



Search Arches

Operation Blunt is one of the five strands of Safer Streets, a Thames Valley Police public campaign to make it safer to live and socialise in Thames Valley.

This operation focuses on tackling knife crime, challenging the knife crime culture, and reducing the number of people who carry knives on our streets.

Robin Gardner, Tackling Knife Crime coordinator for the Thames Valley, said: "If you carry a knife, you are running the risk of getting caught and put before a court and sent to prison for up to four years. People seem to think that carrying a knife keeps them safe. But, in fact, it could get used against them."

Police use several prevention and enforcement techniques to tackle knife crime. These include:

- Using search arches to check if people have knives in their possession. These are similar to metal detectors used for security at airports. The search arches are used at schools, colleges, shopping centres and transport hubs, and other public places at random locations and times.
- Search arches are also used at knife crime 'hotspots' to catch and prosecute people who carry knives illegally.