

Case Study

Winchester BID

As a Business Improvement District, the reduction of crime - particularly crime which affects businesses - is one of Winchester BID's core aims. In this context the organisation turned to Wireless CCTV in order to tackle an increasing amount of purse thefts occurring in retail units within the city centre.



The Challenge:

Winchester BID had noted an increasing amount of purse thefts occurring in retail units within the city centre. The criminals were mainly targeting charity shops, often manned by volunteers and unable to fund their own CCTV systems. The victims were typically female and elderly and were often carrying sizable sums of money or, on occasion, their cash card and pin number together.

A high proportion of the offences were taking place in one shop. A number of police operations, both plain clothes and high visibility sadly did little to solve the problem. The offenders were often operating in gangs of three or more. The individual who removed the purse from the handbag for example, would pass it down the line to her colleagues making a successful arrest and conviction difficult.

Winchester BID's main objective was the detection and apprehension of the individuals involved.

The ability to capture and quickly share video or still images among retailers and City CCTV operators was of great importance. The gangs in question would typically only stay in one town or city for a short period of time and quickly move on before police officers were able to take statements and descriptions from victims. A fast response was critical to successfully tackling the gang's wrong-doings.

The Solution:

Winchester BID required high-spec equipment which was robust, flexible, easily redeployable, covert, simple to use and most importantly the BID organisation needed to be able to access the hard drive at a moment's notice without the hassle of travelling to the site, wasting valuable time or risking to compromise the surveillance operation.

The **WCCTV 3G Compact** is a discreet unit which can be set up easily in any environment for remote surveillance purposes. The unit has an integrated Hard Disk for digital recording, giving users the option to view either live images or recorded footage from any remote location. Up to 4 cameras can be remotely monitored and controlled.



* Some faces were blurred for legal reasons

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Wireless CCTV's 3G Compact was alternatively deployed in several retail units within the city centre of Winchester during an operation aimed at tackling purse thefts in retail units.

The **WCCTV 3G Compact** is a discreet unit that can be utilised for any remote surveillance purpose. The unit has an **integrated hard disk** for digital recording, giving users the option to view either live images or recorded footage from any location.

The Wireless 3G Compact has **four camera inputs** and it provides the user with complete flexibility and portability.



■ The Results:

"Although the equipment has been extremely useful on a great many occasions, one particular example stands out", said Keith Wilson, Partnership Manager, Winchester BID.

We received a report of an elderly lady who was unable to find her purse. She had been in the shop in which we had the WCCTV 3G Compact deployed. Immediately we dialed into the unit using WCCTV's monitoring software and scanned back through the footage of the times the victim believed she was in the store. Quickly we identified her and then saw two females move towards her. One female, to the victim's left, distracted her while the second female was clearly seen to put her hand in the victim's bag and take something out. The person who removed the purse then turned around and handed it to her accomplice. We immediately burned the footage to disk and took it to the City's CCTV control room. Shortly after, a call came across the City's Shopwatch radio network from a retailer that there were two females in store acting strange. As they came out of the store the City CCTV operators immediately recognised them as the females shown in our CCTV footage.

Police were directed in and an arrest was made. Back at the Police station, the females were shown the footage from our CCTV system and promptly and sensibly confessed. They are currently awaiting trial!

"The total time taken from offence to arrest was probably in the region of 20 minutes."

**Keith Wilson, Partnership Manager,
Winchester BID**

■ Main Features and Benefits of WCCTV equipment:

- Compact 'all in one' solutions
- Remote control with full pan, tilt and zoom
- Remote access to live and recorded digital footage
- Rapid 'plug and play' installation
- Multiple transmission options including 3G (HSUPA), Wi-Fi and broadband.
- Ability to redeploy the system quickly
- Free unrestricted Single View Software

Wireless CCTV Ltd - Southern Office

1 Pemberton Row, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3ET
Tel: +44 (0) 870 739 22 88 · Fax: +44 (0) 870 739 22 99
sales@wcctv.com · www.wcctv.com

Wireless CCTV Ltd - Northern Office

Mitchell Hey Place, College Road, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 6AE
Tel: +44 (0) 1706 63 11 66 · Fax: +44 (0) 1706 63 11 22
sales@wcctv.com · www.wcctv.com

