



Celtic Crackdown

TER recently assisted Dyfed-Powys Police with the successful recovery of £120,000 worth of stolen plant in the Welshpool area. Items included a JCB 3CX, a Takeuchi Mini Excavator, a JCB 530 Telehandler and a Manitou MT932...

in the Welsh borders which resulted in the recovery of four telehandlers, a Bobcat and a Kubota mini-excavator. One of the telehandlers, a Cat TH63, was bearing a real Australian identity, although it had been stolen from London in 2003. In addition, a Manitou MT932 was found to have a French identity - the real one is still in France - this one had been stolen from Surrey in 2004.

The total value of the recovered equipment is in excess of £120,000.

Police Sergeant Simon Heeley of Dyfed-

Powys Police said TER's assistance had been invaluable. "We found TER especially effective when we located a JCB telehandler abandoned in woodland," he said. "Within minutes of contacting TER, they were able to provide us with full details and confirm it was stolen." The recovered equipment is owned by Norwich Union, MMA Insurance, Royal Sun Alliance, ACE Europe, HSB Haughton, AXA Insurance and Zurich Financial Services and, once the police release it, will be sold by TER on behalf of insurers.

The JCB 530 Telehandler, Takeuchi Mini Excavator, and Manitou MT932 telehandler, recovered in the Welshpool operation...

How 7 Kubota mini-excavators were recovered in Hertfordshire...

TER's Olympic Games Initiative

Home Office asks for insurance improvements

Why do thieves steal equipment?

How thieves re-badged a Volvo to become a JCB!



Stolen so far this year: 691 trailers, 743 excavators, 220 dumpers, 137 rollers, 82 telescopic handlers & 65 tractors - Don't buy used equipment without checking it first with TER - £25+VAT/search. See TER's website for search terms and conditions - www.ter-europe.org

Seven minis seized...

"In an effort to drive down the cost of equipment related crime and fraud while improving the recovery of stolen equipment, Norwich Union are closely examining ways in which we can extend our support for TER's work with the police and ourselves."

Paul Sullivan, Norwich Union

Seven stolen Kubota mini-excavators were recovered in April from a Hertfordshire plant yard. They were being stored in the back of a trailer which had 'Eat More Chips' sign-written down its side!

The joint Hertfordshire and Thames Valley Police operation, codenamed Buenos Aires and supported by TER, found that the Kubotas had been stolen a month before from a plant hire company near Milton Keynes.

"The recovery of nearly £100,000 worth of plant and equipment stolen from the Milton Keynes police area in April 2005 is mainly down to the efforts of the two investigators from TER," said Det Sgt Richard Morton of Milton Keynes Police Station, Thames Valley Police, the officer responsible for running the operation.



At first glance nothing looks untoward...



"Without their efforts the property would undoubtedly not have been recovered and this is a good example of the police working with other agencies to reduce and detect crime." Paul Sullivan, Norwich Union's property underwriting manager, added: "Both we and our client are delighted that the equipment has been recovered by TER".

Ifor Express

There are around 6,500 stolen Ifor Williams trailers on TER's database. Purchasers should take great care when buying a used trailer. Has the identification data been interfered with? Are you being offered the trailer in a pub car park, for cash, with no receipt? How was the trailer advertised? Did you view the trailer at the keeper's premises?

During recent operations with the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Police, TER identified eight stolen Ifor Williams trailers, valued at £12,000. All the trailers had been stolen over the previous six weeks from Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. A man was arrested.

Ifor Williams Trailers (IWT) register all their new sales with TER, and both companies regularly exchange trailer theft data.



Essex yard hit again

Four Kubota mini-excavators (U20HG, U25-3G x 2, and U45-3G) and three Thwaites dumpers (2 tonne, and 3 tonne x 2), valued at £150,000 were stolen on 20th July from Leach Lewis's yard at Waltham Cross in Essex. In March this year the same yard had £100,000 of Kubota mini-excavators stolen. Anyone with any information on either theft should contact the police, Leach Lewis or TER.

JCB hit at Rocester HQ

On 25th May, thieves broke into the plant park at JCB's HQ at Rocester in Staffordshire and stole two new 3CX backhoe loaders. They are still missing. If you have any information on this theft please call the Staffordshire Police, JCB or TER. JCB are offering a £10,000 reward - call 01889 590312.

Trans-Atlantic connectivity

TER's sister company in the United States of America is the National Equipment Register (www.nerusa.com). If you operate in the US as well as the UK, you should get registered in America.



Green Machines to get registered...

The Environment Agency is to register all its plant and equipment with TER in line with the Home Office crime reduction recommendations. TER will be supplying TER registration warning decals to place on every machine (have you got them on your machines?). The Environment Agency looks after our environment from flood risk to pollution control, our coastline, and our wildlife, and much more. Find out more at www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Volvo becomes JCB!



In a 'first of its kind' case, TER has identified a Volvo EC55 mini-excavator which a criminal gang had morphed into a JCB 805!

The extraordinary excavator came to light when TER was asked to assist the West Yorkshire Police to identify the machine. In addition to JCB decals and model information, the excavator was bearing a JCB 803 plate and had had all its stamped-in numbers ground out from the kingpost.

After the true identity had been recovered from the machine it was determined that it had been stolen from a client of Chubb Insurance in Burnley in Lancashire in October 2003. When the police release it, TER will sell it on behalf of Chubb.



The true identity is revealed - under the paint and plaster we found the Volvo name...

Olympic effort...



TER has written to the London Development Agency, which is co-ordinating the 2012 Olympic building programme, to advise them of security precautions for Olympic building sites. The advice includes crime reduction, registration, due diligence, theft reporting, and health and safety and insurance concerns over non-EU conforming machines which could be used on the sites. TER copied the letter to the Home Office, the Metropolitan Police, the HSE, the Construction Plant Hire Association and the Major Contractors Group.

Ports overboard

Shortly after a TER briefing, the Dyfed-Powys Police Ports unit which covers Pembroke and Fishguard Docks recovered four items of stolen equipment. These included a Benford 6000 dumper which had been stolen in Essex in 2002, and a JLG cherry-picker and a Caterpillar mini-excavator both stolen from Sussex in 2004.



Down-under sale

TER recently sold a recovered Caterpillar backhoe loader to a company in Australia. The Cat 432 had been stolen in Lincolnshire in 2004 and was recovered by TER in support of the Cambridgeshire Police earlier this year.

The Law Enforcement Agencies

While it is widely known that TER supports the police, TER also assists UK law enforcement agencies. These agencies include:

- HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) www.hmrc.gov.uk
- The Environment Agency www.environment-agency.gov.uk
- The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) www.vosa.gov.uk
- The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) www.hse.gov.uk

Enforcement officers can contact TER 24/7 to assist them with the identification of plant and equipment, or any other plant and equipment related advice that they may require. Dodgy fuel, illegal dumping, VAT fraud, money laundering, non-registered trailers, health and safety failings and the likelihood is that any plant and equipment found on these sites or during road checks may also have some question marks over it.



Commercial crime is on the up...

The Institute of Directors and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) reported rising levels of crime targeting commercial organisations, with many firms having a worrying lack of insurance cover. With the average value per crime of £5,000, Derek Croucher of the FSB said that businesses needed to give more thought to how they protected themselves. The average value of each theft reported to TER is £9,400, almost twice the national average!

Why do criminals steal plant and equipment?

- It's worth a lot of money
- It has virtually no integral security
- Owners and users don't look after it in the same way that they look after their personal property
- Virtually no checks are done by any party buying, selling, insuring or financing used plant and equipment to see if what they are about to buy, sell, insure or finance is stolen
- There is huge demand for used equipment
- Plant and equipment crime is not a police priority

Reporting thefts

If you have had an item of equipment stolen, you should report it as soon as possible to the police and then to TER. The details required will include: owner and hirer details, equipment details (type, make, model, serial number, registration plate number), theft details (place of theft, date and time of theft, police crime reference number) and insurance details (company and policy of claims reference number). Use the Theft Registration Form on TER's website at www.ter-europe.org Do you know anyone else who has had an equipment theft? Get them to report the theft to TER.

Police briefings

TER provides a 40 minute police and law enforcement officers (mainly Traffic/Roads Policing, Ports Units and Force Intelligence) briefing on equipment theft in the UK (who, what, when, why, where and how of equipment theft), what TER is, and how TER supports the police and law enforcement officers. In the last few months TER has provided briefings to Sussex Police, West Midlands Police, Avon & Somerset Police, Dyfed-Powys Police, the National Roads Policing Intelligence Forum, Lancashire Police Ports Units, Merseyside Police Ports Unit, South Wales Police Ports Unit, Kent Police Channel Tunnel Unit, and the Police Service of Northern Ireland Ports Unit. To find out more, please contact TER.



Home Office asks for insurance improvements

The Home Office is writing to the CEOs of all the UK plant and equipment insurers to ask them to introduce minimum security standards for plant and equipment insurance. These security standards include TER registration, as well as integral and perimeter security of the equipment itself. Key questions for insurers posed by the Home Office are: should insurers not be doing more to prevent themselves insuring stolen plant and equipment, and to reduce some of the £1M/week that equipment theft pumps into the coffers of serious and organised criminals and terrorists; should insurers not be doing more to address the Financial Service Authority's requirements for driving down money laundering, theft and fraud in this business area?

Intelligent targeting

TER is acquiring the i2 intelligence analysis system to support intelligence collection, collation, analysis and dissemination. TER operators met with Control Risks Group, in which TER shareholders have a stake, to look at their I2 system in operation. The same system is used by the police and law enforcement agencies and will assist when analysing TER data and briefing officers on potential targets for operations.

Insurance Institute presentations

Are you a member of the Insurance Institute? Would you like a presentation on TER, Loss Management Group and the Art Loss Register? We have carried out a number of these presentations to Insurance Institutes; please call TER.

Sites of interest...

- **Environment Agency**
www.environment-agency.gov.uk
- **HM Revenue and Customs**
www.hmrc.gov.uk
- **Vehicle Operator Services Agency**
www.vosa.gov.uk
- **Health & Safety Executive**
www.hse.gov.uk
- **Home Office Crime Reduction Advice**
www.secureyourmotor.gov.uk/othervehicles/toptenplant.html
- **National Equipment Register**
www.nerusa.com
- **Loss Management Group (LMG)**
www.lossmanagement.co.uk
- **The Art Loss Register (ALR)**
www.artloss.com



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