

Theme parks



Terrorism threat to theme parks

- It is likely that terrorist actors would have the intent to conduct attacks against theme parks in the UK due to their publicly accessible nature and the routine gathering of large crowds of children and young adults at such sites.
- It is highly likely that any terrorist attack conducted against a theme park in the UK would be conducted by an individual or small cell using a low sophistication methodology e.g., Bladed or Blunt Force Weapons, Vehicle as a Weapon, or Fire as a Weapon.
- There is a realistic possibility that terrorist actors could have the capability to conduct a high-sophistication attack at a theme park in the UK. E.g., Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), Person Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (PBIED), or Firearms attack. However, it is highly likely that any terrorist actor with the intent to conduct a high sophistication attack would be disrupted by security personnel whilst attempting to covertly traffic a device into a theme park, or by UK police and intelligence services in the attack planning phase.
- The large crowds that gather at theme parks almost certainly provide an attractive target for indiscriminate terrorist attacks. As such, it is highly likely that any terrorist attack against a theme park would be conducted by an Islamist-inspired individual due to the ideologically driven intent to conduct indiscriminate attacks against members of the public in the UK.
- The assessments in this report were made using the PHIA Probability Yardstick, for further information please see the Assessment Methodology [section below](#).

Previous terrorist incidents related to theme parks in the UK and overseas

- At this time, there have been no previous terrorist attacks against theme parks in the UK.
- Terrorist actors have previously demonstrated the intent and capability to conduct attacks against, or in proximity to, theme parks globally, including:
 - **2016 France;** Reporting suggests that seven Islamist terrorists plotted to conduct an attack against Disneyland Paris as part of a wider plot to conduct attacks across France. The group were allegedly linked to the Islamic State cell which conducted the 2015 Paris attacks.¹
 - **2016 Netherlands;** An Islamist inspired terror plot targeting an amusement park was foiled by Dutch police.²
 - **2013 Bangladesh;** Reporting suggests six crude bombs exploded near the Fantasy Kingdom theme park in the Jamgora area of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Three people were injured in the explosion. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.³

Other potential threats to theme parks in the UK

- It is almost certain that the terrorism threat to theme parks would be driven by the profile and attendance at each site. E.g., It is highly likely that terrorist actors in the UK would prioritise attacks against major theme parks in the UK with higher attendance and greater media focus. E.g., Thorpe Park, Alton Towers, LEGOLAND, rather than smaller, regional theme parks.
- It is likely that there would be a heightened threat to theme parks during weekends and holidays. E.g., It is almost certain that theme parks would have a higher footfall during weekends or during summer holidays. It is almost certain that large crowds that gather during busy periods would be an attractive target for terrorist attacks.
- There is a realistic possibility that the presence of high-profile politicians, contentious media figures, or major celebrities could lead to an increased threat to theme parks from individuals with terrorist intent. It is almost certain that terrorist actors in the UK would have the intent to conduct an attack against high-profile individuals.
- There is a realistic possibility that staff and vendors at theme parks could pose an Insider Threat in several ways, including:
 - Third party security staff and/or in-house staff could enable terrorist actors in the UK to access the site with malicious items by allowing such individuals to bypass any security mitigations and vetting procedures in place.
 - Third party vendors and/or in-house staff could exploit vehicular access to the site available to suppliers to bring in high-sophistication attack methodologies or to advance low-sophistication attack capabilities.

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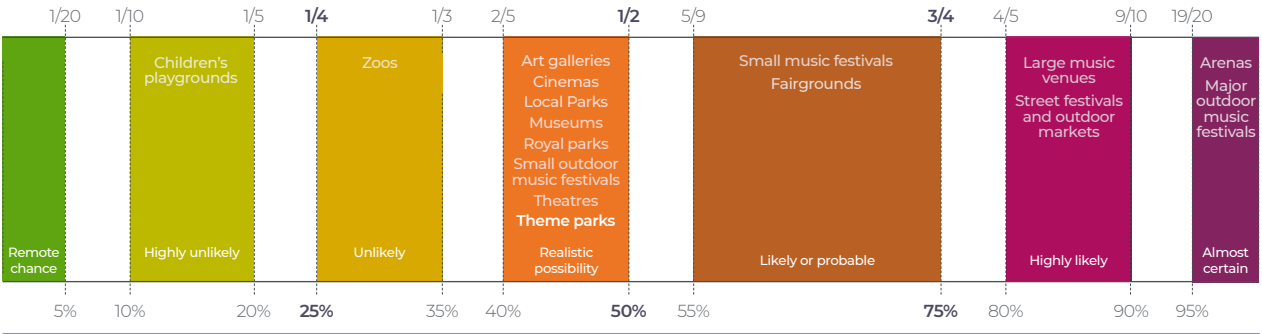
Threat visualisation

The diagram below outlines the intent of terrorist actors in the UK to conduct attacks against theme parks within the arts, culture and entertainment sector.

Terrorist intent can be defined as the desire and/or determination of an individual to conduct an attack against any given site.

The intent of terrorist actors to conduct an attack against the arts, culture and entertainment sector in the UK is subject to change based on the assessments outlined in this report.

Note: The terrorism threat to any given site is not based solely on intent, but also the capability of terrorist actors in the UK as outlined in this report. Terrorism threat is also mitigated by the UK’s countrywide terrorism risk mitigation infrastructure including both public and private security and safety capabilities.



Assessment Methodology

The assessments made in this report have been made using the Professional Head of Intelligence's "Probability Yardstick" (above). The Probability Yardstick is a standardised instrument used to provide a professional standard for intelligence assessment.

- **Almost certain:** An event has a greater than 90% chance of occurring.
- **Highly likely:** An event has a 76% to 90% chance of occurring.
- **Likely:** An event has a 55% to 75% chance of occurring.
- **Realistic possibility:** An event has a 40% to 54% chance of occurring.
- **Unlikely:** An event has a 25% to 39% chance of occurring.
- **Highly unlikely:** An event has an 10% to 24% chance of occurring.
- **Remote chance:** An event has a less than 10% chance of occurring.

Time spans

- **Short Term:** 0–6 Months.
- **In the next 12 months.**
- **Medium Term:** 12 months–5 Years.
- **Long Term:** 5+ Years.

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Intelligence cut-off date: 13 February 2024

For more information please contact solutions@poolre.co.uk

Bibliography

- 1. [Isis terror cell 'planned to attack Disneyland Paris and Champs Elysees Christmas market on 1 December' - The Independent](#)
- 2. [Terrorist attack at Dutch theme park foiled by authorities - NL Times](#)
- 3. [Incident Summary for GTDID: 201303150017 - \(umd.edu\)](#)

Pool Re Solutions Limited

Equitable House 47 King William Street London EC4R 9AF

poolre.co.uk

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