# Man wielding hammer sparks fear in Witney as police seek witnesses



Concerns are mounting in Witney after reports emerged of a man reportedly armed with a hammer threatening residents and attempting to steal cars. The incidents, which unfolded on the morning of June 3, triggered alarm among locals as eyewitness accounts described the man walking around residential areas in the east of the town. According to one resident, the individual was seen checking car doors and displaying a blatant disregard for those who confronted him, occasionally circling back to areas he had previously patrolled.

Initial reports suggest that he may have threatened or even assaulted individuals in the area, with one woman claiming he had stolen a bicycle while wielding the hammer. Moreover, community chatter indicates that the man is believed to often carry a knife, heightening fears for public safety.

Despite the alarming nature of these incidents, a spokesperson for Thames Valley Police has confirmed that while they received reports of a man trying door handles, there were no verified threats made to anyone, nor had any vehicles been reported stolen. Moreover, no arrests have been made at this time. Police are encouraging anyone with information about the man or similar incidents to come forward, providing a contact number for the community to reach out.

The hammer incidents in Witney resonate with other reports of weapon-related crime in the area. Just a few months ago, on February 28, there was a separate incident involving a man armed with two large knives who confronted a teenage boy. This altercation ended with the victim sustaining a serious head injury, although he chose not to pursue hospital treatment. Following that incident, a 17-year-old was arrested on suspicion of affray and possession of an offensive weapon, indicating that issues of violent crime are not isolated occurrences in the community.

While calls for action and increased police presence in Witney grow, it is essential to reflect on the broader implications of such events. In the past year alone, there have been several high-profile cases involving individuals threatening others with weapons across the UK. For example, in Nottinghamshire, a man was jailed after using a hammer to threaten petrol station staff, showcasing a troubling trend of violent behaviour that appears to be seeping into everyday life. Similarly, a man in Australia was charged for armed robbery after threatening staff with a hammer while demanding cash and cigarettes.

As the Witney community navigates this unsettling chapter, the police's role remains vital. Authorities have called for vigilance among residents while assuring them of their commitment to addressing the situation. This ongoing distress highlights the necessity of community cooperation in reporting suspicious behaviours and fostering a safe environment for all.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25212554.police-update-hammer-wielding-man-terrorising-town/?ref=rss), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-england-oxfordshire-36377032)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25212554.police-update-hammer-wielding-man-terrorising-town/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/thames-valley/news/2025/february/24-02-2025/appeal-for-witnesses-to-assault--witney/), [[3]](https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/thames-valley/news/2025/february/24-02-2025/arrest-made-in-connection-with-assault--witney/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25212554.police-update-hammer-wielding-man-terrorising-town/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g59w39589o), [[5]](https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/wa/mandurah-man-charged-with-armed-robbery-after-threatening-staff-with-hammer-ng-b88857900z)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25212554.police-update-hammer-wielding-man-terrorising-town/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/thames-valley/news/2025/february/24-02-2025/appeal-for-witnesses-to-assault--witney/> - Thames Valley Police is seeking witnesses to an assault in Witney on 28 February 2025. A man in his twenties approached a teenage boy with two large knives, later switching to a baseball bat. The boy tackled the man, resulting in a fight where the man struck the boy on the head with the bat. The offender fled before being apprehended. The victim sustained a serious head injury but declined hospital treatment. Police are urging anyone with information or footage to come forward. ([thamesvalley.police.uk](https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/thames-valley/news/2025/february/24-02-2025/appeal-for-witnesses-to-assault--witney/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/thames-valley/news/2025/february/24-02-2025/arrest-made-in-connection-with-assault--witney/> - A 17-year-old boy from Witney was arrested on 1 March 2025 on suspicion of affray and possession of an offensive weapon in connection with the assault on 28 February. The arrest followed an intensive investigation, and the suspect remains in police custody. Authorities assure the community that there is no wider risk and encourage anyone with information to contact them. ([thamesvalley.police.uk](https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/thames-valley/news/2025/february/24-02-2025/arrest-made-in-connection-with-assault--witney/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g59w39589o> - Toby Moore, 30, was jailed for one year and four months after threatening a petrol station worker with a hammer and causing damage to vehicles in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Moore pleaded guilty to affray, threatening a person with an offensive weapon in a public place, and four counts of criminal damage. The incident occurred in July 2024, where Moore became aggressive towards staff, leading to the threats and subsequent damage. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g59w39589o?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/wa/mandurah-man-charged-with-armed-robbery-after-threatening-staff-with-hammer-ng-b88857900z> - A 33-year-old man from Mandurah, Australia, was charged with armed robbery after allegedly threatening a newsagent's staff with a hammer. The incident occurred in June 2018 when the man demanded cash and cigarettes, leading to a confrontation where staff fled, and the man stole items before being apprehended. ([perthnow.com.au](https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/wa/mandurah-man-charged-with-armed-robbery-after-threatening-staff-with-hammer-ng-b88857900z?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-england-oxfordshire-36377032> - In June 2016, BBC News reported on various incidents in Oxfordshire, including a man and a teenage boy arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm after attacking a man in Witney's Market Square. The victim, 28, was assaulted by three individuals who kicked and punched him while he was on the ground. The attackers, aged 17 and 23, were arrested and released on police bail. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-england-oxfordshire-36377032?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-england-oxfordshire-36300378> - In May 2016, BBC News reported on a man and a teenage boy arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm after attacking a man in Witney's Market Square. The victim, 28, was assaulted by three individuals who kicked and punched him while he was on the ground. The attackers, aged 17 and 23, were arrested and released on police bail. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-england-oxfordshire-36300378?utm_source=openai))