

The E-Bound Voice

March 2024

2009 - 2024

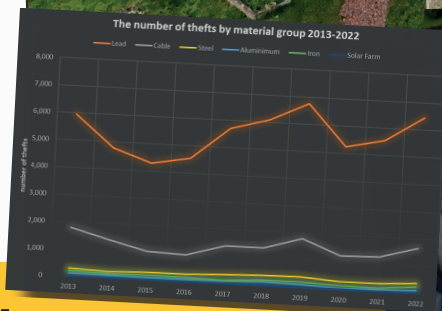
15 YEARS

## Tackling Metal Theft

A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Metal, Stone and Heritage Crime.



This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All Party Groups are voluntary groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this report are those of the Group.



**All-Party Parliamentary Report on UK Metal Theft. What can we do?**

**2023 E-Bound Alarm Saves. Retrospective for the last year**

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*Cover photo: St Peter & St Paul's, Kimpton*

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## Celebrating 15 Years

E-Bound AVX is celebrating a significant milestone this year – our 15th anniversary. It's with immense gratitude that we reflect on the journey that has led us to this remarkable moment.

Fifteen years ago, we embarked on a journey with a vision to eradicate metal theft from church roofs. Since then, it has been an incredible ride filled with growth, challenges and countless moments of joy and a few of sadness. As we celebrate this milestone, we want to take a moment to express our deepest appreciation to you, our loyal customers, for your unwavering support and trust in us.

Fifteen years ago, whilst the world was a very different place, it was eerily similar in many ways. During 2009 the UK was grappling with the effects of the global financial crisis that began in 2008. Gordon Brown was serving as the Prime Minister and his tenure was marked by economic challenges and political controversies. Earlier that year, the world was dealing with the H1N1 influenza pandemic, also known as swine flu.

Over the past decade and a half, we have worked tirelessly to perfect the E-Bound roof alarm system. It is currently the only system available that was designed specifically as a roof alarm, for the protection of church roofs. It was conceived and designed with the metal thief in mind and is manufactured here in the UK, to our specification and not available to other security companies.

As we commemorate this special occasion, we are filled with excitement for the future.

Three years ago we converted the business to an Employee Owned Trust, which studies have shown to be highly resilient and more sustainable. The incentives presented to employees improve motivation and performance, while employment standards tend to be higher, resulting in a far more robust business for customers to deal with and allowing us to invest and grow as we have over the years.

Once again, thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Here's to 15 years of growth, achievement, partnership and to many more years of success ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Angus Brown'.

Angus Brown  
Managing Director, E-Bound AVX Ltd

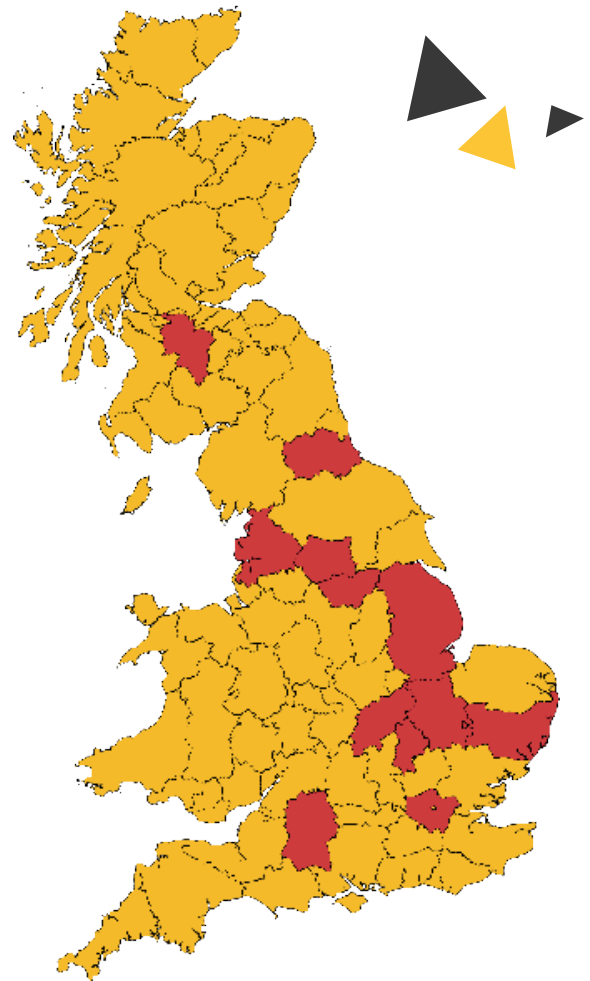
# 2023 E-Bound Roof Alarm Saves

**During 2023 E-Bound roof alarms proved instrumental in safeguarding the lead of several dozen churches across twelve counties, from Lanarkshire to Wiltshire.**

In each case, intruders targeted the premises and in some instances tampered with roofing metal, crucially without succeeding in removing it from the buildings. The installation of E-Bound Roof Alarms on these structures not only thwarted potential thefts but also averted substantial financial, structural and historical losses for these historic buildings. The financial implications of metal theft are considerable. The effectiveness of E-Bound's intervention is vividly demonstrated in 2023, particularly in West Yorkshire, which experienced the highest number of attempted lead thefts where E-Bound Roof Alarms were installed. This region saw a number of attempted metal thefts, underlining the tangible impact of proactive security measures in high-risk areas. This data is substantiated by West Yorkshire ranking at the top of its regional category for non-residential burglaries, reporting a notable 4,244 incidents according to the Office of National Statistics (ONS) for crime in England and Wales for the year ending June 2023. An intriguing aspect of the theft figures published by the ONS is the remarkable variation observed between different regions. While only three regions in England recorded a decrease in reported metal theft incidents in the 2022-2023 period compared to the previous year the overall figure for metal theft declined to 28,446 reported incidents from the previous year's 29,920.

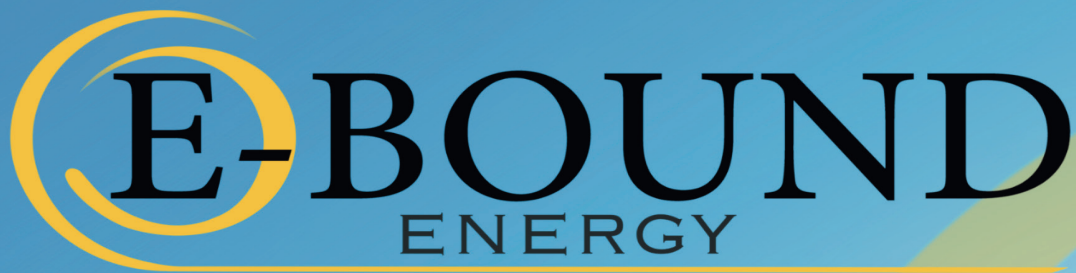
These statistics underscore the invaluable contribution of initiatives like E-Bound's church roof alarm system in mitigating the widespread impact of metal thefts across diverse geographical areas.

As we reflect on these achievements it becomes increasingly evident that innovative security solutions play a pivotal role in preserving not only the material wealth of communities but also the cultural and historical heritage embedded in these sacred spaces. E-Bound's commitment to protecting churches from the scourge of metal theft stands as a testament to the transformative power of technology in safeguarding important parts of our national heritage.



**ABOVE: Map showing the counties where E-Bound Roof Alarms saved the Lead or metal of a church in 2023.**





# HARNESSING SOLAR POWER FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

**LONG TERM INVESTMENT**

**REDUCE ELECTRICITY BILLS**


**FINANCE OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

**SUSTAINABILITY FOR SACRED SPACES**


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# APPG Metal Theft Report

by Colin McFadyzean

Last month, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Metal, Stone, and Heritage Crime (APPG MSHC) released its comprehensive report titled "Tackling Metal Theft." This significant inquiry aimed to bridge the existing knowledge gap regarding the reporting and recording of metal theft in the United Kingdom. By actively engaging with both the private and public sectors, the inquiry sought insights from expert witnesses who shared their experiences dealing with the multifaceted challenges posed by metal theft. The report underscored the commendable efforts of individual actors in preventing and reducing metal theft. However a critical finding indicated that, in certain areas of central and local government, metal theft does not receive the prioritisation it deserves. Especially considering its substantial economic cost to the UK and its pervasive impact on daily life. Startling statistics revealed that metal theft imposes an annual cost of half a billion pounds on the UK economy, accumulating to a staggering £4.3 billion over the past decade.

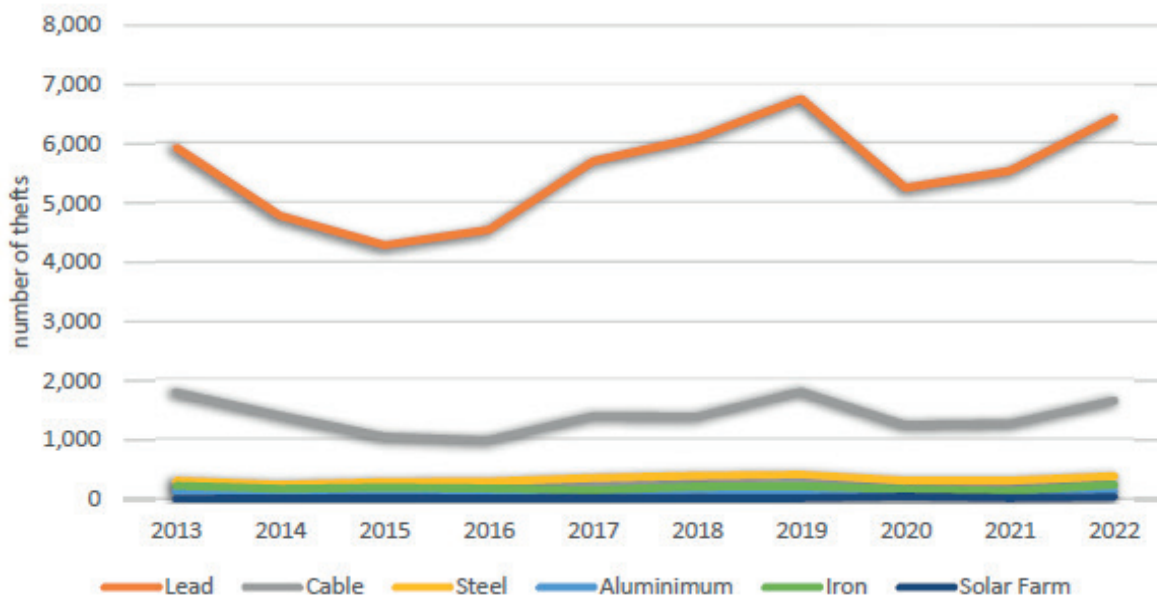
**BELOW: St Mary's Church, Kirtlington.**



***"in certain areas of central and local government, metal theft does not receive the prioritisation it deserves"***

Specifically, thefts involving lead increased by eight percent from the previous year totalling 6,446 incidents in the last year alone. Notably, the theft of lead from church roofs and historic buildings retained its status as the second most significant cause of metal theft in the UK, ranking just behind the theft of catalytic converters. An alarming shift in the nature of these thefts was highlighted in the report. Initially characterised by low-value, low-volume incidents by opportunistic thieves, metal theft has evolved into high-value, high-volume crimes, with organised criminal gangs now orchestrating audacious heists, including the theft of entire lead roofs.

The inquiry further unveiled that up to 60 Organised Crime Groups are currently active, accounting for a substantial majority of metal theft crimes. One striking example detailed in the report involved the theft of 20 tonnes of lead from Houghton Conquest's All Saints Church in 2018, resulting in a staggering £2 million in bills left for the affected community. Additionally, churches such as Little Massingham's St Andrew's Church are grappling with the aftermath of lead thefts that occurred almost six years ago, with communities tirelessly raising funds, such as the £14,000 gathered through local events, to replace stolen lead. The report also marked the 10-year anniversary of The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, a legislative measure requiring scrap metal dealers to hold and display either a scrap metal dealer's site licence or a mobile collector's licence. Although the initial enforcement of this act in 2013 led to a decline in overall metal theft figures during the first five years, a concerning upward trend re-emerged in 2018, only subsiding with the implementation of national COVID restrictions. However, the presented figures may not fully capture the extent of the metal theft scourge, as evidenced by the inquiry's findings.



*LEFT: Graph showing number of recorded metal thefts for the last 10 years and the type of material stolen.*

The lack of ownership and oversight of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 coupled with insufficient data on prosecution and sentencing, raises concerns about the adequacy of current measures to combat metal theft effectively. When metal thefts are reported, they are often misclassified as ‘non-dwelling burglary,’ which fails to reflect the true nature of the crime- a crime rooted in the theft of constituent metals.

In December 2023, the National Churches Trust (NCT) took a noteworthy step by distributing grants worth £1.4 million to churches nationwide facing lead thefts from roofs or requiring urgent repairs. Despite these grants, the financial burden on affected churches remains substantial, with some facing six-figure sums for repairs. Moreover, the potential damage to these historic buildings, integral to the nation’s history and heritage, is a cause for heightened concern.



**ABOVE: St Mary's Church, Furneux Pelham. Image: E.Herts Police**

The report concluded by addressing the effectiveness of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, emphasizing that while it initially contributed to a reduction in metal theft incidents, a diminishing level of knowledge and ownership has led to a lack of enforcement.

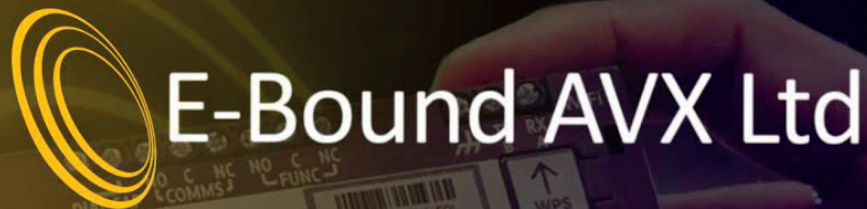
To tackle these challenges the report proposed ten recommendations. Among these, it advocated for the establishment of a Home Office-led working group comprising all stakeholders involved in combating metal crime, insertion of a specific metal theft offence code in the Home Office’s next Annual Data Return, capturing more detailed information on metal crime, and a concerted national police effort to gather intelligence on and counter organised criminal gangs responsible for the bulk of metal theft. Furthermore, the report suggested that the Home Office should lead a review to determine the most suitable organisation for carrying out Scrap Metal Dealer licensing. These recommendations aim to address the complex and evolving landscape of metal theft in the UK, ensuring a more coordinated and effective approach to combating this persistent challenge.

A link to the report can be found here: [APPG Tackling Metal Theft](#)

# Staff Profile: Sharny



- **Name?** Sharny Louise Day
- **Age?** 32
- **Home Town?** Peterborough
- **Role at E-Bound?**  
Administrative Manager & IT Support.
- **How long have you been with the company?**  
It'll be 9 years in October!
- **Has your role evolved over time?**  
Yes, I started off as an admin assistant.
- **Do you have an office nickname?**  
Sharby or Sharns.
- **Do you recall any embarrassing moments at work?**  
Complaining to colleagues about the service of a supplier by email... with the supplier still copied in.
- **What was the most unusual or interesting job you've had besides E-Bound?**  
Selling games to nerds at a videogame store.
- **What are 3 words to describe E-Bound?**  
Family, supportive, evolving
- **What do you like the most about E-Bound?**  
I love that we are a small team that is more like a family or bunch of good friends where everyone counts and we aren't just treated as another number like with bigger businesses.
- **How would you describe the company culture?**  
Innovative as a business and ever evolving to thrive.
- **One thing about you people might not know or surprise them?**  
I collect dolls
- **What piece of advice would you give to your younger self?**  
Research costs of living in the UK and get a weekend job ASAP
- **Any random facts you could share with us?**  
If you keep the root end on an onion undisturbed until last while chopping, your eyes won't water.
- **What is the first concert you attended?**  
Bullet for my Valentine
- **Favorite meal?**  
Lasagne with chips
- **Favorite book/song or poem?**  
Currently love most songs by Sleep Token
- **Do you have any phobias?**  
Spiders
- **What would you take on a desert island?**  
Knife, hammock and a simple water filtering solution



## Essential Product Upgrade Due To Telephone Network Changes

As you may already be aware, the Government has backed plans to retire all 3G networks by 2024, with some networks having already switched their 3G provisions off last year.

We have individually emailed our customers that are due an upgrade.

Unsure if you need the upgraded modem? Give us a call today:

01733 843341

## Benefact Trust Grants

Benefact Trust's Roof Protection Scheme provides grants to help churches install roof alarms in response to the issue of metal theft, which continues to be a very challenging issue across the UK. They have recently extended this scheme until the end of 2023 and increased the amount of funding available, with grants now funding up to 50% of the cost of the alarm, up to a maximum of £2,500. Grants under Benefact Trust's Roof Protection Scheme are made direct to individual churches. We advise that churches apply through one of these group schemes where possible, as some local trusts and dioceses have

other funds available to add to the Benefact Trust grant. Please note that you can only apply for a roof alarm grant from a group scheme OR apply directly for a roof alarm grant to Benefact Trust. You cannot apply to both. This list will be updated as new schemes are added. Please note that the proposed alarm system must be from a supplier that is approved by the church's insurer, whoever that may be, and the church must commit to maintaining the alarm for a minimum of five years. Further details can be found at [benefacttrust.co.uk](https://benefacttrust.co.uk)



# E-Bound Energy & Solar Power

by Angus Brown

In recent years, the call for action to address climate change has grown increasingly urgent. One ambitious goal is the pledge to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030.

A practical step towards fulfilling this pledge is the adoption of solar panels. Solar energy presents a clean and renewable alternative to traditional fossil fuels, offering numerous environmental and financial benefits.

At E-Bound we focus on building long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationships. By understanding our customers' needs and offering valuable solutions, we can ensure we help our customers meet their goals and at the same time, reduce their energy costs.

We are working with global leaders in solar and battery technology and have fifteen years of experience dealing with listed buildings and the peculiarities presented by marrying modern technology with medieval architecture.

Together, we can embrace solar energy and work towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2030. Together, we can make a difference and leave a legacy of environmental stewardship for generations to come.

Visit [E-Boundenergy.co.uk/faqs](https://e-boundenergy.co.uk/faqs) for more information on how our Solar System works



Visit [E-Boundenergy.co.uk](https://e-boundenergy.co.uk) to see how our Solar Systems can benefit you



**ABOVE:** Solar panels on the roof at St Peter's Church, Oundle



*ABOVE: E-Bound Energy Solar System installed at a vineyard in West Sussex, January 2024*

*BELOW: Examples of Solar System equipment and components.*



Invertor



Storage battery



Solar Panel