

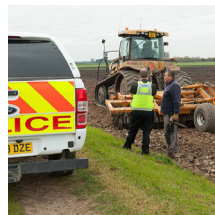
DONNA JONES

**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT



Rural Crime Guide



In an emergency call **999**
For non emergencies call **101**

www.hampshire.police.uk



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Useful contacts

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary
www.hampshire.police.uk

Secured By Design www.securedbydesign.com

Sold Secure www.soldsecure.com

Master Locksmiths www.locksmiths.co.uk

Information Commissioner www.ico.org.uk

National Security Inspectorate www.nsi.org.uk

Occupiers' Liability Act www.legislation.gov.uk

Introduction

The prevention and investigation of rural, wildlife and heritage crime has been identified as a key priority by the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable. Significant investment has been made by the Police and Crime Commissioner in the development of Country Watch and a dedicated team of specialist officers who are committed to tackling rural, wildlife and heritage crime across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Our dedicated team of officers and volunteers are available to provide you with advice to prevent you becoming a victim of crime and anti-social behaviour.

To find out more about what we do please sign up to Hampshire Alert (see next page) and our Twitter page - @HantsPolRural - where you will be provided with up to date information about what is happening in your area and also receive our digital magazine 'Rural Times' which includes articles relating to rural, wildlife and heritage crime.

To help get you started with your security improvements we have supplied you with a number of resources in this pack, including a home security checklist. We hope you find this information useful.

A simple piece of security advice for all types of property is not to rely on a single solution. Security provisions should be used in combination to achieve four things:

Deter - Measures that will make a criminal think twice

Detect - Identification of a threat or crime

Delay - Measures to slow a criminal's progress and increase their risk of capture

Response - What happens when a crime is detected

In many cases a solution will contribute to more than one of these. For example, a strong fence will deter a burglar and also cause a delay gaining entry.

Remember: When considering measures to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour relating to a protected heritage site, for example a listed building, scheduled monument or protected shipwreck, it is essential you are aware of the legislation and regulations, that control and regulate proposed works and alterations. For further information on how to prevent Heritage Crime please visit:

Prevention Measures: A Guide for Owners, Tenants and Managers of Heritage Assets - <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/heritage-crime-prevention-guide>

Hampshire Alerts & Neighbourhood Schemes

Report any suspicious activity to Hampshire Police on 101 or dial 999 in an emergency which includes hare coursing in action. Have your What3Words to hand when calling Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. Hampshire Constabulary website provides following advice:

When you find yourself in need of contacting the police, do you know the best way to get in touch? 999 should only be used in emergency situations; when a life is in danger or a crime is happening right now. To speak to the police about anything else, you should call 101 or contact us.

- Hampshire Alert is a free web-based system which the public can sign up to and allows them to choose what information they want to receive and what format they want to receive it in - email, text or phone message so the 'alert' is personal to them. It's free to join and receive messages so it's a really good way to keep people informed. Once signed up you'll receive messages about crime, witness appeals and general policing activity and issues in your local area, and being able to play an active part in helping make Hampshire and the Isle of Wight a safer places to live and work. Visit: <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk>
- What3words has divided the world into 3m squares and given each one a unique identifier made from three words. For example, the front door of Southampton Central Police Station can be identified by: 'rather.royal.spins.' What3words is a free app for iOS and Android devices, which can also be used offline if the user is in an area with poor data connection. <https://www.what3words.com>
- Dog Watch is an initiative that encourages dog walkers to be proactive and vigilant in their area whilst out walking their dogs. This is because they are often the first people out and about in the mornings, and the last ones out at night. They are then able to report any unusual observations, suspicious activity or anti-social behaviour back to the relevant authority. See insert for further details.
- DISC - Are you a Farmer, Gamekeeper, Underkeeper, River keeper or landowner? Do you own a rural estate or are you employed by one of our rural key partner agencies? DISC is a reporting tool that many rural businesses in Hampshire (such as use to report crimes to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. This platform allows businesses to report incidents directly to the police.



Reporting, protecting and preserving a crime scene

If you have had the unfortunate experience of becoming a victim of crime, it is important that you follow these steps to preserve the scene until police attend or inform you otherwise. Following these steps may assist the police in acquiring some very important forensic evidence.

- If the crime is in progress or life is at risk call 999
- Use 101 if you discover the crime after it has happened
- You are also able to report crimes through the Hampshire & Isle of Wight website - www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/
- If you suspect the offender is still inside the property do not enter, advise the police of this when you ring. Confronting the offender can place you in immediate danger. Seek refuge at a neighbour's house
- Be careful if you enter the property. Do not touch anything, especially near to the point of entry or items you believe have been touched by the offender. If it is practical wait at a neighbour's house until police arrive
- If you find something that you suspect may have been used in the burglary as it was not there previously, point this out to police
- Preserving evidence is vital. If the item is outside, cover the item with a box or something similar to shield it from the elements until police arrive. Do not touch the item. If you find any blood, try to cover this without touching it
- Police staff are professionally trained to advise upon your call or online report of crime and decide if police officers will attend. We do not require all crimes to be forensically preserved unless there is blood or is a serious crime
- Police are professionally trained to know what items can be used to obtain forensic evidence. Do not be upset if a particular item that you think may contain forensic value is dismissed by police. The most common types of forensic evidence found at crime scenes are fingerprints, blood or DNA

Home security

Work with your neighbours to keep an eye on each other's security. Neighbourhood Watch groups are good for this (www.ourwatch.org.uk)

- Outward opening doors should have hinge bolts fitted close to top and bottom hinges.
- If doors have glass panes, laminated glass should be installed for maximum security.
- Add a letterbox deflector to prevent people from reaching in for keys or accessing thumb turn locks.
- Ensure garages and sheds are securely locked to prevent access to tools that could be used to break into the house. Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home by installing locked gates, fencing or walls at least 2 metres tall. Trellis topping also makes climbing difficult
- Visible burglar alarms and CCTV are a deterrent. Always use a reputable company to install your CCTV. Both the National Security Inspectorate (www.nsi.org.uk) and Security Systems and Alarms Inspections Board (www.ssaib.org) list companies that meet the essential standards
- Security lighting can be used to make offenders feel vulnerable and observed. Select dusk to dawn bulbs to ensure a constant level of lighting and to deter burglars as they are less likely to approach a lit building
- Make sure that passers-by can see the front of your home by keeping walls, fencing and plants low
- Remove and secure items that may be used to break in or climb up such as ladders and garden tools
- Beware of bogus callers; use your spy hole and a door chain until you have seen their ID and are satisfied you want to let them in
- Never discuss your security requirements or existing arrangements with a doorstep caller or salesperson



Electric fence equipment

Electric fence equipment can be an easy target for thieves. Sited in a remote field away from the farm or stable means it may be vulnerable. Some energisers are stolen for their scrap value, others are offered on the second-hand market without operating instructions. Here are some ideas that may help you:

- Visibly mark your equipment in a number of places. This acts as a deterrent reducing its value, makes it harder to sell on if stolen and provides you with an easy way to identify your property. Please refer to the Dot Peen section of this booklet
- Take a photograph of your unit and keep records of make, model and serial number. This will greatly assist the police if your unit is stolen
- Attach your energiser securely to a sturdy fixed point or secure within a purpose made storage container. Most stolen units are just pulled out of the ground or hooked onto a fence or post. Make it as hard as

possible for the thief to remove it, any damage caused to the unit will reduce its value

- Hide or camouflage your energiser behind a fence or tree, in a hedge or in undergrowth
- Small tracker units can be fixed to the energiser to trace its location if stolen
- If you have a light showing the power is on, cover this with tape. Leaving the light to flash in the dark shows the offender where the energiser is situated, making it easy to steal in the night

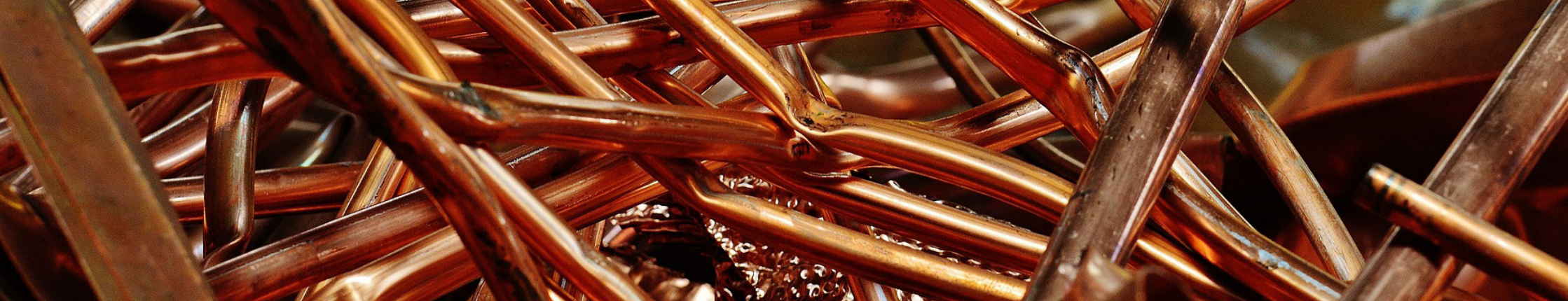
The police believe stolen energisers are being sold on without instructions or packaging. If you are aware of items like this being available and the reason being given for them being missing is suspicious, please report to the police. All thefts should be reported. In an emergency please call **999**, otherwise please call **101** (the national police non-emergency number).

Perimeter

- A secure perimeter around your fields and outbuildings will help deter thieves from targeting livestock, vehicles and tools
- Consider installing RFID tags on your electric fences to deter criminals and, in the case that any parts are stolen, these tags can track the real time location off the objects. These devices allow you to register who owns the fence which will help the police recover them in the instance of theft.
- Consider installing perimeter alarms, where practical
- Check fences and hedges to identify weak spots that could provide unauthorised access to criminals or vehicles and secure them
- Consider restricting access at your entrance to prevent unwelcome vehicles entering
- Ensure gates are secured at both ends with reverse or cap hinges and use good quality chains and padlocks
- If you have gateways or access points that are not in regular use place a barrier such as a tree trunk or concrete block across the entrance
- Install security lighting around yards, outbuildings and isolated locations

Machinery and tools

- Machinery and tools are very valuable to thieves so try and secure your property
- Lock or immobilise vehicles and equipment when not in use. Remove keys from cars, tractors and other vehicles left unattended
- Avoid leaving machinery in isolated locations or fields - particularly near roads, where they can be removed without attracting attention
- Visibly mark your machinery and tools - this not only acts as a deterrent to thieves but also helps the police reunite stolen property to the rightful owners if it is recovered. Keep a list of tools, together with serial numbers and any identifying marks.
- Use the police approved official system for marking agricultural equipment CESAR www.cesarscheme.org/cesar-agriculture.html
- Keep tools locked away when you are not using them. As well as being a target for thieves they can also be used to access your secured property
- Consider having machinery and vehicles such as tractors and quad bikes fitted with a tracking device or tagging system
- Items such as quad bikes, sit on lawn mowers, rotavators etc are very desirable to thieves. Consider shackling them together or chain to a hitch secured to the ground or strong fabric of a building



Metal theft

Every year tonnes of metal are stolen from homes, businesses, churches, schools and substations. Not only does this cause disruption to services and inconvenience to those affected, it is also costly to replace or repair any damage. Police target offenders and work to reduce this kind of crime. Help to reduce metal theft by:

- Regularly reviewing the perimeter fencing and gates security - check for holes and weak spots, which could allow people access
- Improving visibility by cutting back vegetation, moving bins or improving the lighting
- Ensuring any equipment or materials stored near to buildings does not allow easy access to the roof. Anti-climb paint or physical barriers can be used to prevent access, but all anti-climb devices must be clearly signposted to comply with the Occupiers' Liability Act 1984

- Not leaving any scrap materials lying around which could tempt thieves
- Using a forensic solution to mark lead. Warning signs saying forensic marking has been used should be displayed. Products can be found at www.securedbydesign.com
- Where a theft has happened, you should consider using lead replacement products - check with your local planning officer to see if this is allowed on your building
- Historic England has prepared guidance in relation to measures that can be taken to prevent the theft of metal from church roofs. See link: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/theft-metal-church-roofs-prevention-response/heag306-theft-metal-church-roofs-prevention-response/>
- Install an Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG) approved roof alarm on churches where lead or copper could be stolen

- Encouraging staff to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour or vehicles to the police
- Encouraging people in the local community to be vigilant around buildings like places of worship and schools, reporting any suspicious activity, particularly the unexpected arrival of builders
- Consider joining Heritage Watch

Catalytic converter theft

Thieves have been targeting catalytic converters because of the precious metals they contain, 4 x 4 and high clearance vehicles like vans being particularly vulnerable. Preventative measures that can be taken include:

- If a catalytic converter is a bolt-on type, it is possible to have the bolts welded shut. However, this must be checked with your insurance provider.
- Fit protective coverings on catalytic converters. These can make it much more difficult for thieves to remove them

- Have your catalytic converter etched or forensically marked and put stickers in the windscreen to say this has been done
- Always consult with your vehicle manufacturer. Your local dealership will be able to advise on marking and fixtures.



Firearms and explosives licensing

It is the responsibility of the licensed firearms community to ensure they keep themselves and their firearms safe and secure. Firearms holders must abide by the terms of their firearm or shotgun certificate and take all reasonable precautions to keep their firearms secure at all times.

There has been an increase in incidents in the UK where firearms, in particular shotguns, have been stolen or lost from residential premises and vehicles. There is a concern that certificate holders are being targeted and the firearms stolen are now in the hands of criminals and are being used in crime.

Prevention measures to consider include:

- It is a condition on a firearm and shotgun certificate that all firearms must be stored securely when not in use. This means that when a firearm is not in the physical possession of a holder, either being used, cleaned or repaired, it must be stored securely at all times

- Do not use certificates as identification. Doing so informs other parties that firearms are held at your address. As well as risking your firearms being stolen, it could put your family at risk
- Store shooting kit out of general view. Do not leave gun slips, skeet vests, etc, hanging in the hallway where a casual visitor to your home can see them
- Be careful of what messages/ photographs you share on social media
- Ask members of your family not to talk to others about you shooting/ holding firearms
- If you have a burglar alarm, use it – zone it so you can set it even when you are at home
- Burglars go through drawers looking for valuables and keys, so do not leave cabinet keys in a drawer, especially not in the same room as the cabinet. Keys to gun cabinets must not be stored where they can be accessed by non-certificate holders in the

household. If cabinet keys are on your main keyring you must ensure others cannot access them for example not left on bedside cabinet at night, etc.

- There have been numerous thefts where cabinets have been wrenched off walls. Check yours is securely bolted to the wall and there are no gaps behind it
- If away from home for an extended period, consider storing firearms with a firearms dealer or friend who is legally able to hold them
- If you have a firearm without a serial number, have one engraved on and inform Firearms Licensing to update your records – if it is lost/stolen and recovered you will then get it back
- Fire off cartridges from firearms you own, label and retain the cases somewhere safe. If the firearm is stolen, hand the ammunition to police, so it can be used to identify if your firearm is used in crime
- If you have a vehicle parked outside your home bearing a vanity plate that infers firearms are held, for example 'H1 GUN', be aware that you are advertising to criminals that you hold firearms. You are compromising the security of your firearms and could be putting the safety of your family at risk
- Criminals do not always need to steal firearms; they could also target vulnerable persons holding legal firearms. This might include befriending such holders and

gaining their trust or using threats to gain access and borrow legally held firearms to use in crime. Is there anyone you know on your shoot or at your gun club who could be targeted in this way?

Is someone asking too many questions about your firearms/shooting? Be aware - if something makes you feel uneasy and you do not feel happy phoning the police, contact your local Firearms Enquiry Officer for a chat using the number below

All licensed firearms holders have a duty, both statutory and moral, to ensure their guns do not fall into the wrong hands

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police Firearms and Explosives Licensing Department:

02380 478104 between 10am - 12pm Monday to Friday

firearms.licensing@hampshire.police.uk



Property marking - Dot peen

Every year, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary recover hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of stolen property from the hands of criminals, but all too often there is no way of identifying the rightful owners. Being able to trace the ownership of the property not only helps people get their property back, but it can also provide evidence that is vital in securing convictions.

A dot peen property marking machine is an important tool used by police to:

- Help identify lost and stolen property
- Return stolen property to rightful owners
- Take action against those that handle stolen goods
- Providing evidence that is vital in securing convictions
- Helps make items harder to sell on once stolen

How does it work?

Dot peen marking involves using a tungsten carbide-tipped pin to indent an item with dots to create a visible, permanent unique number. The unique number (usually a postcode

and house number) will be entered onto the national Immobilise property register database, vastly increasing the chances that the item will be reunited with its owner if it is lost or stolen.

Dot peen is very effective in marking most materials (apart from glass or ceramics). In the rural setting the machine is used for marking:

- Garage and garden tools
- Power tools
- Equestrian tack
- Plastic and wooden items
- Agricultural plant panels, quad bikes etc.

While other methods of property marking, such as UV marker pens or forensically-coded liquid, can also be very effective in reuniting property with its rightful owners, the visual deterrent of a permanently marked serial number alone could be enough to deter would-be thieves.

The Constabulary is offering the dot peen property marking service free of charge across Hampshire & Isle of Wight. If you would like your property marked please email: property.marking@hampshire.police.uk

Farm and outbuilding security

Around your farmyard, in your barns and outbuildings there is valuable equipment that will appeal to thieves e.g. power tools, quad bikes, machinery and diesel. Isolated buildings, machinery and livestock present the greatest risk. Please consider the following:

- Farmhouses and farm buildings are often in isolated locations and can be vulnerable to crime if not properly secured.
- Make sure valuable equipment is stored in a secure building behind a strong locked door, or use a metal cage and keep it locked when unattended
- When not in use, lock doors to outbuildings at all times. If equipment is in a barn or yard, secure it with gates, an alarm or security beams
- Use locks that comply with the British Standards, good quality locking bars and high security padlocks

- Windows can be an open invitation to thieves - protect them with metal bars or grilles
- Make sure that doors are kept locked, even when you are on the premises
- Fit mortice deadlocks that comply with the British Standards to all external doors and reinforce with locking bolts
- Invest in timers that turn lights on and off inside the house if you go out at night and consider installing security lighting outside
- Consider domestic CCTV systems or an alarm -See <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/domestic-cctv-systems> for more details

Visit www.locksmiths.co.uk for advice on British Standard locks and guidance on which locks are best for your home and buildings.



Heritage crime

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have many historic sites and properties, in fact, there are over 15,000 protected archaeological sites and historic buildings and shipwrecks.

People have lived, worked and died in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for thousands of years. Our ancestors have left us with a rich legacy of settlements, buildings, shipwrecks and artefacts. The historic environment is unique and sensitive and is vulnerable to the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Historic England defines heritage crime as - 'Any offence that harms the value of heritage assets and their settings.'

Many historic sites, buildings and shipwrecks, known as heritage assets, are protected by specific legislation to prevent the harm caused by damage or unlicensed alteration.

Other offences such as theft, criminal damage, arson and anti-social behaviour can also damage and harm heritage assets and interfere with the public's enjoyment and knowledge of their heritage.

The cost and impact, both financial and emotional, to communities is enormous.

History fascinates people, and the damage being caused could deny future generations the opportunity to enjoy our heritage.

By its nature, most heritage property was created without consideration for modern criminal behaviour. New threats, such as the dramatic increase in metal theft in recent years, has placed a heavy burden on those responsible for the protection of sites.

Heritage assets are sites which are considered to have a value to the heritage of England and include:

- Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Protected marine wreck sites
- Conservation areas
- Registered parks and gardens
- Registered battlefields
- World Heritage Sites
- Protected military remains of aircraft and vessels of historic interest
- Undesignated but acknowledged heritage buildings and sites, known as Non-designated Heritage Assets. These may be locally listed or appear in Local Plans maintained by the Local Planning Authority.

The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) is the only official, up to date, register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England - listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, registered parks and gardens, and battlefields. Use the list to find the protected sites, buildings and shipwrecks in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. [Click here.](#)



Heritage security help

Advice for protecting regular commercial and residential property is equally useful at heritage properties. However, depending on the type of heritage property, its individual circumstances and contents some may need further, more specific consideration. A thorough risk assessment will help identify these specifics and will direct the protective measures taken.

Successful crime prevention strategies should aim to reduce the risk to the property by increasing the risk of detection to the thief or other criminal. The types and level of security and protection used should be determined by the results of the risk assessment, which considers the way the property is used and when it is most at risk.

- Heritage security must also take into account and be balanced against any knock-on effects on the heritage item. For example, moving a statue from a park to a gallery makes it less available to the public, changes its aesthetic appeal, and reduces the quality of the park

- Protective measures must not detract from a property's character and must be unobtrusive – otherwise a Georgian shop front with external roller shutters becomes a bland modern building; fitting CCTV cameras to the front of a house is unappealing and can contravene regulations. Striking the right balance can be more costly than using standard measures
- When assessing the risks to a heritage asset, a holistic approach is required. Look at the property and its surroundings as a whole. Think about things from a criminal's point of view and work out the most likely targets and the ways criminals would attack the property

- Once you have considered what could go wrong and how it might impact on you, then you need to think about what you should do about it. A mitigating action is something done to protect your property and broadly may take three forms:

- ignoring/accepting a risk

- exporting/transferring a risk

- addressing a risk

- Having the right insurance is also vital for heritage properties. Speak to your insurer or seek specialist advice to make sure your cover and any security measures you implement are suitable and acceptable

For more information on Heritage crime, visit: [Historic England - Championing England's heritage | Historic England](#)

Historic England has produced guidance to support owners of heritage assets to assess threat and risk; and, to identify and implement effective measures to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.

See links below:

[Assessment of Threat and Risk](#)

[Prevention Measures a Guide for Owners, Tenants and Managers of Heritage Assets](#)

[Prevention and Removal of Graffiti](#)

[Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Prevention and Response](#)

[Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Replacement Materials](#)



Hare coursing - Op Galileo

Hare Coursing is an activity where sighthounds such as greyhounds or lurchers are 'set' on hares. The purpose of this activity is to bet on how many times the dog can 'turn' or 'course' the hare.

Since the Hunting Act 2004 this has been an illegal activity as it uses dogs to hunt live mammals.

Hare coursing is committed throughout the day and night. Daytime begins one hour before sunrise. 'Night-time' begins one hour after sunset.

Nationally offences relating to hare coursing are referred to as 'Op Galileo.' If you believe you are witnessing an 'in action' incident of hare coursing, this should be reported immediately to 999. If you think you are witnessing hare coursing, please note down the following information to be provided to the call handler:

- Obtain a description of the person/s involved including: Gender, height, build,

ethnicity, hair, age, distinguishing features and clothing worn

- Obtain a description of any dogs involved (markings, colour, etc)
- Obtain a description of any vehicles involved (index numbers, make, model, colour, etc)
- What are the people actually doing? (Is there evidence of walking in a line across a field?)
- What are the dogs doing? (Are they on leads, off leads, chasing hares, etc?)
- Have any hares actually been seen?
- Where is it taking place? (exact location if possible, use landmarks for reference)
- Without putting themselves at risk, the informant should film it or photograph the occurrence

Poaching and livestock worrying

Wildlife crime is any activity that goes against legislation protecting the UK's wild animals and plants. It can cause pain and suffering to animals, push species closer to extinction and can be linked to other serious crimes like firearms offences and organised crime.

Livestock worrying is when a dog attacks or chases livestock on agricultural land or is at large in a field with sheep, which can result in significant injury or suffering and in the worst cases, death of the animals involved. This also has devastating consequences for livestock keepers, causing personal distress as well as significant financial costs.

- Livestock worrying is a criminal offence and comes under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953. It comes with a maximum fine of £1000
- This isn't just a threat to a farmer or landowner's livelihood, it's also a dangerous situation for the animals involved, and could lead to more risk if the animals get onto the road
- A farmer is allowed to kill the dog if it's worrying their livestock

Always keep your dog under control around other animals and if you see a dog on the loose worrying animals, report it.

Theft of fish - Operation Traverse, refers to still bodies of water (lakes and ponds) where the fish have clearly been stocked and managed by the owner of the land upon which that body of water exists. Both offences are contrary to the Theft Act 1968 (Schedule 1) which states it is an offence under the Act to take or destroy, or attempt to take or destroy, fish from land privately owned.

Livestock theft is a crime defined as a property crime and economical in nature. It is a very serious crime, with serious consequences for the farmer. Livestock worth £2.3m was stolen from UK farms in 2020. Livestock thefts can be extremely distressing to both the animals who suffer, and also to the farmers who bred and raised them.



Wild birds and the law

The primary legislation protecting wild birds in England and Wales is the **Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981**. The basic principle of this Act is that all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and some rare species are afforded additional protection from disturbance during the breeding season. There are certain exceptions to this notably in respect of wildfowl, game birds and various species that may cause damage.

The Police have the prime responsibility for enforcing this legislation and every Police force now has Wildlife Crime Officers (WCO's) whose duties include dealing with wildlife issues.

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence with certain exceptions, to:

- a) Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- b) Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird.

c) Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

d) Have in one's possession or control any wild bird (dead or alive), part of a wild bird egg or egg of a wild bird which is taken in contravention of the Act.

e) Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is in, on or near a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

f) Have in one's possession or control any bird of a species listed on Schedule 4 of the Act.

Schedule 1 birds: Rare species afforded additional protection. These birds are commonly referred to as Birds of Prey or Raptors.

For more information and legislation on the Protection of Wild Birds please [click here](#)

Plant, machinery and vehicle theft

Plant, machinery and vehicle crime can often be prevented by taking some simple and sensible measures. Prevention does not just involve spending money, it is about having procedures and routines in place where these items are used and stored. Whether you have experienced a crime or you are generally thinking about how to make your property more secure, take action using the following advice as a guide.

- Consider RFID tracking and geomapping your machinery. You can assign an area where your equipment can be moved. However, if it goes outside of that area, you will receive a notification
- If you are buying second-hand equipment you can also check CESAR (the Construction and Agricultural Equipment Security and Registration scheme). This police-approved private company database lists stolen items. Checking items for sale against this will help police in reducing the amount of stolen machinery equipment in circulation
- If you are hiring machinery make sure you get a hire agreement. This should contain a full description of the machinery, including serial numbers and information about what you should do if the equipment is stolen
- Secure or immobilise vehicles where they are stored and when they are not in use
- If practical, move machinery from fields when they are not in use, especially if they are near a road. Never leave ignition keys in machinery when it is not in use
- If you are buying or hiring machinery ask the seller for the plant identification document, which will contain the item's unique identification numbers and the serial numbers of other parts

- When moving machinery from depot to site, give drivers a conveyance note with full delivery instructions and a contact telephone number. The conveyance note should be an original not a copy
- Make sure the driver knows who should be receiving the machinery and asks that person to sign the conveyance note on receipt
- It should be routine practice for delivery drivers to check back with their dispatcher should they receive revised delivery instructions either by telephone or from someone at the delivery address
- Update the company machinery register with details of where the machinery has been sent and the person responsible for its safekeeping. Also record the movement of machinery between sites and when this occurred
- Appoint someone at management level to be responsible for machinery and the processes that go with having them on site. Constantly review security practices for each site, including how machinery is stored
- Display security posters on site to highlight security measures such as CCTV and to show your commitment to preventing crime
- Make sure there are secure storage areas for all machinery that has to be left on site overnight. Do not forget the value of small tools and equipment and ensure these are stored in high security cabinets or a secure enclosure

Staff awareness

All staff need to be made aware that plant theft is a serious matter. Everyone on site should have a good working knowledge of security procedures, so ensure appropriate induction for new starters as well as ongoing training.

Encourage staff to report anything suspicious to their supervisors, and ensure supervisors know what procedures to follow when this happens.

The importance of insurance

Having contents insurance will take away the financial worry of replacing stolen goods. Many insurance companies offer reduced premiums for people with good security.

Make sure you remove keys from plant and machinery, and activate any in-built security. Always lock your site up properly and set any alarms and or other security equipment such as CCTV as otherwise you may not be covered. Also ensure the security products you are using comply with your insurance company's criteria.

Identifying your plant and machinery

Overt and covert marking of property makes it less appealing to thieves, and registering it with approved bodies makes it easier to return to owners should it be stolen and recovered. Measures to think about include:

- Use engravers or welders to mark vehicles and equipment with your postcode, followed by the first two letters of your farm or company

- Consider overtly painting equipment in your corporate colours to make items less attractive to thieves
- Mark parts with a unique number. The more parts you mark the easier it will be to identify them if the equipment is stripped down
- Keep a record of serial, chassis and model numbers, and store in a secure place away from where the equipment is kept
- Record all equipment and attachments in a company plant asset register
- Consider fitting trackers to your most valuable vehicles
- Number plate theft causes a range of problems. Consider fitting a secure plate bearing your company or farm details and/or a unique identifier
- You may also want to add a 24-hour telephone number so that the police can call you to check plant equipment they see on the move
- Register items with an approved recognised database (for example CESAR)

CESAR Datatag Systems

CESAR is a protection system with technology specifically designed for plant machinery. It incorporates the following elements:

- Unique plant identification plate. These tamper-proof plates carry a unique plant identification number, ensuring that property can be tracked and returned in the event of theft recovery
- Glass tag transponder. This transponder is roughly the size of a grain of rice and can be easily installed. It contains a unique code number which is permanently programmed into its integrated circuit. The number cannot be altered or deleted
- Self-adhesive tag. This flexible self-adhesive transponder contains a unique code number which is permanently programmed into its integrated circuit. The number cannot be altered or deleted and is impervious to attack by electric shock and magnetic waves
- Datadots. A superior microdot identification system developed for ease of use. Datadots can be applied to any surface, therefore making it impossible for the criminals to locate and remove them all
- Datatag DNA. This is a liquid that can be painted onto each piece of plant or machinery. The liquid contains a unique invisible code that can be used to identify an owner. For further information visit www.datatag.co.uk
- OP SLID relates to thefts and burglaries of Quad Bikes and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's). Call 999 if you see a theft in progress or know that one has been stolen recently

What should you do if plant, machinery or vehicles are stolen?

Act quickly and tell the police –call 999 if you discover the crime in progress or life is at risk, or use 101 if you discover the theft after it has happened

If you have a tracker fitted to your plant, machinery or vehicles you will be able to see its live location. Please activate this with your tracking company and inform the control room of its live location

Let the police have the plant identification document so that they can enter the correct information on the Police National Computer

If there is no plant identification document the police will need the following information:

Make, model and type of equipment lost, colour, registration number (if applicable), vehicle identification number (VIN) product identification number (PIN) and/or serial number, engine number, Plant hire or fleet number, Any other identification numbers or distinctive features, Descriptions of any attachments and their serial numbers (VIN or PIN), approximate value.

If the equipment is insured, inform your insurer. If your equipment is registered with a commercial registration or tracking company, remember to tell them too. Do not disturb the scene of the crime until the police have investigated. Try to get the names and addresses of any witnesses. Make a note of the date, time and place of the theft and who saw the equipment last.



Fuel theft

Fuel is frequently stolen from vehicles and storage tanks in rural locations. Thieves use siphoning equipment or cut fuel lines and carry it away in large barrels or containers. Prevention measures to consider include:

- Keep vehicles in a secure area, preferably a garage, shed or outbuilding, wherever possible
- Install a motion-sensor alarm in the area
- Use locking fuel caps
- Fit anti-siphoning devices
- Re-fuel vehicles before you use them and do not leave them fully fuelled overnight
- Consider using fuel cards rather than storing fuel on site
- Fuel tanks should be within sight of the house to increase the chance of a thief being seen
- Use motion-sensor security lighting in this area
- Install cages around fuel tanks or plant prickly plants around them
- Focus CCTV cameras on the tanks
- Remove portable barrels and containers from site or lock them away securely
- Install a fuel tank alarm - either one that triggers when the cap is tampered with or one that alerts the owner when the fuel level suddenly drops. More advanced systems can be linked to security lighting or send a text message to alert the owner



Site security

Whether you run a business from your site, or use it to store plant and machinery when it's not in use, good security is vital in preventing crime. To protect your site, think how a criminal might view your premises.

Criminals are skilled in identifying changes in the environment, particularly if they know the local area. Even if they have not set out to steal, any opportunities they come across could prompt them into action. Put yourself in a burglar's shoes and assess how you would get in if you were locked out.

You should also consider whether there are desirable items on display at your site which may attract criminals. If so, think about how you can reduce their visibility.

Securing rural sites

The rural nature of our two counties makes isolated properties, stables, farm buildings, machinery, trailers and livestock vulnerable to crime unless reasonable steps are taken to keep them safe and secure.

No single product can protect your site. Security involves using a range of methods to put criminals off in the first place or slow them down significantly to the point where they see the risks outweighing the benefits.

Assessing your site

Breaking down the existing protective and risk elements on your site will help you identify where you are doing well and what you can improve. Start with the perimeter and work your way inwards. Consider:

- Is your site secure? Where is it insecure? Can you address perimeter security? If your site is not easy to secure for operational or location reasons, do what you can to secure the perimeter. Then look beyond the perimeter and address the internal security arrangements
- Plant thorny hedges and dig ditches alongside hedgerows to prevent vehicles from accessing the land at other points
- Keep your fences and hedges in a good state of repair and fill in any gaps
- Can your premises be seen well by other neighbours or is it in an isolated location? Isolated locations allow criminals more time to get in and take what they want, so consider measures to delay and detect them getting in, and the response this would trigger
- Is it obvious to others when premises are operational and when they are not?
- The key to keeping a site safer is making it look operational, even when it is not. Ensure alarm systems are always set. Consider window coverings of some description for offices, etc.
- The use of internal timer switches for lamps or plug-in dusk to dawn lights may be appropriate in some buildings
- Do you have gates on your site? Are they closed and secured when not in use, if this is practicable during hours of operation?
- Block or remove all gates and entry points that are not used, to establish a single point of entry and exit. If the site is a farm, consider putting a second inner gate at the private end of the farm entrance so the living accommodation is separate to the working farm
- Invert and cap gate hinges, so gates cannot be lifted and removed
- Bring gates as far forward as possible to reduce any recessed areas. Make sure gates are locked with either a mortice deadlock (if the gate is thick enough) or a decent hasp and staple secured with a closed shackle padlock
- Is your site alarmed? Does this extend to other storage facilities on site?
- What climbing aids are on site which could assist potential offenders? Remove or secure these so that they cannot be used by a potential offender

Security options

As part of your good security routine, make sure all your staff are aware of the security practices for each site. Ensure appropriate induction for new starters as well as ongoing training. Encourage staff to report anything suspicious to their supervisors, and ensure supervisors know what procedures to follow when this happens.

Constantly review security measures on-site and how each item is secured.

Alarms and CCTV

Alarms will usually have the bigger effect in deterring criminals but where they are used in rural locations they must be linked up to some sort of response system should the alarm be activated.

This will involve the alarm being diverted to your mobile phone or even a central monitoring station via a police response. The alarm system should also be suitable for your site, ensuring all vulnerable areas within it are covered and so properly protected. A response system such as this cuts down the amount of time criminals have to commit crime on your site.

Sites where plant and machinery are stored and operate may benefit from the use of perimeter alarms, installed at access points to the land to alert owners of intruders. Consider also the benefits of using an intercom and keypad entry system to control a main entrance for visitors and legitimate site users who may need access in and out throughout the course of the working day.

Your local crime prevention officer will be happy to discuss and advise on alarms.

If you decide to go ahead, obtain three quotes from firms registered with either the National Security Inspectorate (www.nsi.org.uk) or Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (www.ssaib.org).

The National Independent CCTV Inspectorate has useful advice on CCTV (www.cctvinspectorate.org).

The police can only recommend products that have been attack tested and therefore come with the Secured by Design accreditation. The following two websites have a range of such products:



www.soldsecure.com

Understanding the legal situation

You have the right to keep your site secure but you must remember the following:

Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 (amended 1984)

The Act states that an occupier of a premise may owe a duty of care to a trespasser. Under this Act, certain security measures should not be implemented in certain areas if there is an obvious risk of harm, particularly under a certain height. Visible warning signage should also be displayed where it can easily be seen. The legislation does not extend to thorny plants because they are natural.

CCTV and business

All businesses that have CCTV must register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Owners should be aware that under the Data Protection Act notification is a legal requirement for organisations processing and collecting CCTV images. Failure to notify the ICO is a criminal offence.

Visit www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/3/contents for further guidance about the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957



Can security resources be shared?

If your business is located on a site where other similar businesses operate, consider how you can support and protect each other.

Sharing security resources, like splitting the cost of security guards for example, could work out to be a more cost-effective solution to any ongoing security problems.

In some parts of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, schemes like this have been set up with guidance and assistance from the local Crime Prevention Officer and the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

If you think this is something that might work in your location, contact your local policing teams for further information on setting up and running a scheme. www.hampshire.police.uk



Fertiliser security

The National Counter Terrorism Office (NaCTSO) has produced a five point security plan for registered users of ammonium nitrate. It is important to adhere to this and immediately report any suspicious activity regarding this material to the police. Suspicious activity includes theft or anyone attempting to purchase the material who is not licensed to do so.

- Wherever possible use a Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS) approved supplier.
- Wherever possible keep in a secure area such as a building or sheeted away from public view
- Carry out regular stock checks and report any loss to the police immediately (call 101)

- Avoid leaving fertiliser in a field overnight. Never leave fertiliser in the field for a long period of time
- Remember it is illegal to sell ammonium nitrate without the correct documentation

For further information please see: <https://www.protectuk.police.uk/advice-and-guidance/security/secure-your-fertiliser>

Or contact: ctsahampshire@thamesvalley.police.uk

Arson

Each year in the UK on average around 1,600 farm buildings and 85,000 areas of grassland are destroyed by fire. Around 40 per cent of these fires are started deliberately, many as an act of vandalism. A serious fire on a farm can affect the financial stability of even the most well run business. The cost to the fire service to fight a haystack fire can reach £150,000.

Farms are particularly vulnerable to arson due to their isolated locations, open boundaries and readily ignitable hay and straw. Whilst arson attacks are difficult to eliminate, some simple precautions can reduce the risk:

- Stack bales away from any sources of ignition and away from buildings

- Do not build stacks over underground services such as gas pipes, water mains, fire hydrants or under overhead power lines
- Avoid siting stacks near to public access and roads as they will be vulnerable to fires from discarded cigarettes and deliberate arson
- Multiple stacks should be sited at least 10 metres apart and in line with the prevailing wind.

As part of your fire risk assessment, you should complete a survey of your farm buildings and identify areas that could be at risk of arson.

If there a history of vandalism or fire setting in the area around the farm or if trespassing is a problem you will need to be extra vigilant.

Storage
Is hay and straw removed from the field as soon as possible after harvesting?
Is hay and straw stored separately from other farm buildings particularly those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery?
Is hay and straw stacked in reasonable sized stacks at least 10 metres apart?
Is hay and straw stored separately from livestock housing?
Security
Are petrol, diesel and other fuels stored in secure areas?
Are fuel storage tank outlets padlocked?
Are fertilisers and pesticides kept under lock and key?
Is the security of all farm buildings maintained at all times?
Is security lighting provided?
Are the farm buildings fitted with an intruder alarm with a monitored link to an alarm receiving station?
Is all refuse disposed of safely and on a regular basis?
Fire safety management
Are all unoccupied areas checked for unnecessary accumulation of combustible materials?

If you have answered 'no' to any of the boxes, control measures will need to be put in place. For more information about fire safety, contact Hampshire Fire & Rescue. <https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/contact-us/>



Equine Crime

Equine crime covers working stables and equestrian centres and includes offences such as horse theft, equestrian equipment theft, and fly-grazing.

Fly-grazing

Fly-grazing is the practice of placing horses on private and public land without the land owner's permission. Landowners must inform police if they believe horse(s) have been abandoned on their land or are unlawfully fly-grazing on their land within 24 hours of finding them. For further information and advice please visit: [Fly Grazing Horses: Legislation & Notices | The British Horse Society \(bhs.org.uk\)](#)

Tips to help prevent Fly-grazing:

- Plough unused fields so that your land is less attractive to potential fly-grazers
- Remove water troughs
- Put locks on all gates and entrances to your fields, and

ensure the hinges are either turned or sealed to prevent them being lifted off

- Block entrances to your fields with large rocks, banks of earth or deep ditches
- Put up Country Watch signage on your gates

Microchip and Passport

- It is a legal requirement for all horses to be microchipped
- All horses must have a passport issued by an authorised authority. You can find the full list of passport issuing organisations on the DEFRA website
- Keep a photocopy of your passport in a safe place in case you lose the original or if it is stolen
- You must have your horses passport with you every time you transport your horse, even if it is only for a short distance



Theft prevention

- Consider having your horse security marked, there are a number of different ways to consider such as freeze branding, hoof branding etc, in addition to being microchipped
- Use prominent signage which states that the animals are permanently tagged and identifiable
- Take a photograph of your horse from the front, rear, left and right hand-side (in the summer and the winter)
- Photograph any distinguishing marks, including face, legs, scars and brands
- Head collars should not be left on grazing horses (or left nearby on fences or gates), as this can aid thieves
- Never leave tack and equipment lying around the yard - if it is not in use, lock it away in the tack room
- Keep your wheelbarrows in a secure place as they can be used to take away stolen items
- Trailers should be secured using both hitch and wheel locks and preferably stored in a locked barn
- Use a tracker on your trailer/horse box and consider having a motif or marking on the side of the vehicle

which makes it easily identifiable and deters offenders as it stands out

Property Marking and Registration

- All equestrian equipment should be clearly marked with the owner's postcode (see 'Dot Peen Machine' section). Property marking can deter offenders and improve the chances of tracing and returning stolen items.
- You could also consider forensic marking solutions like SmartWater www.smartwater.com or SelectaDNA www.selectadna.co.uk
- Make an inventory of your equipment with clear descriptions. If you use a horsebox or trailer, make sure you record details of the chassis and the frame numbers
- Take photographs of any valuable equipment, then register your property and upload the photos for free at www.immobilise.com
- Put up clear signage to highlight that your property is marked

Welfare concerns

To report a welfare concern please contact the British Horse Society Welfare team:

Telephone: 02476 840517

Email: welfare@bhs.org.uk



We hope you find this information useful.

For further crime prevention advice visit:
www.hampshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention

Report any suspicious activity to
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary
on **101** or dial **999** in an **emergency**

Other useful websites

Office of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police & Crime Commissioner
www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary
www.hampshire.police.uk

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service
www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Secured by Design
www.securedbydesign.com

Sold Secure
www.soldsecure.com

National Security Inspectorate
www.nsi.org.uk

Occupiers' Liability Act
www.legislation.gov.uk



With special thanks to Northamptonshire Police.