

Police and Crime
Commissioner
North Yorkshire



Rural crime prevention

“Stay safe” tips for people living in North Yorkshire’s rural communities



The priorities for North Yorkshire Police are set by the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, Julia Mulligan.

Following consultation with the public, the Commissioner has identified rural crime as a key area for police activity.

The Commissioner is also working to address rural crime personally, as Chair of the National Rural Crime Network - an organisation that identifies best practice in tackling rural crime, so that intelligence about “what works” can be shared across the country.

To find out more about the Commissioner’s work, visit:
www.northyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk



A message from Dave Jones, Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police

With its rural villages, market towns, and working farmland, North Yorkshire is a beautiful place to live, work and visit. But unfortunately, these rural locations are not immune from the problems of crime.

North Yorkshire Police defines rural crime as **any** offence that occurs within a rural area. This ensures that tackling rural crime is “mainstreamed” within our service, and treated as a core concern.

Nonetheless, we recognise that some issues are particularly pertinent to rural communities. For example, damage,

theft or violence associated with rural communities, farms and agriculture, wildlife, livestock and the environment, and tourist and heritage sites. We recognise that issues such as these require focused action.

Our rural communities can also be prey to criminals who travel into the county from outside our borders.

At North Yorkshire Police we have developed a rural crime strategy to tackle these problems, and a Rural Policing Task Force to strengthen our response. We are also making use of the latest technology to target and

tackle criminals and drive down the number of crimes in rural areas.

But we don't just want to tackle a problem after it has happened. If you live in a rural area, there is a lot that you can do to protect yourself against crime, and avoid being an easy target.

I hope you will make good use of the tips and hints in this leaflet to help keep yourself, your family and your property safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Jones', written over a light blue horizontal line.





Doors: Fit British Standard deadlocks to all outside doors and reinforce them with strong bolts – preferably ones that are key-operated.

Take care with callers: Fit a security chain and wide-angle door viewer or spy-hole to your main door so you can check who a caller is before opening the door. Check the identity of callers you don't know by calling the number for their company in the phone book. Make use of password schemes operated by most of the utility companies. With these schemes, you set a password that the representative must give when they call, so you know they are genuine.

Windows: Install window locks on ground floor windows and near flat roofs or drainpipes.

Farmhouse and other buildings, gardens and belongings

Possessions: Photograph and make a record of your valuable possessions, and keep them in a secure safe.

Sheds: If you have a shed, padlock the door and fit grilles or mesh to the windows. Don't keep expensive tools or equipment in your shed. Chain large items (eg bicycles) together to make them harder for a thief to carry away and lock ladders to a secure fixture so they can't be used to reach top-floor windows in your home.

Driveways: Use gravel on your driveway to increase your chances of hearing an intruder.

Gardens: Photograph and mark garden tools, ornaments and planters with your postcode, using a UV pen. This will help police to identify them if they are stolen and recovered.

Fences: Keep fences in good repair. Grow your own security by planting prickly plants, bushes and shrubs by fences to deter burglars from climbing. Try: Berberis, Rosa Rugosa "Rubra", Pyracantha, Holly, Hawthorn, Japonica or Acanthus.

Don't advertise you're not at home: Leaving notes for delivery drivers can alert thieves.





Vehicles, tools and equipment, chemicals and metals

Vehicles: Four-wheel drive vehicles, tractors, trailers, caravans, horse-boxes and quad-bikes are an attractive target for thieves. Where you can, keep your vehicles in a lockable garage or building. If this is not possible, consider installing security lighting. Speak to your dealership about anti-theft devices such as alarms, immobilisers and trackers.

Keys: Lock your vehicles and keep keys away from windows, doors, cat-flaps and letterboxes.

Selling your vehicles: When advertising, don't provide details of your address until you are sure the enquirer is genuine.

Tools: Mark or stamp your tools and small items of machinery and keep in a secured building.

Machinery: To avoid theft of batteries and accessories, avoid leaving tractors and other farm vehicles in the fields, and keep valuable equipment away from public roads when not in use.

Guns: Keep shotguns and firearms in a securely locked cabinet, and keep ammunition separate.

Heating oil: Plant shrubs or install fences to hide your tank, and make sure empty drums are removed to avoid drawing attention to your oil tank. Check oil levels regularly and report tankers or large vehicles close to your property.

Fertilizer: Always keep secure. For detailed guidance, visit www.secureyourfertilizer.gov.uk

Metals: Thieves like metals because they are easily recycled. Recent legislation is helping to make disposal more difficult, but you should still keep metal items locked away, or use ground anchors to secure. Use padlocks or chains for ladders, beer kegs, wheelbarrows and wheelie bins (which are sometimes used to transport stolen metal). Be aware that catalytic converters on cars – especially 4x4s – are a target, so report people looking under cars.





Livestock, horses and dogs, field boundaries and fly-tipping

Livestock: Identify your animals by taking photos and using ear-tags, horn-bands, freeze-branding, hot-branding or tattooing. An animal that is clearly marked is less attractive to thieves. Installing CCTV in barns or yards can help you to watch over your livestock.

Horses: Horses must not be sold without a Horse Passport, but it is also useful to keep colour photographs of your horse (side, front and rear, and in its summer and winter coats). Tag your horse by freeze-marking, hoof-marking or microchip implanting.

Tack: Tack should be securely marked using electronic tagging, post-code letter stamps or microchipping. Keep a list with identification details.

Horse-box/trailer: Park your horsebox/trailer in a well-lit area where you can keep an eye on it and consider the use of a wheel-clamp or ground anchor. Secure your horse-box when at events.

Dogs: Microchip your dog, and make sure it wears a collar and identification when in a public place. If your dog is neutered, it will reduce the chances of theft for breeding. Vary your walk times and routes, and try to make sure that your dog is not out of sight. Be careful if you invite people into your home to view puppies for sale. Limit the number of visitors at a time and have someone with you.

Field gates and boundaries: Keep hedges, fences and gates in good repair. Field-gate hinges should be the capped or inverted type to prevent easy removal. If gates have been tampered with, report to North Yorkshire Police on 101.

Fly-tipping: If you see an incident of fly-tipping in progress, dial 999. Do not approach those responsible. Give the location including landmarks and road numbers, what has been tipped and the car registration or vehicle details if you can. You can also report fly-tipping to your local council (contacts info in the back of this leaflet).





Protection of wild animals, birds and plants, and poaching

Hunting: Under the Hunting Act 2004, it is an offence to hunt wild mammals with dogs, unless the hunting is exempt (eg rats or rabbits with dogs) and the person has permission to do so on the land in question.

Animal poisoning: Poisoned carcasses are often used as bait to entice a wild mammal. If you find an animal you believe has been poisoned, do not touch it. Make a note of its location and what is around or near it. Cover and mark the spot, and report to the Pesticide Safety Directorate on 0800 321600 (calls are free) as well as North Yorkshire Police on 101.

Traps and snares: There are laws to control the use of traps and snares. Visit www.naturalengland.org.uk for details of what is allowed and how to apply for a licence.

If you find a snare or trap that you believe has been unlawfully set, or that contains an animal, please report it to North Yorkshire Police on 101.

Protected species: Badgers must not be killed, injured or mistreated. Call 101 if you have any information about badger persecution. Bats and their breeding sites and nesting places are also protected. If you wish to carry out work in a building where bats are present, contact the Wildlife Crime Officer at North Yorkshire Police. All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law. A licence is required to deal with birds that are affecting crops or causing health issues.

Find out more at www.rspb.org.uk or www.defra.gov.uk

Poaching: Nowadays poaching is often carried out by gangs of people, who are often pursuing other criminal activities too. If you suspect poaching is occurring in your area, do not approach the suspected poachers. Call 101 and provide location, time, date, description and registration numbers of vehicles.

Wild plants: All wild plants in England and Wales are offered some protection under the law. It is unlawful to uproot a wild plant without permission from the landowner or occupier.



The rural policing strategy...

Prevention

Working with communities and partner agencies, we are deploying our assets to target and disrupt criminals, so we can reduce the number of crimes committed, and the threat, risk and harm posed to rural communities.

Intelligence

Through our dedicated rural intelligence hub we are capturing information to support proactive policing in rural areas. And by using our contacts and influence, we are improving the sharing of quality intelligence to assist with crime prevention.

Enforcement

Through our Rural Policing Task Force we are dedicating specific resources to the investigation of rural crimes. And through Operation Hawk and other methods we are identifying, arresting and investigating local and travelling criminals.

Reassurance

Through local links, partnership working and the media, we are helping communities to protect themselves by advising on crime prevention, as well as providing an effective, timely response to victims of crime.

...helping you to feel safe, and be safe

North Yorkshire Police tackles crime across all communities, whether urban or rural, but we recognise that rural communities face particular issues.

For that reason, we have a Rural Crime Strategy and a Rural Crime Task Force with particular responsibility for dealing with crime and crime prevention in rural areas.

We also have specially-trained Wildlife Crime officers, who specialise in this area of work, and who provide dedicated advice and expertise.

One of the issues facing rural communities in North Yorkshire is cross-border crime – travelling criminals coming into the area from surrounding counties, and sometimes even further afield.

We are actively clamping down on these offenders through Operation Hawk.

Operation Hawk makes use of sophisticated intelligence tools, automated number plate recognition technology and a highly-skilled team of mobile officers to track, trace and stop vehicles that are linked to criminal activity or known suspects.



Through Operation Hawk we are making arrests, and bringing the people who prey on our communities to justice.

If you are interested in Operation Hawk, you can follow the team on Twitter: [@NYPRoadCrime](#) or hashtag [#OpHawk](#)



Directory: contacting NYP and others

Discover more about North Yorkshire Police's work to keep communities safe at:
www.northyorkshire.police.uk

Find your local police station:
www.northyorkshire.police.uk/policestations

You can also follow us on social media:

Twitter: @NYorksPolice

www.facebook.com/NorthYorkshirePolice

Join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for practical support to combat crime. Contact your local police station or visit: www.northyorkshirepolice.uk/nhw

Your local rural crime police contact is:

Crime number (for reference):

To report a crime anonymously, you can visit www.crimestoppers.uk.org or telephone:

0800 555 111

When it is not an emergency, or to report suspicious behaviour, you can call North Yorkshire Police on:

101

In an emergency, you should always call:

999

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk 01609 780150

North Yorkshire County Council

www.northyorks.gov.uk 01609 780780

City of York Council

www.york.gov.uk 01904 551550

RSPCA

www.rspca.org.uk
Cruelty line 0300 1234 999

Bat Conservation Trust

www.bats.org.uk
Helpline 0845 1300 228

Alliance to reduce crime against heritage (ARCH)

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-crime/arch/>

Facewatch

www.facewatch.co.uk
Secure online crime reporting and networking site

The Environment Agency

www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Enquiries 08708 506506
Incident hotline 0800 807060 (24 hour)

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office

www.nactso.gov.uk and www.secureyourfertilizer.gov.uk
Suspicious activity 0800 789321

Natural England

www.naturalengland.org.uk
Licencing/enquiries 0845 601 4523

Immobilise

Free register for logging your valued possessions or assets
www.immobilise.com

SmartWater

Forensic “paint” for invisibly marking your possessions
www.smartwater.com

NFU Mutual

Business, personal and farming financial services
www.nfumutual.co.uk
New business 0800 3164661

National Farmers’ Union

www.nfuonline.com 024 7685 8500





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Access this leaflet at: www.northyorkshire.police.uk

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