# Witney residents on edge after hammer threat and bike theft amid police reassurances



Residents in Witney are grappling with rising concerns for their safety following a series of unsettling incidents, one of the most alarming being a reported threat from a hammer-wielding individual last week. On Tuesday morning, a woman observed a man trying car doors on Stanton Harcourt Road. After confronting him, she and her housemate found their suspicions confirmed; he returned shortly after, attempting to gain access to other vehicles.

Their unease escalated when they learned from local online community groups that the same man had reportedly threatened another resident with a hammer and stole a bicycle. Thames Valley Police corroborated this information in a statement, detailing an incident that took place on Monday afternoon at around 4.45 PM in Wadard’s Meadow, where the cyclist was threatened before his bike was taken. Thankfully, the stolen bicycle was later recovered, and the victim sustained no injuries. Authorities described the suspect as a black male, approximately 6 feet 2 inches tall, slim, with afro-style hair.

While many residents voiced their concerns, one local described the threat as "unsettling," though she had never experienced anything similar since relocating to Witney last October. In a recent meeting with West Oxfordshire councillors, Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber provided some reassurance, noting an overall decline in crime rates across the Thames Valley and highlighted the positive impact of increasing neighbourhood police presence.

Barber stated, "By increasing the number of officers in neighbourhood teams, we are increasing visibility and seeing more patrols in our towns." This echoed sentiments from Liam Walker, head of Oxfordshire's Conservatives, who acknowledged the shock of such incidents but asserted they are "very rare." However, he urged focus on more pervasive issues related to crimes of violence and sexual offences, which remain a greater concern.

Duncan Enright, deputy leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, expressed empathy for those affected by the frightening incidents, remarking that the community remains safe. He affirmed that police numbers in Witney have been bolstered since the current Labour government took office, asserting, “We have a named police officer for the town.”

The stark contrast between alarming incidents in Witney and others elsewhere within the Thames Valley area raises critical questions regarding safety. Recent reports have also highlighted ongoing investigations and appeals related to various violent crimes, including a separate incident involving an individual armed with a hammer in Banbury and numerous assaults occurring across the region. Such heightened tensions underscore the broader implications for community safety as residents seek to balance their vigilance with the police’s assurances.

As law enforcement works to apprehend individuals responsible for these events, the community watches closely, eager for both justice and a restoration of peace in their environment, which has recently felt increasingly vulnerable.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25224197.oxfordshire-hammer-wielding-man-makes-witney-unsettled/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2023-10-31/serving-police-officer-charged-after-stalking-and-beating-a-woman)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25224197.oxfordshire-hammer-wielding-man-makes-witney-unsettled/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/news/crime/police-make-arrest-in-connection-to-assault-involving-man-armed-with-a-hammer-in-banbury-3673662)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25224197.oxfordshire-hammer-wielding-man-makes-witney-unsettled/?ref=rss), [[5]](https://www.oxfordshirelive.co.uk/news/oxfordshire-news/names-faces-oxfordshire-criminals-who-8567041)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2023-10-31/serving-police-officer-charged-after-stalking-and-beating-a-woman), [[5]](https://www.oxfordshirelive.co.uk/news/oxfordshire-news/names-faces-oxfordshire-criminals-who-8567041)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/archive/2023/06/07/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/archive/2023/06/07/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25224197.oxfordshire-hammer-wielding-man-makes-witney-unsettled/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2023-10-31/serving-police-officer-charged-after-stalking-and-beating-a-woman> - A serving Thames Valley Police officer, PC Cameron Noble, aged 23, was charged with stalking and assault in Oxfordshire. The stalking offences occurred between 17 and 21 June, and the assault took place at a private address in Banbury. PC Noble, based at Witney Police Station, is currently suspended from duty and is due to appear at Milton Keynes Magistrates’ Court on 15 November. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2023-10-31/serving-police-officer-charged-after-stalking-and-beating-a-woman?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/thames-valley/news/2025/february/24-02-2025/appeal-for-witnesses-to-assault--witney/> - Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses to an assault in Witney that occurred on 28 February 2025. A man in his twenties approached a teenage boy with two large knives, later switching to a baseball bat. The victim suffered a serious head injury but refused hospital treatment. The police are urging anyone with information or footage of the incident 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))
4. <https://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/news/crime/police-make-arrest-in-connection-to-assault-involving-man-armed-with-a-hammer-in-banbury-3673662> - Thames Valley Police made an arrest in connection with an assault involving a man armed with a hammer in Banbury. The incident occurred around 8pm on 25 April 2022 in Middleton Road, Banbury, when a group of men were seen fighting in a Tesco Express car park. An unknown person exited a black Mercedes and attacked one of the men with a hammer, causing unknown injuries. A 21-year-old man from Banbury was arrested on suspicion of assault and has since been released under investigation. ([banburyguardian.co.uk](https://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/news/crime/police-make-arrest-in-connection-to-assault-involving-man-armed-with-a-hammer-in-banbury-3673662?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.oxfordshirelive.co.uk/news/oxfordshire-news/names-faces-oxfordshire-criminals-who-8567041> - A roundup of Oxfordshire criminals jailed in June 2023 includes:

* Adil Khan: Jailed for eight years after attempting to steal a £40k ring from an Oxford auctioneer.
* Adam Marmont: Sentenced to six months in prison, suspended for a year and six months, for driving while banned and without insurance in Witney.
* Anthony Chilton: Received a three-year prison sentence for burglary offences in Banbury.
* Charlie Howells: Sentenced to two years and four months imprisonment for breaching a stalking prevention order.
* Tyril Ochiela and Elijha Fingall: Both jailed for over three years for being concerned in the supply of controlled class A drugs.
* Eugen Coman: Sentenced to a hospital order under the Mental Health Act 1983 for manslaughter.
* Thomas Lee: Jailed for over three years for various offences, including drug-related crimes and motoring offences.
* Toby Hooper: Received a 22-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, for burglary, theft, and arson.
* Kevin Jones: Sentenced to an additional 14 years for attempting to stab a prison officer at HMP Bullingdon. (oxfordshirelive.co.uk) 6. https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/archive/2023/06/07/ - Archive news from the Oxford Mail dated 7 June 2023 includes:
* Missing Persons: A 20-year-old man named Finnian was reported missing from an address in Witney after last being seen at around 4pm.
* Flying Scotsman: The famous locomotive passed through Didcot Parkway Station as part of its centenary celebrations.
* School Closures: Springfield School and Wood Green School in Witney were closed due to a power outage.
* Snooker Star Banned: Liang Wenbo, who trained at an Oxfordshire club, was banned for life after a match-fixing investigation.
* Café Hygiene Rating: Tuckers House in Deddington received a one-star hygiene rating, indicating major improvements are necessary. (oxfordmail.co.uk) 7. https://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/man-left-with-broken-elbow-after-thatcham-assault-9318172/ - Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses to an attempted robbery and assault in Thatcham that occurred on 15 June 2023. A man in his twenties was walking home along the A4 when an offender emerged from the bushes, demanded his belongings, and then chased, tripped, and assaulted him. The victim suffered a fractured elbow and other injuries, requiring surgery. The police are urging anyone with information to come forward. (newburytoday.co.uk)