Sustainable communities are those which are safe and secure, and where people want to live. Minimizing carbon emissions is crucial, but not at the expense of preventing crime and the fear of crime. In this issue of *Built Environment* Rachel Armitage and Lorraine Gamman and their contributors introduce the issues of sustainability and crime reduction and ask whether there are tensions between the aims of the two agendas – sustainability and security – or can the two be mutually reinforcing.

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Edited by Professor Sir Peter Hall and Professor David Banister, *Built Environment* is published four times a year, both print and online. For more information or to order a copy of this issue contact:

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