



<https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/news/leicestershire-man-guilty-terrorism-offences>

Leicestershire man guilty of terrorism offences

A Leicestershire man has today been found guilty of planning to attack phone, radio and TV masts and damage the road network.

Oliver Lewin, aged 38, of Ferrers Road, Coalville, planned to mount widespread coordinated attacks over a number of months including recruiting others to help his plan because of a mistrust of authority.

He used social media to identify and recruit like-minded individuals to help via Telegram to create a national network of those sharing his ideology to carry out coordinated attacks.



Lewin will be sentenced in the New Year

Lewin also claimed he was ex-military and spent a lot of time writing a manual to train others.

Lewin, who previously worked as an AV engineer installing and maintaining radio masts, carried out meticulous research online into systems to identify weaknesses of the masts. He also carried out on site research during reconnaissance missions in his local area.

In August 2021, he built a hideout so he could hide from a police helicopter and planned to damage a culvert which disrupted water flow underneath the M1 motorway. He carried out training exercises, taught himself to walk in the dark and how to avoid travelling by road at night.

Lewin was arrested on 25 August for preparing to commit an act of terrorism. Following his arrest, police seized a large amount of tools and army surplus combat gear as well as weapon accessories to accompany the three air rifles he owned.

Officers also seized two air rifle and pellets, pistol, BB gun, a walkie talkie and binoculars as well as a packed rucksack to camp overnight.

Head of Counter Terrorism Policing West Midlands CTU, Detective Chief Superintendent Mark Payne, said: "In interview, Lewin claimed he was a fantasist but it is clear he took the steps to carry out reconnaissance of targets to attack, bought equipment and tools, dug hide-outs and tried to recruit and train others.

"He wanted to advance a political cause by damaging property and wiping out media organisations. Extremists use this kind of ideology to create discord, distrust and fear among our communities and we strive to counter this."

Lewin is due to be sentenced on 20 January 2023.

Every year thousands of reports from the public help police tackle the terrorist threat. If you see or hear something that doesn't seem right, trust your instincts and ACT by reporting to police in confidence at [gov.uk/ACT](https://www.gov.uk/ACT).

Reporting won't ruin lives, but it could save them. Action Counters Terrorism. Remember, in an emergency, always dial 999.