

# Remote retail sites



## Terrorism threat to remote retail sites

- It is highly unlikely that terrorist actors would have the intent to conduct an attack against remote retail sites in the UK.<sup>1</sup> Previous terrorist attacks in the UK have demonstrated the intent of terrorist actors in the UK to conduct mass-casualty, high-profile attacks in proximity to major sites. Remote retail sites are highly unlikely to be attractive targets for terrorist actors in the UK.
- It is highly likely that any terrorist attack conducted against remote retail sites 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 in the UK could have the capability to conduct a high-sophistication attack at remote retail sites in the UK. E.g., Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), Person Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (PBIED), or Firearms attack. The complicated nature of plotting a high-sophistication terrorist attack makes it highly likely that there would be greater opportunity for UK police and security services to disrupt potential attacks.
- 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 remote retail sites in the UK and overseas

- There are currently no previous examples of attacks against remote retail sites in the UK.

## Other potential threats to remote retail sites in the UK

- There is a realistic possibility that terrorist actors in the UK could have the intent to steal or purchase material from remote retail sites in the UK in order to facilitate a terrorist attack. For example, remote retail sites storing large amounts of chemical substances could face a heightened threat from terrorist actors seeking to steal materials in order to construct an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).
- There is a realistic possibility that staff employed at remote retail sites in the UK could pose an Insider Threat. For example, staff employed at remote retail sites in the UK could grant terrorist actors access to monitored and/or restricted substances and items, bypassing applicable restrictions on the purchase of certain materials.
- There is a realistic possibility that the threat posed to remote retail sites in the UK could be heightened if high-profile individuals, politicians, or celebrities are present. For example, a political leadership candidate could be targeted during their visit to a remote retail site. It is almost certain that terrorist actors in the UK would have the intent to conduct an attack against high-profile individuals.
- It is highly likely that the threat posed to remote retail sites in the UK would be dynamic and dependent on the nature of the business and/or event hosted at any given site. For example, a flower show hosted at a remote garden centre would likely attract a higher number of guests than a business-as-usual day. It is almost certain that terrorist actors in the UK would have the intent to conduct an attack against large, publicly accessible crowds in the UK.

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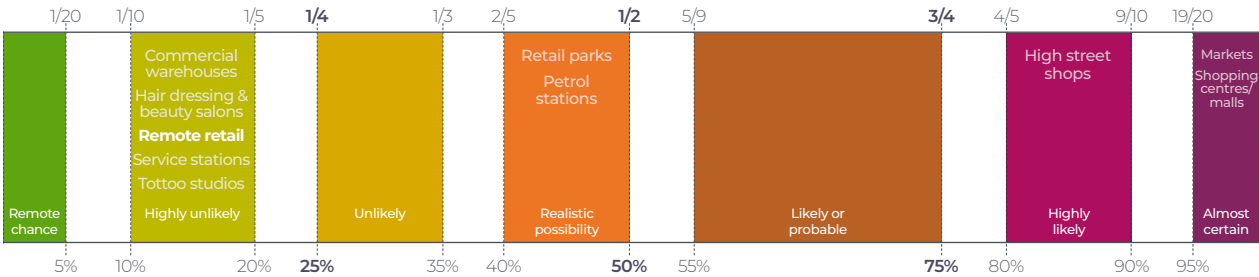
Threat visualisation

The diagram below outlines the intent of terrorist actors in the UK to conduct attacks against remote retail sites within the retail & wholesale 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 retail & wholesale 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: 28 January 2025

For more information please contact [solutions@poolre.co.uk](mailto:solutions@poolre.co.uk)

## Bibliography

1. Remote Retail is defined in this report as isolated retail sites located outside of major cities and away from high streets. Examples could include, a garden centre located in proximity to a small rural town, a local village supermarket, a small coastal retail store, etc.

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