

# RURAL CRIME



PRIVATE  
AREA  
NO ADMITTANCE

*- Closing the gate on criminality*







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HELP SCRAP THE  
METAL THIEVES

## METAL THEFT IS A MINDLESS CRIME THAT THEY WON'T GET AWAY WITH

Metal theft costs the UK economy £770m each year. It puts lives at risk and causes misery to communities in Lincolnshire affected by damage to property, power loss and disrupted telecommunications. Criminals can also find themselves counting the cost of their actions. Metal theft is a serious crime, risking a fine or prison sentence. Some people have even paid with their own lives.

**Tell us what you know, not who you are.**

Call Crimestoppers now on:

**0800 555 111**

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Crimestoppers Trust is a registered charity



**CRIMESTOPPERS**

**0800 555 111**

Call anonymously with information about crime

## General Home Security

### Doors and Windows

- Ensure all doors and windows are shut and locked when not in use.
- Ensure windows and door frames are in good repair.
- Fit good quality deadlocks conforming to the latest British Standards to all external doors.
- Fit good quality window locks.

### Security Lighting

- Install security lights that come on automatically at dusk and go off at dawn.
- Help make your property look occupied by fitting timer switches to lamps in different rooms and set them to come on at staggered times.
- Due to the potential fire risk in using any electrical device, it is important that all manufacturer's instructions are strictly adhered to at all times.

### CCTV & Intruder Alarms

- Consider installing CCTV to provide formal surveillance to the most vulnerable areas of the property.
- Consider installing an audible and monitored intruder alarm system.
- Get comprehensive advice from a reputable security company that conforms to national standards:
  - *National Security Inspectorate (NSI)*
  - *Security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board (SSAIB)*



## Outbuilding Security

### Doors & Windows

- Fit good quality locks that comply with relevant British Standards with good quality locking bars and robust padlocks.
- Protect windows with metal bars or grilles, or consider blocking them up completely.
- Ensure all windows are shut and locked when not in use.

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## Boundary Security

### Entrance & Exits

- Look closely at the perimeter of your land to ensure it is secure as possible.
- If possible remove all private access points that are no longer used and establish a single gated entrance and exit.
- Consider installing an entry control system (infra-red, intercom or keypad entry).

### Gates & Hinges

- Invert and cap gate hinges so that gates cannot be lifted off. Ensure fixing bolts cannot be removed.

- Use good quality padlocks with covers so they cannot be easily cut off.
- Use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control large openings to yards.

### Natural Boundary Protection

- Plant thorn hedges to use as natural boundaries.
- Restrict vehicle access by digging deep ditches.

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## Fire Risks

- Hay and straw should be removed from fields as soon as possible after harvesting.
- Hay and straw should be stored separately from other buildings.
- Petrol, diesel and other fuels should be stored in secure areas and storage tank outlets should be padlocked.
- Refuse should be disposed of safely and on a regular basis.
- Seek further advice from your local Fire Officer.

### Illegal Activity

#### Fly Tipping

- Restrict the opportunity for fly tipping by improving boundary security through the use of fencing, bollards or gating.
- Use signage to indicate that an area is monitored.
- Quickly remove evidence of fly tipping so it does not act as a signal and attract further offences.
- Report all incidents of fly tipping to your local authority as soon as possible.
- If possible make note of any vehicle details and descriptions of people involved.

#### Illegal Occupation

- Perimeter protection of vacant land and car parks reduces the risk, inconvenience and costs involved in removal of trespassers and illegal occupants.
- Look closely at the perimeter of your land to ensure it is as secure as possible.
- Restrict vehicle access by digging deep ditches.

- Consider your personal safety before approaching any individuals.
- The landowner can take proceedings to the County Court to obtain a Court Order for the eviction of illegal occupants.

#### Illegal Off-Roading

- Improve boundary security through the use of fencing, bollards or gating, making the land less accessible to off-road vehicles.
- Report incidents of illegal off-roading and if possible record vehicle details and descriptions of the people involved.
- Consider using signage to reinforce the illegal aspect of this activity and to warn that trespassers will be prosecuted.
- Consider your personal safety before approaching individuals.



## Machinery Security

### Keys & Locks

- Ensure that vehicles, when not in use, are locked away or out of sight of a passing opportunist.
- When vehicles or plant equipment are kept outside they should be locked and the keys secured in your possession or in a locked key safe.
- Consider the use of hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors. You may require a combination of the above to meet insurance requirements.

### Security Markings

- All property including vehicles should be uniquely marked, photographed and recorded

somewhere safe. This should include serial, chassis and model numbers.

- Use property marking to uniquely mark all types of property.
- Include your Post Code and property name or number in a non-obvious place.
- Popular options include stamping, etching, UV marking and DNA products.

### Tracker & Data Tagging

- Consider fitting a tracking device or a data tagging chip. (CESAR - Vehicle Security Scheme).
- Your insurance company can provide advice on suitable products.

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## Diesel Theft

- Store diesel in a secure fuel tank within a bund and use good quality locks.
- Avoid siting storage tanks in isolated areas such as outlying buildings.
- Consider using a mobile bowser that could be removed to a secure place when not in use.
- Consider the use of a 'diesel dye' that makes your diesel traceable and therefore less attractive to thieves.
- Report incidents of suspicious activity to the Police and if possible record vehicle details and descriptions of the people involved.

## Scrap Metal Theft

Metal theft impacts on all aspects of the community, from crimes affecting individuals and communities through to its effect on national and global businesses e.g. power and transport providers. However, when crime prevention measures are used reductions in offences can be achieved.

### Protect your Property

- Dispose of scrap metal regularly and legitimately to make your premises less vulnerable to metal thieves.
- If you are approached by opportunistic 'scrap dealers' tell them you have a contract with a legitimate scrap dealer and ask them to leave.
- Report incidents of suspicious activity to the police and if possible record vehicle details and descriptions of the people involved.
- Remove any easy access onto building roofs, such as water butts, waste bins and tall trees located near to the building. This makes theft more difficult. Remember to get any necessary approval from your local authority for tree cutting before work starts.
- Store ladders in a secure place. This is really important when building works that involve scaffolding are taking place.
- Where possible, keep any gates locked and restrict vehicle access to the site.
- Make it difficult for thieves to move stolen goods by removing wheelbarrows etc.
- Maximise surveillance by cutting back tall trees and vegetation which could otherwise provide a screen for intruders to hide behind. Remember to get any necessary approval from your local authority for tree cutting before work starts.
- If you have lead on any roofs check them regularly so that any theft of roofing materials is found before it rains and water enters the building, causing further damage.
- Encourage members of your community to keep watch and to report any suspicious activity.
- Apply anti-climb paint to drain pipes and roof guttering. This restricts access to roofing. Do not apply the paint below a height of two metres. Display warning notices which warn people that

- anti-climb paint is being used. Display them prominently. Anti-climb paint can be bought from any security products company.
  - Protect the lower section of lightning conductor ribbons using a metal cage or sheath securely fixed to the building fabric.
  - Consider installing security lighting, particularly at roof level where metal roof coverings are present. Check with your local authority if permission is needed to do this.
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### Tack Security

- Secure windows on the inside of tack rooms with solid iron bars (tubular steel can be bent).
  - Secure all doors with a good quality lock. Use bolts not screws on the hinges.
  - Property mark tack and display signage to deter thieves.
  - Padlock gates with substantial padlocks and heavy duty chains.
  - Consider reversing the top hinge on yard gates to prevent them from being lifted off.
  - Fit security lights and an intruder alarm.
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### Firearm Security

- There are strict regulations with regard safe storage and use of firearms.
- It is an offence not to comply with these conditions.
- If you need advice about firearms security contact your local Police Firearms Licensing Department.

## Suspicious Activity

- All communities should remain vigilant and report suspicious behaviour to the Police.
  - Report individuals asking specific questions about or taking pictures of, a facility or a farm's processes.
  - Report any attempt to purchase fertilisers, diesel, herbicides or pesticides by those not authorised or suspicious individuals.
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## Chemical Storage

- Wherever possible store all fertiliser inside a dedicated locked building or compound.
- Do not leave fertiliser where it is visible to the public.
- Do not sell fertiliser unless the purchaser is known by you to be a bona fide farmer or user.
- Record fertiliser deliveries and usage and carry out regular stock takes. Report any discrepancy or loss to the police.
- Record any manufacturer code numbers from the bags and detonation resistance test certificates as you may be required to present them.
- The Health & Safety Executive can provide further advice on the storage and transportation of fertilisers, particularly ammonium nitrate.

### Endangered Species and Conservation

- In the UK legislation gives protection to wildlife and important habitats and sites.
- Crimes against protected species include killing or taking them from the wild, collecting their eggs or skins for personal collections, trading in them and taxidermy offences. People destroying nests and breeding sites, bat roosts and other protected habitats can also be committing offences.
- Contact the Police, Natural England, your local wildlife trust if you think an offence has been or is about to be committed.



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### Cruelty and Persecution of Wildlife Species

- Some legislation protects particular species such as badgers and deer, by making it an offence to cause them unnecessary suffering by certain acts.
- Most hunts comply with the law but if you become aware of hunts that pursue live animals you should report this to the police.
- It is an offence for a person to hunt with a dog unless exempt. The exemptions are very closely defined.
- The Hunting Act 2004 states that a person will be hunting a wild mammal with a dog if he engages alone or participates with others in the pursuit of a wild mammal, and a dog is employed in that pursuit, whether or not in their direct control.

## Hare Coursing

- The Hunting Act 2004 made Hare Coursing illegal.
  - Hare coursing tends to start after harvest when large tracts of land are left without standing crops and usually occurs at dawn or dusk.
  - The most obvious sign is a group of vehicles parked in a rural area, perhaps by a gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track or bridle path.
  - There will usually be estate cars, four wheel drives or vans. It will be obvious looking inside whether there is evidence of dogs or not.
  - Hare coursers often travel in convoy with vans at the front and rear containing minders.
  - If you see an event taking place we would advise you not to approach the participants but contact the Police immediately.
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## Poaching

### **Poaching is illegal – hunting or fishing. It may be illegal because:**

- The game or fish is not in season.
- The poacher does not possess a licence.
- The hunter used an illegal weapon for that animal.
- The animal or plant is on restricted land.
- The right to hunt this animal is claimed by somebody.
- The means used are illegal.
- The animal or fish is protected by law or has been listed as an endangered animal

## Reporting a Wildlife Crime

When reporting wildlife crime consider these points:

- Are the suspect/s alone or in a group?
- Are they trespassing?
- Do they have equipment with them?
- Do they have dogs or firearms with them?
- Where are they going?
- Where have they been?
- What do they look like?
- Have they any vehicles?
- What are the number plates and vehicle models?
- Can you safely get a photograph?
- Call the police if you see something suspicious.



### Horse Crime

- Take colour photos of your animal in the winter and again in the summer from both sides, head on and tail.
  - If there is a distinctive mark or scar, take a close up photo of these.
  - Photograph the “chestnuts”. You will then have a comprehensive record of your horse.
  - Get your horse freezemarked or have a microchip implanted.
  - Ensure you have a passport for your horse. This is a legal requirement.
  - If reporting a horse related incident, please use terminology that can be easily understood.
  - Join your local Horse Watch Scheme.
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### Animal Mistreatment

- If you believe an animal wild or domestic is or has been mistreated in the first instance call the RSPCA or the Police.
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### Livestock Theft

- Report any suspicious activity involving your livestock to the Police.
- Check your livestock regularly. Don't ignore it if they are making more noise than usual.
- Check the security of boundary fencing/hedging and make regular checks of fields where animals are kept to ensure fences are not breached.
- Use eartags, horn brands, freeze marking or tattooing to make animals more easily identifiable.



## Heritage Crime

- Many land owners have ancient monuments and archaeological areas within or near to their property.
- It is recommended that instances of suspected theft or criminal damage involving a scheduled monument or an archaeological area should be reported to the Police as soon as possible. A report should include a description of offenders and associated motor vehicles.
- Carrying out work on a scheduled monument without consent should be reported to English Heritage.
- The vast majority of metal detectorists are law abiding and will only detect and search for objects on land where they have the landowners permission.
- A landowner cannot give permission for a person to use a metal detector on a scheduled monument.
- Metal detecting in a specified location without consent could amount to theft.
- Illegal detecting at night is sometimes referred to as "Night Hawking"
- Report suspicious incidents to the police as soon as possible.



## Country Watch Schemes

**All Police Forces will have a Watch scheme in place for their rural areas.**

Anyone can apply to register to become a member and would then benefit from the message alert systems which are in place.

Watch members receive e mails and in some areas SMS text about activity or incidents in the local area that may affect them which may include information about thefts, criminal damage, suspicious vehicles or people.

For any further information contact your local Police Force on 101 and ask to speak to your local Neighbourhood Officer.





POLICE

POLICE

THIS IS A



AREA

This product is a joint initiative of the East Midlands Regional Forces.



The information provided has been supplied by the local forces, other organisations and companies involved in helping to reduce rural crime.

