

## Recording Your Property

Keeping concise records of your property including clear photographs creates a greater chance of recovery of your property should it be stolen, and a greater chance of a successful prosecution.



The “Object ID” card is an internationally accepted method of providing scale and correct colour rendition to photographs of your property. “Object ID” cards are available from your local Essex Watch Liaison Officer, British Legion, Age UK, and Community Agents.

\*“Object ID” card courtesy of Hertfordshire Constabulary

Below are 10 top tips for producing a good photographic record of family heirlooms, jewellery, art, antiques, memorabilia and other property.

### 10 USEFUL TIPS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING ARTICLES

1. Turning on all the lights inside the room will help the camera to focus and expose the image.
2. Avoid taking photographs of items on reflective surfaces. This may create “hotspots” with the flash on your camera.
3. Use a non-glare cloth as a background for silver, china or jewellery.
4. When photographing possessions such as china or any specialised collectables - take a close up picture of any minute detail(s), the pattern name or manufacturer’s signature, serial number, inscriptions, and any damage or imperfections. *Don’t forget to include your “Object ID card” in the photograph to determine correct colour rendition and scale!*
5. Angle the flash when photographing jewellery or other reflective objects to avoid glare or “hot spots”.
6. When taking photographs of small items step back and zoom in with the camera lens close to the article. This will avoid any distortion on the photograph.
7. Look at creating nicely composed image – fill the frame with the article you are photographing.
8. Remember to photograph your items on both sides or from different angles.
9. For scale or determining the size of jewellery (rings, necklaces, bracelets), include a shot of it being worn on the body.
10. Evaluate your photograph. Make sure you are happy with the results.



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Items of property are not the only things to benefit from concise photographic records. Pre-incident photographs of buildings, parts of buildings, earthworks, archaeological sites and other larger objects provide good evidence of the original condition should damage or theft occur at a later date. With the larger objects, statues and other monuments always try to include in one photograph a reference point that gives it scale and as before take further photographs of inscriptions, damage ect.

Modern day property (and some little older) and serial numbers of such can be recorded free of charge on <https://www.immobilise.com/> and this can even include photographs. In the event of stolen property being recovered police forces all over the country have access to the database used by immobilise.

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