

## Field gates

- Field gate hinges should be of the capped or inverted type to prevent easy removal.
- Mark gates to make them unique to your farm.
- Gates that are locked with good quality chains or padlocks are more difficult to steal.
- Consider signage to set rules about who is permitted to enter or a phone number to call to report in.

## What to do if you are a victim of crime to assist us

- Preserve evidence.
- Protect from the elements.
- Cover it, photograph it, last resort move under cover if possible.
- Provide photos of stolen property.
- Serial numbers, identifying marks.
- Check your CCTV, speak to neighbouring properties.
- If livestock is stolen, it's important to provide an accurate description.
- Take photographs of particularly valuable animals.

## Whats App Farm Watch

Farm Watch schemes encourage everyone in the farming community to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police.

The main aims of Farm Watch are to:

- Reduce opportunities for crime and vandalism; strengthen community spirit so that everyone can play a part in protecting their property;
- Improve two-way communication between farmers and the police;

Kent Rural Task Force run farm Watch across the county if you are interested in joining email the team [rural.task.force@kent.police.uk](mailto:rural.task.force@kent.police.uk)



## Other top tips

- Think in layers. The more layers of security there are the harder it is for the thief and it increases the chances of them being caught.
- Improvise You may have to think out of the box. For instance: A cheap and easy way of alarming tools or valuable equipment is to use inexpensive personal attack alarms.
- Fix the alarm to the item securely with cable ties. When storing the item in a shed, thread a fixed wire or strong fishing line through the loop on the on the personal alarm as shown below and fix it to a fixed secure point. Try to keep it discrete so the thief can't see it. When they try to remove the item, the alarm will go off. These are cheap when bought in bulk on line so you can secure many individual items
- Lock things together with strong cycle cable locks. This is another layer of security which just makes it harder for thieves.

## Reporting crime

- Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)
- Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)
- In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
- If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

Your Rural Task Force PCs have a Twitter account [@KentPoliceRural](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceRural)

The team regularly Tweets updates on what they've been doing and any live incidents.

Follow for the latest news and information.



# Rural crime



## Your guide to crime prevention

Kent Police works with residents, landowners and partner organisations, to help reduce crime in our rural communities and protect our countryside from harm. This guide outlines steps you can take to help reduce the risk of rural crime



**Kent  
Police**



## Secure your property

Rural or remote properties, or settings that offer privacy away from public view, are more at risk of being targeted by criminals.

- Close and lock windows and doors when you go out, work in the garden or tend to other areas of your property.
- Keep the boundaries of your property well maintained and secure to keep out unwanted visitors.
- Restrict access to your land and property with locked gates
- Fit adequate locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings and consider fitting shutters or grilles to windows, or blocking them completely.
- Consider installing security lights, alarms and CCTV to deter intruders and maintain visibility, particularly in dark or sheltered areas of your property.
- Check security equipment regularly to ensure it works properly
- Protect your identity ensure your post box is secure and post not left in the box for long periods of time.

## Protect machinery

- When possible, lock tools and small items of machinery inside a secure building.
- To prevent the theft of batteries, tools and accessories, avoid leaving tractors and other farm implements in fields.
- Keep valuable machinery away from public roads when not in use.
- Consider making a secure cage that conforms to Secured by Design standards.
- Record the make and serial number of power tools – an up-to-date inventory is vital.
- Mark or stamp easily removed items with your postcode, followed by the first two letters of your farm's name, or other identifying marks. Alternatively use a forensic property marking system such as Smart Water or Selecta DNA.

- Ensure your staff members understand the importance of securing plant and machinery after use and remaining vigilant at work.
- Dispose of scrap regularly.

## Secure your vehicles

- Cars, tractors and quad bikes are tempting to thieves if left unattended.
- Always remove keys from the ignition and keep them somewhere secure.
- Avoid leaving vehicles in fields – secure them to a ground anchor, a wall, or inside a secure caged area if possible
- Security-mark vehicles, photograph any distinguishing marks and keep a record of serial, chassis and model numbers to help identify them.
- Consider fitting a tracking device to your vehicle to aid its recovery if stolen.
- Trailers and horse boxes are particularly vulnerable. Where possible, secure them inside a garage or similar building. Mark them and make them unique. Use large letters on the roof. Record serial/chassis numbers and photograph them

## Fuel theft

- Red and white diesels, petrol and heating oil are targets for thieves. Fuel tanks stored in rural and isolated locations are very attractive to thieves looking for an easy target.
- Consider fitting anti-siphon devices, level alarms or using diesel dye to help deter fuel thieves.
- Store fuel tanks within cages or secure buildings where possible, and keep the area locked and alarmed
- Pumps should have locking devices and/or isolator switches and, where possible, they should be housed in a secure location.
- If possible, you should consider installing CCTV to watch over isolated tanks and restrict access with walls, fences and hedges. Security lighting such as

'dusk till dawn' or motion detection lighting can also be an effective deterrent to thieves

- consider using a mobile bowser (tanker) kept in a secure place when not in use

## Store fertiliser and chemicals securely

- Fertiliser and chemicals, including inorganic nitrogenous, ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate-based fertilisers, could be misused if stolen or used as an ingredient in home-made explosives.
- Store fertilisers and chemicals in secure, locked compounds, away from public view.
- Check stock levels regularly and report any unexplained discrepancies to the police immediately. For more advice on keeping fertiliser secure, visit **[www.gov.uk/government/publications/secure-your-fertiliser/secure-your-fertiliser](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secure-your-fertiliser/secure-your-fertiliser)**

## Protect your livestock

- Agricultural livestock and game birds are an easy target for thieves. Regularly check fields and pens where these are kept.
- Secure gates with good quality chains and padlocks that are more difficult to open.
- Make sure your animals are chipped or tagged to make them identifiable in case they escape.
- Use capped or inverted hinges on field gates to prevent easy removal.
- Regularly check gates and boundaries for signs of tampering.
- Security-mark metal gates so they can be traced back to your farm.
- Clearly mark footpaths with signage
- Display signage to advise dog owners of the presence of livestock
- Consider using CCTV allowing livestock to be watched in barns or yards from the comfort of your home.