

# Shutting the gate on Rural Crime



**Kent  
Police**



Call **101** for non-urgent issues.

Call **999** in an emergency.

If deaf or speech impaired text  
'**police**' and your message to **60066**.

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#### ***DVD running instructions:***

*This DVD is best played on a standard DVD player.  
It may also run on a computer that has DVD play facilities  
with audio (e.g. Windows Media Player 11).*

## ***General Home Security***

### **Doors & 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)*

**Estate  
Security**



## ***Outbuildings 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 doors and windows are shut and locked when not in use.

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# Estate Security

## **Boundary Security**

### **Entrances & Exits**

- Look closely at the perimeter of your land to ensure it is as 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.

## **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.

## **Estate Security**

### **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**

- No vehicles should be left in a visible place when not in use.
- 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. See page 15 – Vehicle Security Scheme (CESAR).
- Your insurance company can provide advice on suitable products.



## Equipment Security

### ***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***

- 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.





## Equipment Security

### *Tack Security*

- Secure windows on the inside of tack rooms with solid iron bars (tubular steel can be bent).
- Secure all doors with good quality locks. 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.

### *Firearms Security*

- There are strict regulations with regard to 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 attempts to purchase fertilisers, diesel, herbicides or pesticides by those not authorized or suspicious individuals.

### ***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 immediately any stock 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 (e.g. birds of prey and plants), 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, or your local Wildlife Trust if you think an offence has been or is about to be committed.

## ***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 makes it clear 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.

**Wildlife  
Crime**



## *Hare Coursing*

- The Hunting Act 2004 made hare coursing illegal.
- Hare coursing tends to start after harvest, around the end of August or start of September when large tracts of land are left without standing crops.
- Coursing is more likely to take place 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. They may contain evidence of dogs inside – such as muddy paw prints and dog hair.
- 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.



## ***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 (e.g. baiting).
- The animal or fish is protected by law or has been listed as an endangered animal.

## ***Reporting a Wildlife Crime***

When reporting a 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 photographs 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 freeze-marked 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.

## ***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.

## ***Livestock Theft***

- Report any suspicious activity involving your livestock to the Police.
- Check your livestock regularly. If your livestock are making more noise than usual don't ignore them - take a look to see if anyone is in the field with them or has disturbed them in any way.
- Check the security of boundary fencing/hedging and make regular checks of fields where animals are kept to ensure fences are not breached.
- Use ear tags, horn brands, freeze brand 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 landowner's 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 known by the term 'night hawking'.
- Report suspicious incidents to the Police as soon as possible.



## ***Country Eye***

- Country Eye is a partnership between the rural community, Kent Police and Neighbourhood Watch.
- The aim of the partnership is to help reduce crime and the fear of crime by involving all members of the community and protecting those who are most vulnerable.
- Membership is open to individuals, businesses or community organisations.
- Country Eye is administered locally in each of the Kent Police areas by the local Neighbourhood Watch liaison officers. They are supported by volunteers. Information is circulated daily to all participating groups.
- To find out more about Country Eye in your area contact your local Neighbourhood Watch representative.





## Contacting Kent Police

For non-emergency calls or to contact your local Neighbourhood Officer call **101**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In an emergency dial **999**.

If you have hearing difficulties or speech impairment, text "**police**" and your message to **60066**

For crime prevention advice and other useful information visit **[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)** or email us at **[enquiries@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:enquiries@kent.pnn.police.uk)**.

Alternatively you can contact us via one of the following social networks Facebook search for **Kent Police**, Twitter on **[www.twitter.com/kent\\_police](https://www.twitter.com/kent_police)** or YouTube on **[www.youtube.com/kentpolicevideos](https://www.youtube.com/kentpolicevideos)**

## Contacting Crimestoppers

To report crime or to provide information anonymously, call **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111** or visit **[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)**

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### Crime Reduction & Security

For more information or specific advice on how to secure your home, outbuildings, equipment and vehicles, contact **Kent Police** on **101**.

**CESAR – Vehicle Security Scheme** For more information and advice about CESAR, contact Datatag ID Ltd at **[www.datatag.co.uk](http://www.datatag.co.uk)** or **[www.cesarscheme.org](http://www.cesarscheme.org)**

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### Unauthorised Encampments

For more information and advice or to report an incident, either contact **Kent County Council** on **08453 345210** or **Kent Police** on **101**.

<b>Illegal Off-Road</b>	For more information and advice or to report an incident contact <b>Kent Police</b> on <b>101</b> .
<b>Fly Tipping</b>	<p>For more information and advice or to report an incident, contact your local <b>District</b> or <b>Borough Council</b>.</p> <p>Large scale fly-tipping (more than a tipper lorry load of waste) report to the <b>Environment Agency</b> on <b>0800 807060</b></p> <p><b>Clean Kent</b> on <b>0845 345 0210</b>, Email <b>clean.kent@kent.gov.uk</b> or visit <b>www.cleankent.com</b></p>
<b>Firearms Security</b>	For more information and advice or to report an incident contact <b>Kent Police</b> on <b>101</b> .
<b>Counter Terrorism</b>	<p>To report suspicious behaviour or for further information and advice contact <b>Kent Police</b> on <b>101</b>.</p> <p>In the event of an emergency dial <b>999</b> or call the national <b>Anti Terrorism Hotline</b> on <b>0800 789 321</b>.</p> <p>For specific information and advice on the safe storage of fertilisers visit <b>www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk</b></p>
<b>Fire Risks/Arson</b>	<p>For more information and advice contact <b>Kent Fire and Rescue</b> on <b>01622 692121</b>.</p> <p>In the event of an emergency dial <b>999</b>. Email <b>enquiries@kent.fire-uk.org</b> or visit <b>www.kent.fire-uk.org</b></p>
<b>Wildlife Crime</b>	<p>To report an incident contact <b>Kent Police</b> on <b>101</b>.</p> <p>For more information visit the <b>Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW)</b> website at <b>www.defra.gov.uk/paw</b>. A list of PAW partner organisations and contact details is also available on the website.</p>

<b>Animal Crime</b>	For more information and advice or to report an incident contact <b>Kent Police</b> on <b>101</b> . For information and advice on cruelty or mistreatment of animals contact the <b>RSPCA</b> cruelty line on <b>0300 1234 999</b> or visit <b>www.rspca.org.uk</b>
<b>Heritage Crime</b>	For more information and advice or to report an incident contact <b>Kent Police</b> on <b>101</b> . Reporting any unauthorised works contact <b>English Heritage Customer Service</b> on <b>08703 33118</b> , <b>South East Regional Office</b> on <b>01483 252000</b> , email <b>southeast@english-heritage.org.uk</b> or visit <b>www.english-heritage.org.uk</b>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	For further information visit <b>www.hse.gov.uk</b>
<b>Natural England</b>	For further information visit <b>www.naturalengland.org.uk</b>
<b>Wildlife Trusts</b>	For further information visit <b>www.wildlifetrusts.org</b>
<b>Environment Agency</b>	For further information visit <b>www.environment-agency.gov.uk</b>

We would like to thank all those involved in this production, including:

Alice & Kate Ashman; Andreas & Tessa Hempell and Mia the dog; ASSA ABLOY Security Solutions; Banham Alarms; Datatag; Ian Lindsay/Wasing Estate; South East Regional Forces; MCCDesign (DVD Direction); Thames Valley Police Dog Section; Rick Romero/Gary Richens (Actors); Video4 (DVD Production); Videx Security.

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



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



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