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Telecoms Blackout Hits Maxey

Metal Thieves Strike at Copper Telecommunications Cable

On Thursday 16 July 2009 at about 10.00 pm metal thieves attempted to steal underground copper telecoms cables from Maxey Road near the A15 roundabout at the Market Deeping end of the village leaving homes in Maxey and Northborough without Internet and telephone connections.



The BT Openreach teams have been busy in our local area over the last few months. As the price of metals has risen on world markets there has been a corresponding jump in metal thefts.

The thieves managed to gain access to a number of BT junction boxes with the intention of attaching a chain or rope to a car or truck to pull the underground cables out of their plastic covers. While no actual cable was stolen the damage caused by such an unsophisticated attempt to drag it from the ground caused considerable damage resulting in the telecoms blackout.

The BT Openreach team were quickly on the scene to reinstate severed cabling and restore

Theft Extra

All photos | Ian Duncan



News Update

Crooks struck on the evening of Monday, August 17, tearing manhole covers from the ground and ripping out cabling belonging to BT.

Police said 150 metres of cabling was reported stolen between the roundabout on the A15 and the railway crossing heading into Helpston at 10.40am on Tuesday, by a BT engineer.

From [Peterborough Today](#) Website

telephone and Internet services. Most villagers were back online by Saturday evening but some had connection problems as late as Monday. A recent similar theft of copper cabling in Glinton, which caused a 4 day outage of services, along with an the theft of 300 mtrs of newly laid cable between Bainton and Barnack on 29 July 2009 reflects a growing number of such attacks nationally as the price of metals starts to increase on world markets once again.

In the December 2007 issue we reported on the countrywide epidemic of metals thefts mostly targeting lead, bronze and aluminium. Cambridgeshire Police launched Operation Saruman at the time and theft levels dropped as vigilance increased and the recession forced metals values down.

Police Need Your Help

Our local 'beat' officer, PC Norm McCallum from the rural neighbourhood policing team was quoted in the Peterborough Evening Telegraph (21.07.09): *"We want to tell people to look out for suspicious people working late at night pulling up manhole covers. Some of the thieves may be setting themselves up as road workers to carry out the crimes".*

"If they don't look right, maybe have no uniforms or logos and have no road markings out, people should contact us, because we need to try and catch them". If you see any suspicious activity please call the local police on **0345 456 456 4**.



How the Peterborough Evening Telegraph reported the story

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