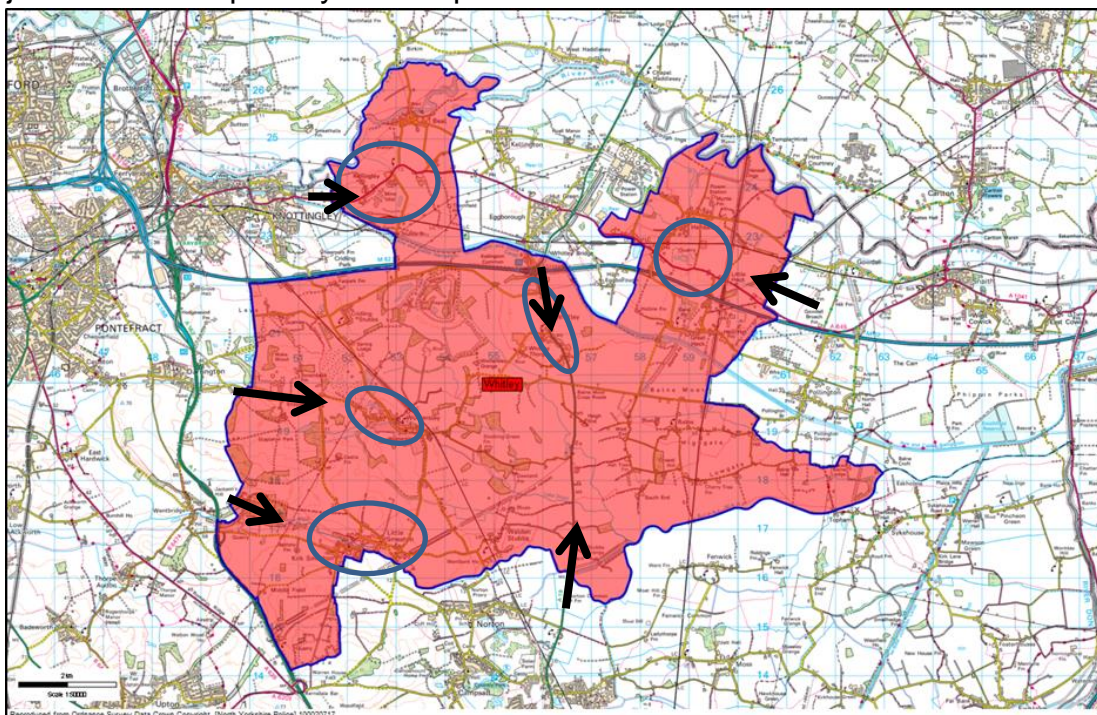
2.8. Modus operandi examples for burglary – 1 March 2019 to 29 February 2020

- Unknown offender(s) have come over the fields into the garden and forced the lock on the garage door of a dwelling. Entry is gained and a quad bike stolen.
- During the day offender(s) have snapped the euro lock cylinder to a rear door of a dwelling whilst the occupier is at work. Entry has been gained and property stolen from within.
- Overnight unknown offenders have broken through the barn roofing of a farm to gain access to a diesel tank and a large quantity of diesel is siphoned off.
- Overnight unknown offenders have come onto the farm estate in vehicles. They drive across fields causing damage to crops to get to the farm. They then enter storage sheds and steal property from within.
- Overnight offender(s) have entered the farm yard and attempted to steal three tractors by breaking the ignition barrels.
- Offender(s) gain access to farm building and make off with quad bike and other items of machinery from within.

3. **Analysis**

3.1. Access & movement

3.1.1. The road network in this area makes it vulnerable to cross boarder crime, with offenders travelling from West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Humberside. The M62 junction 34 is a primary access point.



Key



Burglary hotspots



Routes into the area

- 3.1.2. There is an extensive network of minor roads and droves. This permeability provides potential escape routes for criminal activity.



- 3.1.3. Fields provide access to the rear of buildings. Modus operandi for burglary across the ward shows that access and egress by offenders is via fields to the rear of dwellings and farm yards.



3.2. Structure

- 3.2.1. The topography and field structure in the area allows 4x4 vehicles and quad bikes easy access onto fields so that offenders can approach the rear of dwellings and farm yards without being seen.



- 3.2.2. The structure of farm yards in the Ward tend to be organic and open allowing an offender easy access to storage sheds and barns containing farm machinery and equipment.



3.3. Surveillance

- 3.3.1. Criminals can operate, including travelling to and from the location, without fear of being seen because they drive over fields to get to their targets.
- 3.3.2. Criminals or their activities do not attract attention or they are confident that no one will take any action because there is little surveillance at night and a lack of a capable guardian to intervene.
- 3.3.3. All sides of buildings and all parts of spaces are not overlooked by surrounding users or passers-by because they abut to fields.
- 3.3.4. Buildings and spaces are not designed to allow surveillance 'outside' from 'inside' and vice versa. Farm houses tend not to have clear lines of site to their storage sheds and barns.
- 3.3.5. There is a static ANPR site on the A19 trunk road south of Whitley. However, the permeability of the area allows it to be circumnavigated.

3.4. Ownership

- 3.4.1. Private space is easily accessible to people who have no right to be there. It is easy to enter and exit farm yards illegitimately.



- 3.4.2. Due to the lack of capable guardianship, an offender's presence does not attract attention.

3.5. Physical protection

- 3.5.1. It is easy to remove property. Due to the open layout of farms, there are opportunities, for example, to steal diesel fuel and farm machinery.



- 3.5.2. Modus operandi for dwelling burglary is predominately snapping euro-cylinder locks to rear doors to gain entry. For garages and sheds locks are also forced. Where

physical security precautions are used on farms they tend to be circumnavigated by breaking through roofs and side walls.

3.6. Activity

The area becomes devoid of activity at night, whilst remaining accessible to offenders. Consequently, at night criminals can go about their business unnoticed.

3.7. Management and maintenance

3.7.1. Police response times to incidents and neighbouring police force commitments to their communities make the Ward susceptible to cross border crime. Offenders travel to the area to commit crime and escape before the police can respond.

3.7.2. The lack of a capable guardian gives an offender the opportunity to commit dwelling burglary during the day whilst the home owner is at work and at night at farms when there is no activity taking place.

4. **Response**

4.1. Target Hardening - Improving home security measures

4.1.1. Engagement with residents, Housing Associations and private landlords to improve the security of property is paramount as improved physical security has been proven and evidenced to reduce domestic burglary. There is strong evidence from the College of Policing to support this approach which is underpinned by recent research by Professor Rachel Armitage (Huddersfield University). Properties that meet the Secured by Design Standard have been proven to resist and deter burglaries and attempted burglary.

4.1.2. Modus operandi for dwelling burglary in the Whitley Ward clearly shows that the method of attack is to force locks to rear doors, for example snapping euro-cylinder locks, and to force open garage and shed doors.

4.1.3. It is recommended that locking furniture for dwelling rear doors, garages and where possible sheds be upgraded to Secured by Design standard.

4.2. Intruder Alarm Systems – Improve the means to respond and deter illegitimate activity on a farm at night

4.2.1. The Routine Activity Theory (Cohen & Felson) states that for a crime to take place, a motivated offender must come together, in the same time and place, with a vulnerable victim, in the absence of a capable guardian.

4.2.2. The analysis clearly shows that a lack of surveillance and a capable guardian on a farm at night provides the opportunity for an offender to repeatedly target storage facilities and barns to steal equipment and machinery as offenders are confident that no one can take any action to prevent them from doing so. Also physical security

measures often do not deter such attacks as offenders have the time and the tools to circumnavigate them.

- 4.2.3. It is recommended that sensor alarms placed in strategic locations around a farm that trigger CCTV, lighting and an audible warning, that could also be linked to a mobile phone app will enable the farmer to respond to illegitimate activity straight away and deter any crime from taking place.

4.3. Enhancing Defensible Space and Demarcation – prevent illegitimate access to fields

- 4.3.1. In terms of crime prevention through environmental design , access control relates to the limitation of access, egress and through movement for buildings and for space. The aim is to make it more difficult for offenders to enter an area or building and move around without being conspicuous and not challenged.
- 4.3.2. Collectively farmers can, with assistance, barrier access points to fields to prevent 4x4 vehicles and quad bikes using them to target their farms and dwellings that abut to fields.
- 4.3.3. It is recommended that bunds are built at strategic locations to prevent access to fields so that vulnerable properties that abut to a field are better protected. This measure will also have the added benefit of assisting in controlling poaching which is prevalent in the area.

5. **Conclusion**

- 5.1. Scanning and analysis clearly shows that the appropriate response to sustainably reduce burglaries and in particular reduce repeat victimisation, is to target harden dwelling rear doors, garages and sheds, provide the means for a capable guardian to respond to illegitimate activity on farms and prevent access to fields that abut to vulnerable premises.