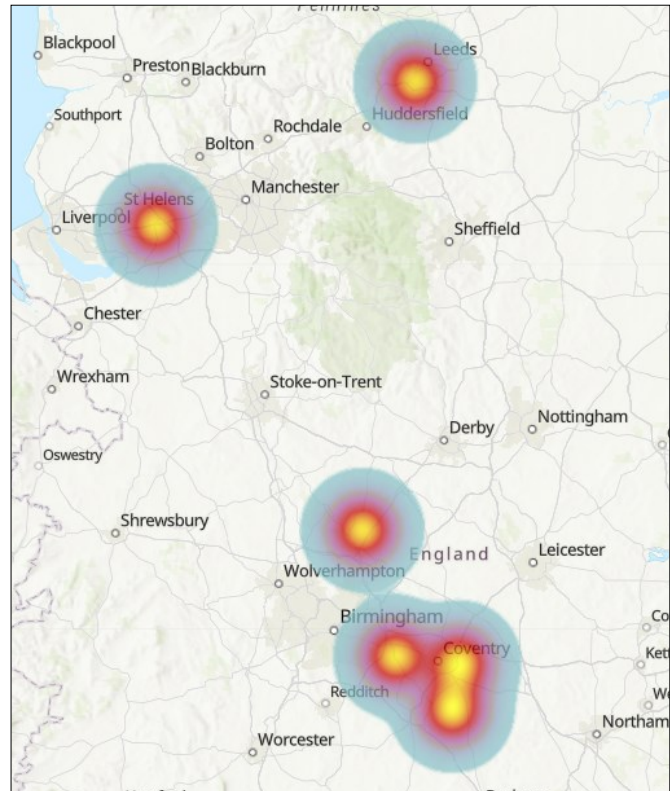


Intel Alert 17/01/2023**Thefts of survey equipment**

There has been a significant increase in the theft of survey/GPS equipment since the beginning of December, in the West Midlands and South Yorkshire areas. Historically, reported survey equipment thefts have primarily been limited to London, and were usually stolen from the roadside whilst in use.

However, offenders appear to have moved north, with Birmingham and South Yorkshire areas being heavily targeted in recent weeks, using the following methods:

- Break in to offices/sites/storage rooms; MO includes cutting through the perimeter fence, and breaking in via a window. On a number of occasions, locks and/or doors have also been damaged to gain access to the equipment. In one incident, offenders also disarmed the CCTV.
- Stealing equipment from parked vehicles; Access is usually gained by drilling holes in the van lock. In one such incident, a van that was fitted with deadlocks was broken into, where holes were drilled into the side of the van. Once inside, offenders cut the lockbox allowing them to take the box containing the survey equipment.



Heatmap showing thefts of survey equipment 1/12/22—16/01/23

West Midlands

The West Midlands has been targeted heavily most recently, with 3 incidents occurring between 11th and 16th of January in Lichfield, Warwick and Solihull. A further 2 incidents occurred in November and December in this area, and all 5 incidents involved offenders breaking into a site/storage area as stated above. 2 of the reported incidents note 3 or 4 male offenders being involved.

South Yorkshire

In Warrington, a van was broken into overnight on 13th Jan by having the locks drilled through, and a huge amount of equipment was stolen. In November and December, two separate sites/offices were broken into c.8 miles apart.

If you would like any security advice, or have any similar incidents to report, please do not hesitate to get in touch with crime.intelligence@detertech.com or opal@westmercia.police.uk