



# SAFEGUARDING

OUR BI-MONTHLY SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2021 • RURAL CRIME



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

In our latest issue we will be covering the topic of Rural Crime, the exploitation of our local wildlife, environment and communities.

Let us explain what rural crime is, why it's a problem and what you can do to help stop it.

## WHAT IS RURAL CRIME?

Rural crime is an umbrella term used to refer to any crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in rural areas. Rural Crime is often linked to criminal gangs, or organised crime groups who exploit rural communities.

These crimes tend to fall into one of three categories;

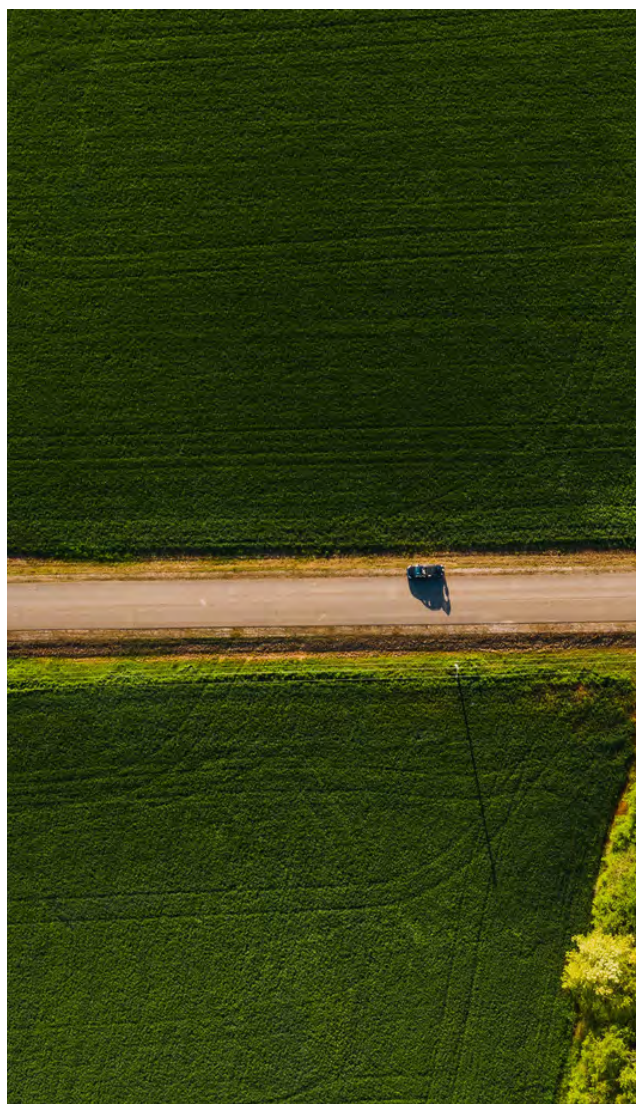
- Wildlife Crime
- Environmental Crime
- Theft

Throughout the newsletter we will explore sub-crimes of these categories and learn what they are, signs to spotting crimes and prevention advice.

According to the **National Rural Crime Network 2018 survey**, around three quarters of people in rural communities are aware of criminal activity that is happening, with one in ten rural residents reporting that they feel unsafe in their own home after dark. Rural crime doesn't just impact rural residents emotionally it hits their pockets too - according to **NFU Mutual's 2021 Crime Report**, rural crime cost the UK an estimated £43.3m in 2020

## IMPORTANT INFO

If you have information on rural crime and want to remain anonymous, you can contact CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111





## WILDLIFE CRIMES

Wildlife crime covers a range of unlawful actions against our wild animals and plants. While these crimes are not limited to the countryside, rural communities are particularly vulnerable due to their abundance of natural wildlife habitats.

Below we will cover rural crimes that fall under this category, signs to spot them and how to prevent it.

### HARE COURSING

**What is it:** Hare coursing is an illegal 'blood sport' in which coursers use trained dogs to catch and brutally kill hares. This cruel exploitation of wild hares also has detrimental impacts on farmers and rural residents. This is the most common crime experienced by farm businesses in East Anglia at 67%.

**Signs to spot:** Look out for the following indicators that illegal hare coursers are operating:

- Groups of vehicles parked in a rural area, perhaps near a gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track or bridle path – this is often the most obvious sign.
- A cluster of estate cars, four-wheel drives, or vans with evidence of dogs inside.
- Vehicles travelling in convoy, with vans at the front and rear containing minders.
- A gathering of people using binoculars to spot hares.
- Coursers walking along the edge of a field to frighten a hare into the open.

### POACHING

**What is it:** Poaching commonly means the illegal killing of deer, rabbits, fish and game. It can have huge ecological and economic impacts through damage to crops, land and ecosystems, and poachers are often involved in multiple forms of rural crime.

### BADGER BAITING

**What is it:** Badger baiting is an illegal 'blood sport' which involves forcing badgers from their setts, before releasing them to dogs to be horrifically tortured and killed. According to the Badger Trust 30,000 badgers fall victim to wildlife crime each year.

**Signs to spot:** Look out for the following indicators that illegal badger persecution is taking place:

- People out with dogs and spades during the day, or dogs, guns and powerful lamps during the night.
- Traps, pellets or food near badger setts, as well as farm machinery or excavators.
- Badger setts appearing to be dug up with spade marks or blocked with materials.

### BAT CRIME - DAMAGE/DESTRUCTION OF ROOSTS

**What is it:** Bat persecution involves disturbing, injuring or killing bats, and damaging or obstructing their roosts. Bat crime was identified as one of the six areas of priority for UK wildlife crime by the NWCUC

**Signs to spot:** The following activities are against the law – look out for those who are:

- Deliberately capturing, injuring or killing bats.
- Damaging or destroying a breeding or resting place.
- Obstructing access to their resting or sheltering places.
- Possessing, selling, controlling or transporting live or dead bats, or parts of them.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturbing a bat while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection.

### How to prevent:

- If you know of a bat roost or habitat that is under threat from development, you can contact your local planning authority to find out whether a bat survey has been carried out.
- If not, those carrying out the works could be at risk of committing a crime. You can contact the council and request that a survey be completed.
- If you have seen bats emerging from buildings or trees being worked on where planning permission has been granted without a bat survey, a crime may be being committed.

If you think an offence has or is about to be committed. You can [report a crime](#) online or call **101**. If it's an emergency call **999**.

If you have information on rural crime and want to remain anonymous, you can contact CrimeStoppers on **0800 555 111**



## ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

Our environment is one of the most valuable resources we have. Rural communities in particular relying on it for business, farming and tourism.

Below we will cover rural crimes that fall under this category, signs to spot it, prevent it and report it.

### ARSON

**What is it:** Arson is when someone deliberately sets fire to someone else's property to damage it or to injure people. According to the National Fire Chiefs Council, arson continues to be the largest single cause of fire attended by Fire and Rescue Services in the UK, accounting for over 50% of all fires in 2017/18.

**How to report:** In an emergency, always call 999 - otherwise call the police on 101.

If you wish to remain anonymous, tell CrimeStoppers what you know about suspected arsonists by calling **0800 555 111**.

If you've been a victim of arson and you're looking for further support, contact [Victim Support](#).

### HERITAGE CRIME

**What is it:** Heritage crime is any offence which harms the value of heritage assets, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered Parks and Gardens and World Heritage Sites.

#### Examples of Heritage Crimes include:

- Architectural theft - in particular metal and stone.
- Criminal damage - in particular damage caused by fire.
- Unlawful metal detecting (also known as 'nighthawking').
- Unlawful disturbance and salvage of maritime sites.
- Unauthorised works to heritage assets.
- Illicit trade in cultural objects.

## SERIOUS & ORGANISED WASTE CRIME

**What is it:** Waste crime takes many different forms, including large scale dumping, illegal waste sites, illegal burning of waste, mis-description of waste to avoid fees and landfill taxes, and illegal export of waste.

Much waste crime is carried out by gangs and individuals who operate bogus waste services, accepting payment for disposal without having the necessary permits for transportation or storage.

**How to report:** If you suspect an individual or company is committing a waste crime, tell Crimestoppers what you know, by calling 0800 555 111 or using our [online form](#).

For example, you may suspect someone of being involved with:

- Large scale dumping of waste (such as a tipper truck dumping over 20 tonnes of waste).
- Illegal waste sites.
- Mis-description of waste, to avoid fees and landfill taxes.
- Illegal export of waste.
- Serious and intentional waste permit breaches.
- Illegal burning of waste.

### FLY-TIPPING

**What is it:** Fly-tipping is illegal dumping of liquid or solid waste on land or in water and is dealt with by your local council.

**How to report:** Alert your local council about any waste that is, or has been, dumped illegally. Help them deal with the problem quickly by telling them:

- the exact location where the fly-tip is.
- the type of waste.
- the amount.
- the day, date and time the fly-tipping happened/it appeared.

Or report fly-tipping online through [ClearWaste.com](#)

If you think an offence has or is about to be committed. You can [report a crime](#) online or call **101**. If it's an emergency call **999**.

An emergency is:

- when a crime is in progress.
- someone is suspected of a crime is nearby.
- there is danger to life or property.
- violence is being used or threatened.

Call 101 to report crime that do not require an emergency response, such as:

- When property has been stolen or damaged and the suspect is no longer at the scene.
- If you suspect unlawful metal detecting is happening in your neighborhood.
- To give the police information about crime or anti-social behaviour in your area.

If you have information on rural crime and want to remain anonymous, you can contact CrimeStoppers on **0800 555 111**



## THEFT AND HOW IT AFFECTS RURAL COMMUNITIES

According to [NFU Mutual's 2021 Rural Crime Report](#), in 2020, the cost of rural crime was £43.3 million.

Rural communities are also a hot-spot for theft, including;

- **Livestock theft:**

This can be a lucrative criminal activity due to the high prices that can often be received for cattle and sheep. The crime can range from losing hundreds of animals to just one or two. The loss of stock leads to significant financial losses and can also have further impacts on the business such as losing breeding stock. Each week, at least one farmer falls victim to cases of theft or butchery, losing hundreds of livestock, which are rarely traced. The financial and emotional cost of livestock theft is huge, imagine losing animals you've nurtured since birth, it's a cruel business.

- **Machinery theft:**

Farm machinery is often expensive and the business is dependent on it. For example, a stolen tractor could mean crops can't be harvested or a stolen quad bike means livestock can't be fed. There isn't a big market for second-hand farm machinery in the UK, so high value items can often be stolen to order and then sent abroad. Farmers have experienced violence when confronting thieves on their land - which is often remote and difficult to secure.

Theft is an issue that all farmers face, whether its **livestock theft, machinery theft, or even fuel theft.**

Even if you are not directly impacted by the devastating effects of rural crime, you can still play a part to prevent numerous instances of crime that affect your community.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

By keeping your eyes and ears open, identifying suspicious behaviour, and reporting anything that seems odd and unusual, everyone in your rural community is able to provide intelligence and work to make our countryside a safer place.

So if you are out and about in the countryside, be observant and report odd, unusual or suspicious behaviour. Do not intervene if you see something suspicious, but take photos as evidence if it's safe to do so.

If you think an offence has or is about to be committed. You can [report a crime](#) online or call **101**. If it's an emergency call **999**.

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# FURTHER SUPPORT & INFORMATION

## Metropolitan Police

Met.Police.UK have put together useful advice and informative videos

You can also [report a crime](#) online.

## CrimeStoppers

If you have information on rural crime and want to remain anonymous, you can contact CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

**0300 123 2040** Monday to Friday 8am - 8pm or [Report online](#)

If you or someone else is in immediate danger or risk of harm dial 999

## 9 PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

## PREVENT DUTY

The Prevent Duty is part of the government strategy to reduce the risk of Extremism, Terrorism and Radicalisation.

### [View our Prevent Leaflet](#)

Report possible terrorist activity online If you are concerned about someone or see anything suspicious call the local police or the police anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321.

## BRITISH VALUES

British Values are defined as;

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

## OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Contact Steadfast Training's Safeguarding team on 0845 223 2401 or email [julian.herriott@steadfasttraining.co.uk](mailto:julian.herriott@steadfasttraining.co.uk)

If you wish to raise an issue of safeguarding for a learner or individual related to Steadfast Training Ltd in any way, please contact the centre immediately on: 0845 223 2401.

[Report a Safeguarding Issue](#)



For more information on anything covered in the newsletter, feedback or ideas for the next issue, please contact us on [chloe.robinson@steadfasttraining.co.uk](mailto:chloe.robinson@steadfasttraining.co.uk).