

Dorset Police Rural Crime Prevention Checklist

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This checklist has been designed to give practical advice for rural people to stop themselves becoming a victim of rural crime.

If you need any further details of items enclosed within this checklist please contact Dorset Police Rural Crime Team via email: ruralcrimeteam@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Rural Home Security

- Is your house name or number clearly identifiable from the road? (This will help should police have to attend on a fast response).
- Have you got any prevention signage displayed? Consider installing signage such as 'beware of the dog', CCTV, and alarms etc.
- Have you got any alarms installed, e.g. driveway alarms or trigger beams? Visual alarms in a prominent position will act as a good deterrent.
- Is the outside of your home and yard well lit? If not look to fit security lighting.
- Are house and car keys out of sight? Thieves can use devices to hook nearby keys through letterboxes or use scanners to read codes from the keys to access vehicles.
- Are ladders and tools locked away? They could be used to break into the property. Ladders can be secured by using a bike lock and a ground anchor.
- Has your home or business got adequate insurance cover should the worst happen? If you have land, it's worth looking at fly tipping insurance.

Outbuildings

- Are the sheds, storage areas and outbuildings on the premises regularly secured and locked?
- Are keys for buildings and agricultural equipment including quads and 4x4s secured out of view in a locked key safe?
- Do not leave any scrap materials lying around the yard as this could attract attention and invite potential thieves.
- Are your machinery, tools and equipment placed into a secure outbuilding following their use?
- Do you receive alerts from Dorset Police via email for farm, horse or rural watch? If you don't and would like to sign up please visit www.dorsetalert.co.uk
- Consider fitting mains or battery operated alarms to outbuildings or around the perimeter of your property on gates and access points.
- If you are considering fitting CCTV then please think about fitting this as well as an alarm as part of a system. CCTV cannot be relied on fully as this won't alert you at the time that you have intruders.
- Installing remote gate alarms and hidden cameras can also alert instantly if someone unauthorised is on the property.
- CCTV and intruder alarms will deter most thieves but make sure they are checked regularly to ensure they will work when you need them and they are placed in a position that won't be triggered by animals or foliage moving in the wind.

Property Identification

- Have you got recorded somewhere the make, model and serial numbers for items that you own? This helps should items be stolen and then recovered at a later date. It enables police to reunite the owner with stolen items. Consider recording these at www.immobilise.com
- Why not take photographs of your items? This will help police should they be stolen with press releases and social media appeals furthering the chances of the items being recovered.
- Mark/engrave all valuable equipment, tools and other property with the postcode, house name or number.
- Marking can be done by UV pens, engraving, stamping, tagging or forensic marking. These are all options to consider.

Fences & Gates

- Are the dwelling/livestock boundary fences and gates in good condition and secure?
- Are the gates on the premises closed and locked with the hinges inverted whenever possible?
- Block any un-used gateways with machinery, large tree trunks and/or rubble or soil. This will prevent easy access.
- Consider using landscaping to secure premises such as ditches, mounds and hedges to make vulnerable fields less easily accessible for vehicles.
- Install removable cattle grids as these can also be effective. Ditches don't need to be in excess of 1M x 1M as this will still prevent entry. Check with the Rural Payments Agency as ditches are classified as watercourses and must therefore comply with "onerous" rules under Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC 1).
- Are gate hinges capped or inverted to prevent their removal so they cannot be easily lifted off? Consider welding a washer or blob of weld on top of the hinge to prevent removal.
- Check gates are locked with an anti-crop chain and C.E.N Grade padlock (The C.E.N grade is the British standard for locks and safes).

Lighting

- Check existing lighting for any vegetation that may be impairing the lights of the ability to work. Check bulbs of any lighting to check they are still working.
- Consider installing good outside security lighting, such as one with a built in CCTV camera which has a LED light attached.

Farming Equipment

- Insurance discounts are available for fitting certain devices to machines. Check with your insurer for more details.
- Machines fitted and registered with certain security markings are four times less likely to be stolen and are six times more likely to be recovered if they are stolen.
- Autoglass & NFU have partnered to offer a free security glass etching service. If you get a VIN number etched on glass windows, it makes the vehicle more detectable and less appealing to thieves because they have to grind out the

numbers. For more details and to arrange an appointment email
NFUM.Etching@autoglass.co.uk

- Are keys to farm equipment kept in a safe place? Consider a key safe with key or key coded entry. Bluetooth entry is also an option.
- Do you remove all GPS guidance receivers, aerials or antenna globe when not in use? Consider fitting security tethers to devices to stop them being removed. Consider marking these with UV pen or engraving your postcode.
- Do you physically secure your ATV or RTV using suitable locking devices and to fixed points on the ground using heavy duty security chains and padlocks?
- Consider fitting isolating systems to all farm vehicles as that will prevent theft such as fuel and battery isolators. Also fit immobilizers, VHF and GPS Tracker devices on vehicles. These have been proven methods of returning vehicles that have been stolen.

Tractor, Livestock Trailers and Horseboxes

- Ensure that any trailers or towable machinery have suitable locks such as a towing eye lock which can be used on all types of ring hitch.
- Airline locks can also be used to secure agricultural machinery fitted with air brakes; this is done by preventing the release of the air from the brakes.
- Livestock trailers should be security marked and secured using a wheel clamp, hitch lock and consider using a security post to secure. Consider an appropriate ground anchor with strong high CEN rated padlock and chain.
- Fit an alarm, a simple battery operated alarm will help deter the thief.
- Use security marking solutions, electronic tagging or a tracking device.
- Record machinery serial numbers and photographs for reference – a picture of the stolen trailer or box will increase publicity prospects and recovery.
- Putting your postcode on the roof is a good way of making sure that it is easily identifiable.

Working Dogs

- Make sure owners dogs microchip is registered to them and details are up-to-date here <https://www.gov.uk/get-your-dog-microchipped>
- Make any kennels or outhouses that dogs are kept in are as secure as possible by fitting a good quality padlock with security lighting, alarms and CCTV.

- If the dog is neutered, it will reduce the chances of the dog being stolen for breeding.
- Consider researching dog tattoos. Tattoos are put in the dog's ear with an identification number. This provides a visual deterrent as well as a permanent mark.
- Change the location of where you walk and the times, and try to make sure that your dog is not out of sight during the walk.

Livestock and Equipment

- Do you regularly count livestock, maintain stock records and Ear tag the stock?
- Look into other methods of marking stock such as horn brands, freeze marking or tattooing to make your livestock more easily identifiable and unique should they be stolen.
- Place wildlife cameras around with remote viewing capacity to be able to be alerted at the time to possible issues.
- Consider using stock marking security fluids.
- Portable sheep handling systems should be securely chained down using anchor points to the floor and around gates. Consider using wheel clamps and tracking devices and or removing wheels to make them harder to steal.
- Installing remote gate alarms and hidden cameras can alert an owner instantly if someone unauthorised is driving vehicles across your land or access points.
- Consider burying batteries and fencing units where possible or consider buying an electrifiable box to keep items secure inside.
- Painting or marking battery's with your postcode or DNA marking and recording serial number (if present).

Fuel Tank and Heating Oil Security

- Are all fuel tanks dipped regularly, secured and locked to restrict tampering and theft?
- Install fuel tanks within secure buildings or cage if possible.
- Consider installing anti-siphon devices as well as tank alarms.
- Install motion sensing CCTV and lighting.

- Consider planting spikey shrubs, install fences to hide the tank, and make sure any empty drums around your property are removed to stop these being used to steal your oil.

Farm Staff and Contractors

- Do employees on the farm including contractors know what to do if they see a suspicious vehicle or person around the farm?
- Encourage farm staff to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour or vehicles to the police.
- Let employees know the security arrangements that are expected of them while working on the farm.
- Consider the use of mobile phone or camera to capture a photo or video of vehicles and people but only if it's safe to do so.

Farm Watch, Horse Watch or Rural Watch

- Are you signed up to Horse Watch Farm Watch or Rural Watch? These watch schemes provide email or call alerts from Dorset Police with information appeals, suspicious vehicle alerts and crime prevention information. If you're not registered please click on here www.dorsetalert.co.uk to register.

Further Information

For further information please visit the Rural Crime Team website at <https://www.dorset.police.uk/ruralcrime>

If you would like a visit to your farm, smallholding or other agricultural business from the Rural Crime Team or for further crime prevention advice please send an email to the team at ruralcrimeteam@dorset.pnn.police.uk