



A wireless infrared motion detector in situ at a typical installation

A new era in the fight against metal theft

Following thorough investigation and successful trials on churches at a number of theft hot spots, we are pleased to let you know about a new product to help in the fight against metal theft – **an electronic roof security system.**

Metal theft crime is escalating

With escalating claims levels recently, metal theft is one of the most serious problems that churches and heritage buildings face. The level of risk is different in each case and we're very pleased to be able to let you know about this new product that reinforces the other preventative measures available such as using a forensic marking system approved by us, such as SmartWater*, engaging with your local community and speaking to your dedicated surveyor for expert advice.

What is a roof security system?

This particular roof security system consists of a series of passive infrared (PIR) motion detectors working wirelessly using digital radio technology. When the alarm is triggered, a voice-enhanced sounder and blue strobe lights activate, in order to deter intruders from trespassing further. The alarm system then relays immediate intrusion alerts to an NSI Gold Alarm Receiving Centre, who take action based on your previous instructions – this may include the immediate despatch of security personnel. This is particularly useful for buildings in more remote rural areas, where the alarm warns of danger but there may be no-one able to respond quickly or effectively.

If you install an approved roof security system, and have also applied a forensic marking system approved by us to external metal, displayed signage and registered with the provider, Ecclesiastical Insurance, Methodist Insurance and Baptist Insurance may be able to increase your metal theft cover, depending on individual circumstances.



Alarm sounder and blue strobe light installed in a church tower

How does it work?

A PIR motion sensor works with 'invisible' (infrared) energy. When an intruder passes through the sensor's detection area, it detects a rise in heat. This means that whereas a living body will trigger the detector, blowing leaves or moving tree branches will not. The system has also been designed to distinguish the difference between wildlife and people moving on the roof – making constant false alarms a thing of the past.

Key benefits

- **Effective** at deterring metal theft as demonstrated in recent trials in theft hot spots
- The system is specifically designed to **detect and deter intruders before any damage is caused**
- The technology used is virtually **invisible and reversible**
- Large roof areas can be covered **cost effectively**
- The system requires **no user intervention and works for years**
- If the security system is activated, **a planned response based on your specific instructions is carried out** – perfect for buildings in remote or rural locations.

Permissions

In the case of Anglican churches, the DAC should be consulted at the earliest stage about what permission is necessary for installing an alarm. Intruder alarms are included in the items for which an Archdeacon can grant a Faculty when the proposal is unopposed and the advisory committee recommends the works or proposals in question, or raises no objection to them. It is worth approaching your Archdeacon and your DAC secretary as soon as you start to consider the installation of a system and they will advise on what permission is necessary for installing the alarm. In some situations you will also need local authority planning permission. **The installation may well be considered urgent, so it is worth asking the DAC secretary if there is a mechanism in your diocese for treating an intruder alarm as a *de minimis* item.**

*The registration and use of a forensic marking system approved by us, may be a policy condition on some insurance policies. Please check your policy documents for details.

**UK mainland only – travel expenses may be applicable offshore.

Churches from other denominations and other organisations should contact appropriate authorities. We can provide further guidance about permissions on an individual basis.

Sensitive installation

Great care is taken to ensure that the location and fixing method for this security system respects the building. Conservation specialists are closely consulted in order to ensure that there is minimal impact to historic building fabric. Wireless technology will be deployed on the roof in order to minimise disruption and reduce unsightly cable installation. Following your request, a site visit will take place and a detailed report produced, indicating the proposed system design and costs. The installation is usually completed in one day and the system will be maintained annually by the installation company, at minimal cost.



Roof security system panel installed in a church tower

For more information

To arrange a free, no-obligation site survey, please call 0845 600 9659 and quote ECC 1. You can also speak to your local surveyor for advice specific to your building.**

Note: Ecclesiastical will review and assess alternative electronic roof alarm systems from other suppliers/installers upon submission of their details.

