



# KEEPING YOUR PROPERTY AND PREMISES SAFE AND SECURE



## Crime and Arson Reduction Advice for Rural Businesses & Premises



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## CONTENTS

### 1: SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING MODEL

### 2: BASIC CRIME REDUCTION PRINCIPLES

- Basic Principles
- Alarms & Intruder Detection Systems
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)
- Fences And Gates
- Locks
- Security Lighting
- Vehicles, Plant And Machinery
- Housekeeping

### 3: PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS AND PREMISES FROM ARSON

### 4: PROPERTY MARKING – WHY DO IT?

### 5: SECURE YOUR FERTILISER (COUNTER TERRORISM)

### 6: PREVENTING METAL THEFT

### 7: PREVENTING FUEL THEFT

### 8: WATCH SCHEMES

### 9: RINGMASTER

- What is Ringmaster?
- Application Form

### 10: USEFUL CONTACTS

### APPENDICES:

#### A: 10 MINUTE SECURITY CHECK FOR BUSINESS PREMISES

#### B: HARE COURSING

#### C: RAVES

#### D: EXAMPLE OF FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT *(not available in PDF)*



## 1: SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS POLICING MODEL

*“We at Bedfordshire Police are committed to building safer neighbourhoods together with our partners and citizens for the people who live, work and travel through Bedfordshire.”*

### WHAT IS THE “SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS” INITIATIVE?

“Safer Neighbourhoods” is Bedfordshire’s approach to Neighbourhood Policing and represents a fundamental shift in the way we deploy our resources at the front line. It is different to previous initiatives relating to community policing, as there is a greater requirement than ever before for the police to ensure communities are involved in determining the policing priorities for their area.

### THE PURPOSE OF “SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS” POLICING

The purpose of neighbourhood policing is to deliver the right people, at the right places, in the right numbers, in order to create neighbourhoods that are safe and feel safe.

### WHO IS IN YOUR “SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS” TEAM

- Partner agencies
- Local volunteers and community groups
- Police officers
- Police community support officers (PCSOs)
- Special constables
- These are supported by detectives, reactive police officers, forensic experts, traffic police, firearms officers and police staff.

### WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD THIS APPROACH MAKE

This approach will provide the opportunity to deliver intelligence-based flexible policing adapted specially for local circumstances.

- **Access:** to policing through a named point of contact (police officer and PCSO)
- **Influence:** over community safety and policing priorities in your neighbourhood
- **Interventions:** joint action with communities and partnerships to solve local issues
- **Answers:** sustainable solutions to issues and feedback results to community

### WHAT DIFFERENCES WOULD YOU SEE?

Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) will be accessible in your communities, making it easier for you to contact them. You will see more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) patrolling your area, providing a visible police presence.

You will have the opportunity to contribute to the safety of your neighbourhood by letting your Safer Neighbourhood Team know what the local issues are, and work with them to identify the actions needed to resolve them.

## 2: BASIC CRIME REDUCTION PRINCIPLES

Rural businesses are seen as a soft target by thieves for a number of reasons. Many farms and industrial estates are remote, spread over a large area of land, unoccupied overnight and contain plant and materials of high value.

Bedfordshire Police have produced this pack to help you secure your property and premises. The advice and information provided is designed to make it harder for the thief and safer for you and your employees.

There are five key objectives to crime reduction:

<b>Increase The Risk</b>	<b>Increase The Effort</b>	<b>Reduce The Reward</b>	<b>Reduce Provocation</b>	<b>Remove The Excuses</b>
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The objectives can be achieved by following the Ten Basic Crime Reduction Principles:

1. **TARGET HARDENING**  
*Making targets more resistant to attack or more difficult to remove or damage.*
2. **TARGET REMOVAL**  
*Permanent or temporary removal of vulnerable property .*
3. **REMOVING THE MEANS TO COMMIT THE CRIME**  
*Ensuring items capable of being used to help an offender commit a crime are not accessible.*
4. **REDUCE THE PAY-OFF**  
*Reducing the gain for the criminal if a crime is committed.*
5. **ACCESS CONTROL**  
*Restricting access to sites and buildings or parts of sites and buildings.*
6. **VISIBILITY / SURVEILLANCE**  
*Making sure offenders would be visible if they carried out a crime.*
7. **ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN**  
*Changing the environment of building, site, estate or town to reduce opportunities for committing crime.*
8. **RULE SETTING**  
*Introduction of legislation, by-laws, codes of conduct and signage to set out what is acceptable behaviour.*
9. **INCREASE CHANCE OF BEING CAUGHT**  
*Anything that slows down offenders or increases the risk of being caught.*
10. **DEFLECTING OFFENDERS**  
*Diverting offenders and potential offenders from committing crime.*

The following pages will give you more detailed information about the following: Alarms, CCTV, Fences and Gates, Locks, Lighting, Vehicles, Plant and Machinery



## ALARMS & INTRUDER DETECTION SYSTEMS

There is no doubt that an intruder detection system combined with an alarm is an effective deterrent. Studies have shown that your site is far less likely to be targeted if you have a correctly fitted and maintained alarm system.

### DETECTORS

There are several types of detection systems, many suitable for remote locations, that can be used to activate an alarm. For example:

- Magnetic contacts fitted to doors, windows or gates
- Passive or active infrared to protect internal spaces
- Microwave systems
- Vibration/audio detectors

More sophisticated systems might employ buried electromagnetic detectors or combined CCTV with video motion detection software. Whatever detection system is employed, it should be reliable, fit for purpose and linked to an alarm system that either alerts the site operator or the police (through an approved alarm receiving centre).

### ALARM SYSTEMS

There are basically two types of alarm system:

- **Type A (monitored alarm):** this will, in addition to sounding an audible alarm (if required), send a signal to an alarm receiving company who will, in turn, notify the police and/or key holders. Systems should conform to **BS4737 (BS EN50131)** and comply with the ACPO policy on Security Systems if a police response is required.
- **Type B (audible only):** this will sound upon activation serving to deter an intruder and attract attention. Systems should conform to **BS4737** or **BS6799**. DIY systems are reasonably priced and can easily be fitted – these should conform to **BS 6707**. Please note that battery operated phone dialler alarms are classed as Type B alarms.

It is important that you check the background and accreditation of an alarm company before discussing your security requirements. As with any contract of work or maintenance, you should protect yourself by ensuring:

- The system reaches the required British Standards
- You check for “hidden” costs such as servicing and maintenance
- You check for call-out costs and the provision of emergency attendance
- You obtain at least 3 quotes from reputable companies
- You do not accept a verbal contract

Please note, the police will NOT attend an activation of a Type B alarm unless there are other factors that support the alarm (eg, a report of breaking glass or unusual vehicular activity). Any alarm system should have at least 2 keyholders who are familiar with the alarm controls and can grant access to the protected area. They should be contactable by telephone and available to attend within 20 minutes.

*For more information about alarms and CCTV systems, and to find an approved local installer, please visit the National Security Inspectorate website at: [www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk)*



## CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)

CCTV can be an expensive option and relies heavily on other measures in order to be effective. However, a correctly installed and managed system can provide valuable evidence and means of identification. Here are just a few issues to consider:

- Is the lighting sufficient and appropriate for CCTV to be effective at all hours?
- How will the images be recorded?
- How can the images be replayed or copied?
- Where and how will recording media be stored?
- How will the images be transmitted from the camera to the recording device?
- Who, if anyone, will monitor the images?
- If an incident is monitored on CCTV, who will respond?
- Do you need to register with the Information Commissioner under the Data Protection Act?
- How much will it cost to install and maintain?

Whatever system you decide to install, consider carefully the actual position of the camera(s) and supporting equipment.

- Does the camera offer a view and quality image that is sufficient for your purposes?
- Would it be accessible by intruders?
- Is the cabling to the camera secure against tampering?
- Do you have signage indicating CCTV is in use?

There are DIY CCTV and lighting systems available which – if properly sited, installed and maintained – can offer a reasonably priced option where the requirement is simply to monitor a specific barn or yard.

Dummy cameras may offer a cheap, short term deterrent to opportunist offenders but are generally ineffective against a more motivated intruder who will quickly realise they are not genuine.

It is important that you check the background and accreditation of any CCTV company before discussing your security requirements.

*For legislation regarding CCTV, please visit  
the Information Commissioner's website at: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)*

## FENCES AND GATES

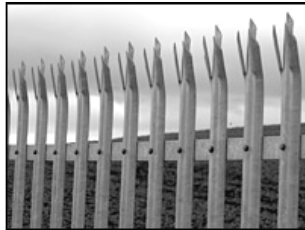
It is not always possible to store vulnerable items every evening in a secure building. However, there are ways to protect your property by building secure enclosures and covering the vulnerable items so that they are not obvious to a passer-by.

### LEGISLATION REGARDING FENCE AND WALLS

Fences should conform to British Standard **BS 1722** or equivalent. The addition of a hostile topping such as barbed wire or razor wire serves as an additional deterrent to climbing. Consideration should be given to the **Occupier's Liability Act 1984** in relation to the height of the fence and the requirement for signage, but the rule of thumb is that security toppings can be used, with warning signage, at a height over 2.1 metres.

Security toppings must be manufactured for purpose (eg, barbed wire, razor wire, roller barriers, prickler strip or anti-climb paint). If a product is not manufactured as a security topping as its primary purpose, you cannot use it as such. This includes carpet gripper, broken glass and nails.

You do not need planning permission to erect a fence or wall as long as it does not exceed a height of 2.1 metres.



Palisade Fencing



Expanded Metal Fencing



Weldmesh Fencing



Chainlink Fencing

### **PALISADE FENCING**

Palisade fencing is formed from vertical 'pales', often with pointed or splayed tops. It can be galvanised or finished with a polymer coat and is available in various thicknesses and profiles. The fixing system will affect how secure such fencing is and the visibility (at an angle) through palisade fencing is poor. Damage can easily be repaired by replacing pales and the fence height can easily be increased by adding extension pales. Palisade is very popular but offers no greater physical security than either weldmesh or expanded metal fences of the same height.

### **EXPANDED METAL FENCING**

Expanded metal fences are very rigid (if correctly installed) and can be galvanised or polyester coated for longevity. They are difficult to cut through but repairs are likely to require whole panel replacement. Consideration should be given to potential livestock movements since the mesh tends to have sharp edges that could cause injury.

### **WELDMESH FENCING**

Welded mesh fencing can also be galvanised or coated. It offers much better visibility than either palisade or expanded metal fences and is arguably more aesthetically pleasing than both. It is difficult to cut and may be suitable for the addition of a fence alarm system.

### **CHAINLINK FENCING**

Chainlink fencing offers a visible barrier but has no great resistance as it is possible to drive a vehicle through it. It is most useful for creating zones and small enclosures.

### **GATES**

Gates are often the weak link in an otherwise secure area. Gates should be of the same security standard as the fence that they are attached to and be fitted with anti-lift hinges.

Consideration should be given to minimising gaps between posts and in particular the clearance beneath the bottom edge of the gate(s) to prevent unauthorised access. Uneven ground beneath gates can allow a 'crawling' attack.



Gates should be secured using a quality, close-shackle padlock or fitted with a shroud to prevent leverage to a standard padlock.

*For more information on security fencing visit: [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)*

## LOCKS

Generally, mortise or sash type locks (which are embedded within the door) offer more security than rim-type locks (that are attached to the surface of the door). Five-lever rather than two- or three- lever locks are recommended since they have over 1,000 key options, making it far less likely that a duplicate key can be used.

Fitted locks used to secure doors, gates and shutters should conform to **British Standard BS 3621**.

Padlocks can be open shackle or close shackle. The word "open" in relation to an open shackle padlock refers to the fact that there is a substantial gap between the centre of the shackle and the body of the padlock. It is therefore possible to attack the shackle with a crowbar or pair of bolt croppers. The space between the shackle and padlock body on a close shackle padlock is much smaller, making it difficult to attack.

When securing doors or pairs of doors (double leaf), a padlock may be used in conjunction with a locking bar or pad bar. These can be horizontal or vertical and should be securely bolted to wooden doors or alternatively welded to metal doors.

Padlocks used to secure such fittings should conform to **BS EN 12320** or equivalent. Padlocks with concealed shackles or raised 'shoulders' are recommended since they offer greater resistance to attack.

For added security, padlocks can be 'shrouded' to prevent attack using leverage or cutting tools.

It is important that key control is exercised so that keys can always be accounted for and they should be stored securely when not in use. Do not be tempted to leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place – an offender can quickly find and use keys 'hidden' in this way. It is much better to leave a spare set of keys with a neighbouring farmer – you could offer to do the same for them.



Closed Shackle Lock



Open Shackle Lock



Security Hasp

## SECURITY HASPS

A padlock is only effective when used with a security hasp – this is a hasp which covers the screw heads when in the closed position, therefore removing the possibility of unscrewing the plate.



Remember, hinges are also vulnerable – an offender can easily remove these to gain entry. Again, there are many different styles, sizes and metal strengths – choose the one most appropriate for your use.

Alternatively, use coach bolts to secure hinges and hasps.

*For more information on locks, visit: [www.securedbydesign.com/aware/locks](http://www.securedbydesign.com/aware/locks)*

## SECURITY LIGHTING

Security lighting should form part of an overall security regime. It need not be expensive to install, maintain or run and provides a real deterrent to intruders. Given sufficient time a determined and resourceful intruder can defeat any physical security measures or alarm/detection system.

Effective security lighting can, however, substantially reduce the time available to a potential intruder by making them vulnerable to discovery whilst they attempt to gain access to your store – especially where they may be overlooked by a farmhouse.

Well thought-out lighting offers protection by:

- Deterring the intruder by creating a feeling of uncertainty
- Providing light to help detect or identify intruders
- Displacing intruders to areas which are less well illuminated
- Giving the impression that good security is practised

Basic lights can be purchased and fitted at little cost. Consideration should be given to:

- Cost effectiveness – different lights (such as halogen versus low-pressure sodium) have varying initial and running costs. Some lights are more suitable for constant illumination whilst others are ideal for combining with passive infrared detectors.
- Reliability and maintenance requirements.
- Statutory requirements regarding light nuisance.
- CCTV systems (where fitted) will need sufficient light to be effective 24 hrs per day.

Lights can be activated by motion sensors or left switched on through the hours of darkness, although studies have shown that a lower level of continual light is more effective as a deterrent than sudden, bright lights.

A good compromise is to use high efficiency, low energy lighting controlled by a photo-electric cell (dusk to dawn switch). This type of light, sited out of reach (say 10ft above ground level) provides ample illumination, with few shadows and costs only a few pounds a year to run – despite it being left on throughout the night.

*For information, visit: [www.crimereduction.gov.uk/burglary/burglary45.htm](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/burglary/burglary45.htm)*



## VEHICLES, PLANT AND MACHINERY

It is important that steps are taken to properly secure any on-site tools, plant or vehicles that could be used to gain access to your fertiliser store or to remove fertiliser without authority. This should include lifting machinery such as forklifts, 'tele-handlers' or vehicles fitted with hydraulic loading cranes.

Where possible hand-tools and power tools should be kept locked away when not in use and mobile plant and vehicles should be secured and immobilised.

Commercially available 'off the shelf' vehicle immobilisers (electronic or physical) can be very effective and will certainly delay anyone wishing to make use of them in order to force an entry into a secure store.

Vehicle keys should be secured when not in use. Where many keys are in use it is good practice to maintain a key list and routinely check that they can be accounted for.

Consider using heavy agricultural machinery such as buckets, power harrows or other large machines to restrict direct vehicular access to stacks of sheeted fertiliser, particularly if the fertiliser cannot be stored in a secure building or compound.

**The National Plant and Equipment Register ([www.ter-europe.org](http://www.ter-europe.org))** runs an international database of owned and stolen equipment. It employs specialist staff who work with law enforcement agencies to identify and recover stolen equipment. You can register five items for free. Tractors and other agricultural machinery, trailers, caravans, quarry equipment and generators are amongst the most stolen items.

*Register your farm machinery at: [www.ter-europe.org](http://www.ter-europe.org)*

## HOUSEKEEPING

How your farm appears to a casual observer should not be underestimated and may affect whether that observer becomes a potential intruder. Research has shown that properties and businesses which are perceived to be well maintained are significantly less likely to be subject to criminal activity.

Good housekeeping costs little and projects an image of ownership and a sense that the site is cared for. It also significantly increases the chance of identifying something out of place or recent damage that might indicate an attempted or actual intrusion.

Buildings, fences and other structures should be kept clean and in good repair, maintenance should be carried out promptly, and rubbish and other farmyard debris should be cleaned away and removed where possible.

It is a good idea to maintain a list of key phone numbers, such as those of the local police and neighbouring farmers, so that you can quickly contact the appropriate people if the need arises.

### 3: PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS & PREMISES FROM ARSON

Due to their location and their relatively open access, many farms and rural businesses can be vulnerable to an arson attack. Recent Arson Prevention Bureau figures show that every year approximately 1,600 farm buildings and 85,000 areas of grassland are destroyed by fire. A frightening statistic is that up to 80% of businesses never fully recover from a serious fire and research shows that 'some 46% of fires that occur on farms are started deliberately.'

The information in this section is designed to help you to protect your business from attacks of arson and the potentially devastating consequences of arson. Most attacks of arson are opportunistic and, if you remove or reduce potential arson hazards from your farm, you can reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim.

#### FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) 2005** requires a business that employs people to complete a fire risk assessment and to have a written fire risk assessment if five or more people are employed at the premises. This assessment should take into account possible arson risks. An example of a farm fire risk assessment is included as an appendix to this information pack. For more information on the Fire Safety Order 2005 and fire risk assessments, please visit [www.bedsfire.com](http://www.bedsfire.com) or contact your local fire station.

Undertaking a fire risk assessment might highlight areas where you are vulnerable to arson and you might need to:

- Provide, repair or replace damaged fencing or gates
- Install intruder sensors and security lighting
- Maintain the security of the outbuildings
- Replace or re-site security and warning notices
- Ensure firefighting equipment is in good order
- Prepare a fire routine and action plan, and ensure that all farm workers know what to do in the event of a fire, including how to use extinguishers

#### GRASSLAND AND STANDING CROPS

Standing crops and grassland can be vulnerable to arson especially during dry weather. Often they can be caused by visitors to the countryside, therefore:

- Ensure all barbecues are properly supervised and do not allow the lighting of open fires on the property
- Ensure cigarettes are extinguished carefully
- Only allow camping and picnicking in selected areas
- Provide litter bins for bottles and other rubbish and empty them regularly
- Ensure that parents supervise their children
- Regularly check and maintain open-water supplies for firefighting
- Security lighting can help to protect your property from unwanted visitors;
- Ensure 'Fire Danger' warning signs are in place
- Consider fire breaks in standing crops prior to harvesting



## CHECK LIST

The Arson Prevention Bureau has provided the following check list to try and reduce the arson risk on farms.

**Hay and straw** should be removed from the field as soon as possible after harvesting and should be stored:

- Separately from other buildings, particular those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery
- In stacks of reasonable size, spaced at least 10 metres apart
- Separately from livestock housing

**Petrol, diesel and other fuels** should be stored in secure areas and storage tank outlets should be padlocked.

**Fertilisers and pesticides** should be kept under lock and key.

**Refuse** should be disposed of safely and on a regular basis.

**Unoccupied areas** should be regularly checked to ensure they are safe and secure and there is no unnecessary accumulation of combustible materials.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

If a fire does break out, you should:

- Call the fire service without delay
- Give full details of what is on fire, particularly any hazardous substances involved (eg, pesticides, fertiliser, cylinders)
- Only attempt to fight the fire if it is safe to do so
- Send someone to the farm entrance to direct the fire service to the fire
- Prepare to evacuate livestock should the fire spread
- Prepare to use farm machinery to assist the fire service

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) offer the following guidance to ensure that you are able to assist the fire service effectively in the event of a fire in a livestock building.

**In case a 999 call has to be made ensure that:**

- Notices are prominently displayed in and on all livestock buildings stating where the nearest phone is located
- Each phone has fixed by it a notice giving instructions to the fire service on how to reach the building, including an Ordnance Survey map reference for both the farm entry and building location
- The farm name is prominently displayed at the farm entrance.



**An adequate supply of water is essential** and can save the fire service invaluable time. If a fire hydrant or a natural supply of water is not available then DEFRA advise that:

- A static tank should be located in a convenient position between 6 metres and 100 metres from the stock buildings
- It should be covered for safety, kept full of water and clear of debris
- A hard access will be necessary to enable the fire engine to get close to the water supply.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further guidance and advice, please visit [www.bedsfire.com](http://www.bedsfire.com) or contact Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service on 01234 351081 and ask for your local Arson Task Force Officer.



## 4: PROPERTY MARKING – WHY DO IT?

**Property marking by itself cannot prevent a theft from happening but it can act as a deterrent to most thieves.**

Not only that but in many cases if the property is not marked, the police cannot not identify the rightful owner. Because of this, it makes it very difficult for the police to prove the item was stolen in the first place.

A frustrating situation, as you can imagine ... but there is a simple solution.

By using your postcode and house number, you increase your chances of recovered stolen property being returned to you.

### ENGRAVING OR ETCHING

This method is suitable for many hard surfaces and can be done using an electric engraving tool or a hand engraver. It leaves a visible and permanent mark and is most suitable for items such as bikes, garden equipment and tools. These marking kits can be found in most DIY stores and cycle dealers.

### ULTRAVIOLET MARKING

UV pens put an invisible mark on your property which can only be seen by using a UV lamp. Use UV marking when other methods could reduce the value and aesthetic of the object. Remember, however, that with some marker pens the ink can fade with age - especially when exposed to sunlight - and can be washed off so it will need to be renewed regularly.

There are also DNA-based uv products on the market such as SmartWater, SelectaDNA and Redweb.

### STAMPING

Bedfordshire Police crime reduction officers also have a stamping kit for marking leather saddles. If you would like us to visit you and mark your tack, please contact us at the email address below with your contact details.

*For a free UV marking kit, please email: [bedford.cro@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bedford.cro@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)*

OAKS SG18 8BB  
#23 MK40 1HR  
10 LW 9PG  
234 MK43 9FX  
SMITH MK44 2BD



## 5: SECURE YOUR FERTILISER

Since the early 1970's, inorganic nitrogenous fertilisers have been misused by terrorists as an ingredient in Home Made Explosive (HME). Whilst the concern affects all solid nitrate fertilisers, the widespread use of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) and ammonium nitrate based fertilisers is of particular significance.

The UK currently manufactures or imports about 4 million tonnes of AN and AN-based fertiliser annually from a global market totalling 23 million tonnes. Not surprisingly (given the relatively small landmass of the UK) we are by far the heaviest users of AN and AN-based fertilisers in the world. Inevitably this means that the blending, storage, transport and use of fertiliser is commonplace creating opportunities for potential terrorists to acquire such material.

Terrorist groups around the world have for many years misused fertilisers to make explosive devices. The majority of these devices have contained ammonium nitrate based products, combined with other materials to produce explosives. Other fertilisers such as urea, potassium nitrate and sodium nitrate have also been misused. Even in relatively small quantities, ammonium fertiliser-based explosives can cause a great deal of destruction.

UK fertiliser manufacturers demonstrate their continuing commitment to ensuring fertiliser is handled and stored securely by printing the **secureyourfertiliser** website logo on their bags.

### WHO SHOULD SECURE FERTILISER?

In short, anyone who handles or stores fertiliser should give regard to its security to ensure that it does not fall into the wrong hands. This includes:

- Farmers and growers
- Buying groups
- Agricultural Contractors
- Hauliers
- Storage services
- Merchants
- Blenders
- Importers
- Manufacturers

The Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme encourages those involved in the sourcing and supply of fertiliser to take steps with regard to security, but does not extend directly to farms. Regardless of how much fertiliser you store – it is important that you consider measures to prevent it from being acquired and misused by criminals.

*For more information, please visit: [www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk](http://www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk)*



## NACTSO – WHO ARE THEY, WHAT THEY DO

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) is a police unit within the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), the successor to the National Security Advice Centre (NSAC).

NaCTSO staff offer specialist advice regarding the security of explosives and pre-cursor chemicals (including fertilisers), pathogens and toxins, radiological sources and other toxic chemicals.

NaCTSO also provide guidance in relation to business continuity, the protection of crowded places and reducing opportunities for terrorism.

To achieve national delivery on behalf the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), NaCTSO trains, tasks and co-ordinates a nationwide network of specialist police advisers known as Counter Terrorism Security Advisers (CTSAs) whose primary role is to provide help and guidance on all aspects of counter terrorism protective security across a variety of sectors.

For further information about CPNI, visit: [www.cpni.gov.uk](http://www.cpni.gov.uk)

If you require specific advice on protective security, then you should contact your local police crime reduction officer in the first instance on **01234 275273**.

*For more information, please visit: [www.defra.gov.uk/farm/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/index.htm)*

## 6: PREVENTING METAL THEFT

The increase in metal theft is being put down to the massive price rises in the cost of raw materials including lead, copper and zinc. Thefts are not just from building sites and farms, but also a growing number of cabling companies and electrical sub-stations. The roofs of churches and schools are also being targeted.

There are products on the market that can be used to property mark metal – these are some suggestions:

### SELECTADNA

Grease for outdoor applications. The grease is impregnated with UV tracer and a unique DNA code, linking the criminal to the crime scene. It is also easy to paint on all lead roofing, copper pipes and cables.

### SMARTWATER

Appropriate for sheet metals before processing. Many companies store raw metals in their premises in readiness for production of other items. Painting the sheets or the underside of roofing materials with Smartwater and displaying signage will act as a deterrent.

### UV PEN MARKING

Appropriate for plumbing and heating products. Many builders and developers leave boilers, pipes and radiators in unoccupied premises overnight. Marking them with the site details and leaving a sign in the window may help to deter theft.

### RINGMASTER

Signing up to our RINGMASTER system will alert you to current metal thefts in your area or connected to your business. You will find the form in Section 8 of this document.

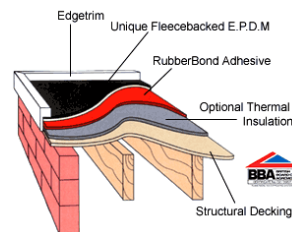
### PLACES OF WORSHIP

Bedfordshire Police are developing a pilot scheme called “FaithWatch”. It works in a similar way to Neighbourhood Watch and Business Watch, and will use Ringmaster as it’s main way of communication. You will soon see these signs around the county.



### ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

It is worth considering replacing lead sheeting with Rubberbond EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer). More information about this product can be found at [www.rubberbond.co.uk](http://www.rubberbond.co.uk) and there are a number of certified installers in the area.





## 7: PREVENTING FUEL THEFT

**Police are urging all those who store fuel to be extra vigilant. This includes businesses, schools and farms, and those properties that rely on oil heating.**

Rises in fuel prices may result in an increase of theft of fuel – not only from petrol pumps and vehicle fuel tanks but from large storage areas, too.

Businesses are advised to avoid parking up lorries with **full** fuel tanks overnight. An alternative could be to re-think where lorries are parked and the accessibility of tanks.

Consider anti-siphon devices and fuel cap alarms, and regularly review security around your premises.

Fuel storage containers should be kept locked and alarmed, where possible.

Residents are advised to keep vehicles in a garage overnight. Alternatively, make sure vehicles are parked in a well-lit area with the fuel tank facing away from the street. If you park your vehicle on the driveway, try to leave it so the fuel tank is against a wall or fence.

Fuel cap locks and anti-siphon devices are also available for domestic vehicles.

### FAQS ABOUT RED DIESEL

**Q. What vehicles can I run on red diesel?**

- A.** Red diesel can only be used on the road by exempted vehicles. These include:
- Tractors or light agricultural vehicles – including self-propelled harvesters – used on public roads solely for agriculture, horticulture or forestry purposes, and for cutting verges, hedges or trees bordering public roads
  - Other vehicles, licensed for limited use, used only for agriculture, horticulture or forestry purposes and used on public roads only in passing between different areas of land occupied by the same person, providing that the distance between the two areas does not exceed 1.5km
  - Works trucks for carrying goods in the same way as the above, but subject to a limit of 1km between private premises occupied by different people
  - Mowers and agricultural engines
  - Snow clearing vehicles and gritters when in use or travelling to and from the place of use, clearing snow and ice from public roads
  - Mobile cranes and diggers when in use or travelling to and from the place of use, providing they do not carry any unnecessary load
  - Road construction vehicles, subject to certain conditions

**Q. I am an agricultural contractor. Are there any restrictions on when I can use red diesel?**

- A.** To be able to use red diesel the nature of the work must be agricultural, horticultural or for forestry and the contractor must be acting in the same capacity as the farmer would. The vehicle must be registered as being in agricultural use.

**Q. What are the penalties for using the wrong diesel?**

- A.** Civil penalties range from £250 to £500, plus possible seizure of the tractor and an assessment for back duty on the difference between the red diesel and white diesel duty rates for the period of misuse.

**Q. Can I swap between red and white diesel by using two separate tanks?**

- A.** No. Carrying two diesel tanks which are both capable of connecting to the engine is illegal.

**Q. Can I supply red diesel to other farmers?**

- A.** Anyone supplying or dealing in red diesel and paraffin must be approved by HM Revenue & Customs (formerly Customs & Excise). However, this does not apply to those who obtain these oils for their own use. For example, if a farmer buys red diesel or paraffin for his own farming activities but occasionally hires or lends machinery to other farmers, with an operator, then they do not need to be approved. However, if the loan/hire is so frequent as to constitute a machinery hire business, the farmer must be approved under the Registered Dealers in Controlled Oils Scheme.

Buying groups which act as agents in the transaction do not need to be registered, but those which take ownership of the oil before selling it on must be registered in the scheme.

**Q. What are the rules for storing red and white diesel on farm?**

- A.** Each product requires a separate storage tank and hose/gun outlet. Each tank should be clearly marked, with the one containing red diesel showing a statement to the effect: "Not to be used as road fuel".

*Source: Farmers' Weekly*



## 8: WATCH SCHEMES

Bedfordshire Police have set up a number of Watch schemes to ensure that each person receives the appropriate information for their premises or business.

As well as receiving details about crimes that affect you and your property, Bedfordshire Police also use the Watch schemes to inform you of events that might be of interest to you as well as providing your local policing teams an easy way to contact a large number of people in their areas.

When you sign up for Ringmaster, you will be asked which scheme you want to belong to. Members are invited to join more than one scheme. The definitions for each group are as follows:

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

All residential premises, in both urban and rural communities.

### BUSINESS WATCH

All commercial premises in an urban location – this can include factories, industrial estate, commercial garages, office blocks, medical centres, leisure centres, urban hotels, warehousing, etc.

### COUNTRYSIDE WATCH

All businesses and premises in a rural location – this can include farms, rural business estates, churches, golf/sports clubs, rural hotels, etc.

### HORSE WATCH

All premises dealing with equestrian activities, whether as a business or private enterprise.

### RETAIL WATCH

All commercial retail premises (urban and rural locations) – including post offices.

### PUB WATCH

All licensed premises in urban and rural locations – excluding hotels.

**If you are not sure which scheme is the best one for you, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Stevens on 01234 275288.**



## 9: RINGMASTER

### WHAT IS RINGMASTER?

Ringmaster is a countywide database of local residents, businesses (urban and rural), schools and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators registered to receive messages.

The member chooses to receive either **email** or **telephone messages**.

Messages relate to:

- A single crime or incident
- A series of crimes or disorder
- A hot spot highlighted in the fortnightly tasking process
- Crime prevention advice

Members only get messages relating to their area and can possibly receive 1 or 2 messages a week.

Members are given the relevant Crime Reference, and a contact number to reply with information.

Members are given crime prevention advice to reduce further crimes in their local area.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I GET A MESSAGE?

Make a note of any details and let friends, neighbours and members of staff know about it.

### WHO DO I CALL IF I HAVE INFORMATION?

You must decide how urgent information is.

Anything relating to a possible crime in process should be reported as a 999 call immediately.

Less urgent information can be passed to your local Control Centre or you can call CrimeStoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111.

*If you have any questions about Ringmaster, please contact  
[sarah.stevens@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sarah.stevens@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk) or call 01234 275288*



# RINGMASTER

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE'S COMMUNITY MESSAGING SYSTEM

**WAYS TO JOIN:**  
 You can apply online by completing the application form found at [WWW.SAFER-BEDS.ORG](http://WWW.SAFER-BEDS.ORG)  
 or complete this form and post to:  
 Ringmaster, Community Safety Department, Greyfriars Police Station, Bedford MK40 1HR

**Please Select the Ringmaster Scheme you wish to join:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Business Watch (urban business locations) <input type="checkbox"/> Countryside Watch (rural business locations) <input type="checkbox"/> I am not in a Neighbourhood Watch group but would like messages for my local area.	<input type="checkbox"/> Horse Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Watch (retail premises) <input type="checkbox"/> Pub Watch
--	---

If you would like further information about any Ringmaster Schemes please contact Sarah Stevens on (01234) 275288 or email [ringmaster@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ringmaster@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

**If you are joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme please indicate your Role:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Area Co-ordinator <input type="checkbox"/> Street Co-ordinator <input type="checkbox"/> Resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Area Co-ordinator <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Street Co-ordinator
---	--

**Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS** Title: Mr/ Mrs / Miss / Ms / Other .....

Surname: ..... First Name: .....

House Number: ..... Road: .....

Town/Village: ..... Post Code: .....

Home Tel: ..... Mobile Tel: .....

**E-mail Address (please print clearly in CAPITALS)**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**I give Bedfordshire Police and Neighbourhood Watch Association the authority to place my details on a computerised database to be used for Ringmaster purposes.**

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....

**Telephone Message Acceptance Times if you do not have e-mail:**  
 Please tick against the times you are most likely to be at home. The system operates 7 days a week but cannot be specific about days.

I am willing to accept automated telephone messages and I'm usually available to receive calls

All day (between 9am and 10pm)

**Alternatively, choose up to two time periods of your choice (between 9am and 10pm)**

Period 1: from: ..... to: ..... Period 2: from: ..... to: .....



## 10: USEFUL CONTACTS

### POLICE CONTACTS

Main Switchboard  
**01234 841212**

In Emergency or Crime In Progress  
**999**

Crime Reduction Officers  
**North Beds: 01234 275273 / Mid/South Beds: 01582 473159 / 473178**

Ringmaster – Bedfordshire  
**01234 275288**

Neighbourhood Watch  
**North Beds: 01234 275165 / Mid/South Beds: 01582 473158**

### FIRE SERVICE CONTACTS

Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service  
**01234 351081**  
**[www.bedsfire.com](http://www.bedsfire.com)**

Arson Prevention Bureau  
**[www.arsonpreventionbureau.org.uk](http://www.arsonpreventionbureau.org.uk)**

### USEFUL WEBSITES

Safer Beds website  
**[www.safer-beds.org](http://www.safer-beds.org)**

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
**[www.defra.gov.uk/farm/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/index.htm)**

Home Office Crime Reduction  
**[www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)**

Information Commissioners Office  
**[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)**

National Counter Terrorism Security Office  
**[www.nactso.gov.uk](http://www.nactso.gov.uk)**

National Plant and Equipment Register  
**[www.ter-europe.org](http://www.ter-europe.org)**

National Security Inspectorate  
**[www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk)**



## APPENDIX A: 10 MINUTE SECURITY CHECKLIST FOR BUSINESS PREMISES

Below is a checklist to help you to identify the areas where your business may be vulnerable. It is not designed to cover all aspects of security, but will identify some common vulnerabilities.

Tick the appropriate box with your answer.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
<b>VISITOR ACCESS TO YOUR PROPERTY</b>			
Do visitors need an appointment before entering your property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do they have to report to a reception area before entry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are visitors asked for proof of identity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all visitors asked to sign in when they enter the premises?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your signing in book allow space to note vehicle details?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are they provided with a visitor's badge?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are visitor's badges designed to look different to staff badges?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all visitor's badges collected from visitors when they leave the premises?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does a member of staff accompany visitors at all times while on the premises?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the visitor's badges cross-checked against those issued?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do your staff wear identity badges at all times when in the building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUILDING SECURITY</b>			
Are there good quality locks on all external doors and ground level windows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has all external door furniture been removed from fire doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there good quality locks or bars on all windows above ground level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are any windows above ground level accessible by a flat roof?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can internal doors be locked when left unattended for long periods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all the fire doors alarmed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you nominate members of staff to check that all doors and windows are closed and locked at the end of the business day?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



If you have a burglar alarm, are your staff familiar with the procedures for switching it on and off (in order to reduce false activation)?

Do you maintain good visibility around the perimeter of your building, eg, cutting back overgrown plants or using palisade fencing instead of solid fence panels?

Do you have adequate lighting around your building during the hours of darkness?

**CCTV**

YES NO DON'T KNOW

Do you have your CCTV cameras and recording devices regularly maintained?

Do the CCTV cameras cover the entrances and exits to your building?

Do you have CCTV covering critical areas, such as server rooms or cash offices?

Do you store CCTV images in accordance to the evidential needs of the police?

Could you positively identify an individual from recorded images on your system?

**INFORMATION SECURITY**

YES NO DON'T KNOW

Do you lock away all business documents at the close of the business day?

Do you have a clear desk policy out of business hours?

Do you close down all computers at the close of the business day?

Are all your computers password protected?

Do you have computer firewall and antivirus software on your computers?

Do you regularly update this protection?

Do you employ the principle of least privilege (where a user be given no more privilege than necessary to perform a job)?

Do you back up business critical information regularly?

Is backed up information stored securely?

**PERSONNEL SECURITY CHECKING**

It is important to prove the identity of potential new staff. You should see the original documents, not photocopies, and seek explanations for gaps in information. During recruitment, do you require:

YES NO DON'T KNOW

Full name, date of birth and national insurance number?



- Current address and any previous addresses in the last five years?
  - Full details of references (names, addresses and contact details)?
  - Full details of previous employers, including dates of employment?
  - Proof of relevant educational and professional qualifications?
  - Proof of permission to work in the UK for non-British or non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals?
- There is a checklist to establish proof of identity at the end of this document.

**COMMUNICATION**

- |  | YES                      | NO                       | DON'T KNOW               |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you have a security policy or other documentation showing how security procedures should operate within your business?                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is this documentation regularly reviewed and, if necessary, updated?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have a senior manager who takes responsibility for security within your business?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you regularly meet with staff and discuss security issues?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you encourage staff to raise their concerns about security?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you a member of a Watch scheme or signed up to the Ringmaster scheme?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you know your local Police Beat Manager or Community Support Officer?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you speak to neighbouring businesses on issues of security and crime that might affect you all?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you remind your staff to be vigilant when travelling to and from work, and to report anything suspicious to the relevant authorities or the police? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKLIST**

It is important to prove the identity of potential new staff. You should see original documents, not photocopies, and seek explanations for gaps in information. The following can assist you in verifying a person's identity:

- |   | YES                      | NO                       | DON'T KNOW               |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| British Citizens  |                          |                          |                          |
| Do you ask to see, and take a photocopy of, a full and current UK passport? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If the person does not have a passport, ask to see TWO of the following:    |                          |                          |                          |
| British Driving Licence (preferably the photo licence)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| P45 from previous employer?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |





Birth Certificate – issued within six weeks of birth?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Credit Card – with three statements and proof of signature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheque Book and Bank Card – with three statements and proof of signature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of Residence – council tax, gas, electricity, water or landline telephone bill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other EEA Nationals			
Do you ask to see, and take a photocopy of, a full and current EEA passport?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OR a National Identity Card?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Nationals			
Do you ask to see, and take a photocopy of, a full and current passport?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AND a Home Office document confirming the individual’s UK immigration status and permission to work in the UK?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**WHAT DO YOUR RESULTS SHOW?**

Having completed the checklist, you need to give further attention to the questions that you have answered “no” or “don’t know”.

If you answered “don’t know” to a question, find out more about that particular issue to reassure yourself that this vulnerability is being addressed or needs to be addressed.

If you answered “no” to any question then you need to address that particular vulnerability as soon as possible.

Where you have answered “yes” to a question, remember to regularly review your security needs to make sure your security measures are fit for purpose.

## APPENDIX B: HARE COURSING

### IMPACT OF ILLEGAL HARE COURSING

Hare coursing is a crime that needs to be seen in the wider context of rural crime and the fear of crime. Certainly the feelings of isolation and vulnerability by landowners and farmers increase this crime from a nuisance to something far more significant.

Hare coursers have a sophisticated information network and knowledge of the rural areas. This information gained whilst hare coursing is passed on to others in order to commit crimes which is a concern of many landowners. Information gained identifies vulnerable properties together with short cuts and escape routes.

All forms of hare coursing and hare hunting were made illegal in England and Wales by the Hunting Act 2004. The law defines hare coursing as 'a competition in which dogs are, by the use of live hares, assessed to their skill in hunting hares'. It is not only illegal to participate or organise hare coursing events but also to attend them as a spectator.

During recent weeks there have been many reported incidents of hare coursing in the North Rural part of the county. It is no coincidence that the majority of these are in the areas of Great Barford, Wyboston, Renhold and Pertenhall which are all locations bordering the Cambridgeshire border. This is a direct result of Cambridgeshire Police taking firm and positive action against hare coursers and, as a result, hare coursing has moved across the county border into our area.

Cambridgeshire have created a specialised unit called the Rural Community Action Team that deals with all hare coursing incidents. Whilst we are not in a position to do this there is much that we can learn from Cambridgeshire's approach.

By a combined approach between patrol officers and the SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) for the North Rural area there are some positive actions that can be taken to combat hare coursing. The CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) has been involved in the process of formulating our response to hare coursing.

### HARE COURSING TRIGGER PLAN

When a hare coursing incident is reported to the Police, the following actions should take place:

- Police Call Handling agents to dispatch a response officer to the incident and notify the patrol supervisor.
- When weather conditions and availability allow, the Police helicopter will be dispatched.
- The response officer will report persons at scene under Section 30 of The Game Act 1831 which creates offences in relation to trespassing in daytime in pursuit of game. The word 'game' includes hares.
- Attending officers will need to verify the offenders' details, including name and address, and photograph them together with any other evidence with a digital camera.

- To assist the response officer, the NPO (Neighbourhood Police Officer) for the area will obtain the following:
  1. A written statement from the landowner stating that hare coursing is not allowed on their land and that these persons are trespassing.
  2. Written statements will also be obtained from all farmers with farms that border the farm where the incident took place stating the same.
  3. A map will be obtained of the farm where the incident took place and this will need to show any public footpaths and the route the offenders took across the land.
  4. Further maps of all farms that border the farm where the incident took place will be obtained.



## APPENDIX C: RAVES

### ADVICE FOR LANDOWNERS

As the warmer lighter evenings approach, all farmers and land owners are advised to remain vigilant to the possibility of unlicensed musical events ('raves') being organised on their land. Raves can cause a great deal of disruption to local communities and often result in damage being caused to property and land. Frequently the landowner is left to clear up the site and bear the considerable costs incurred.

It should be remembered that there is a process for the legitimate organisers of events to apply for a Public Entertainment Licence to hold musical parties both indoors and outdoors. The granting of this licence, through an application to the local council, follows consultation with the local Police and Fire Service. The licensing process ensures that the impact to the local community is taken into account with conditions being imposed if required. It also ensures the safety of those attending the event.

Both the police and local councils take raves very seriously. However, their powers are limited which frequently causes frustration amongst both landowners and the public who expect much greater action when a rave takes place. The emphasis must therefore shift towards trying to prevent raves taking place. If police receive early warning that a rave is about to take place they can try to prevent it. Cordoning off a 5-mile exclusion zone to stop revellers attending is used where practical.

An event only becomes a rave – and thus police and local authorities can only act – once 20 or more people are present and there is significant noise disruption. Local Authorities can serve a statutory noise abatement notice on the rave organiser and they will prosecute if the organisers fail to comply.

There are however, two difficulties: firstly, Local Authority Environmental Health Officers are rarely available at the time a rave is starting and, secondly, is the difficulty in identifying the organiser to serve the notice on. The issue of noise disruption can be problematic in rural locations where no one is actually affected by the noise. An example is a rave held in an old quarry. Here the noise was confined within the quarry and there were no houses in the vicinity to be disrupted, thus it is not legally a rave. Note also that the landowner can be prosecuted for failing to comply with a noise abatement notice if the event occurs with the landowners consent.

If a rave is underway and the organisers comply with the police request to stop the music, then the police cannot act further. An offence is only committed if the music continues.

Some rave organisers try to use the excuse that it is a private party or charity event and several landowners have been caught out by being duped into believing the event is indeed for charity. Please be cautious if approached to permit a charity music event. In order to prove it is not a private party or charity event, the police need to see money exchanging hands.

The police have the powers to seize the property (music systems, etc) only if the event fits the legal definition of a rave. However, the danger to police and revellers of so doing is often too great that they will not do so. The safety of the police, local authority personnel and revellers is paramount and intervention is rare once a large rave is in full swing due to the danger to all involved.



Therefore, the main thrust of action must be to prevent these illegal activities by:

- ensuring that booking for the hire of venues are scrutinised, particularly when booking are made at short notice and that a verifiable name, address and telephone number are obtained
- remote or unused building/barns are secure and regularly monitored
- access to land is restricted wherever possible by the use of locked gates / physical barriers
- reporting unusual activity around buildings and / or land to the police
- ensuring employees are made aware of the need to report any suspicious activity

If you have any industrial units for let on your property that are currently unoccupied, please check the security measures you have on these buildings and be vigilant to any unusual activity or unknown vehicles in the area.

**Anyone who witnesses any suspicious activity on farmland or in outbuildings should call the police on 999 immediately.**

**Anyone who has information concerning a possible illegal event can report it to the police by ringing 01234 841212, texting 07786 200011 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.**



## APPENDIX D: GUARD DOGS

Many people now wish to own a dog for security purposes. A well-trained dog can protect you and your premises from unwelcome intruders and vandals. Potential intruders are usually deterred when they see a large dog.

**Guard dogs** are not the same as **Watch dogs** but both must be properly trained and socialised, to qualify for the trusted position of guardian.

A typical **Watch dog** usually belongs to a breed that barks when strangers approach and will alert their owners to danger by barking and threatening the intruder. However, they are unable to carry out their barking threats due to the lack of size or strength.

On the other hand, **Guard dogs** are impressive, large and strong. They are naturally protective and when properly trained and handled are ideal for the protection of property and people. When these dogs are roused to attack they have the ability to cause serious injury, however, they can also be gentle pets when properly trained early in life.

It is important to realise that owning a trained guard dog is just like possessing a weapon and you must take responsibility for its behaviour.

### WHAT TYPE OF DOG?

When choosing a breed, it is important to consider size, intelligence, ease of care and whether you can afford a dog (not just its purchase price but ongoing costs such as food and vet bills). You also need to be realistic about your physical ability to handle a large dog.

This is a list of some breeds that have proved to be good Guard Dogs for experienced dog owners:

- Doberman Pinscher
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Bull Mastiff
- Rottweiler
- German Shepherd Dog

The following dogs are prohibited from being used as Guard dogs in the United Kingdom:

- Pit Bull Terrier
- Japanese Tosa
- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro

**More information is available at: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)**

### WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Only section 1 of the Guard Dogs Act 1975 has ever entered into force. This means that all the other sections relating to a licensing scheme are not in force and neither are there any plans to do so. Section 1, which is in force, relates to the control of guard dogs.



Section 1 states:

- (1) A person shall not use or permit the use of a guard dog at any premises unless a person ('the handler') who is capable of controlling the dog is present on the premises and the dog is under the control of the handler at all times while it is secured so that it is not at liberty to go freely about the premises.
- (2) The handler of a guard dog shall keep the dog under his control at all times while it is being used as a guard dog at any premises except:
  - (a) while another handler has control over the dog; or
  - (b) while the dog is secured so that it is not at liberty to go freely about the premises.
- (3) A person shall not use or permit the use of a guard dog at any premises unless a notice containing a warning that a guard dog is present is clearly exhibited at each entrance to the premises.

The owner of a guard dog may be liable for any injury to a person under s 2(2) of the Animals Act 1971, unless they come within one of the exceptions in s 5.

## GUARD DOGS: THE LEGAL MINEFIELD

(This article was published in March 2001 by info4security)

The advantages of using guard dogs as a security measure are obvious to all. What is perhaps not so obvious, though, is the considerable risk of civil and criminal liability faced by those companies tempted to dabble in what can only be described as a 'legal minefield'.

Notwithstanding the existence of the Guard Dogs Act 1975, there is no single comprehensive statute in place governing the use of guard dogs. When analysing the law relating to guard dog use, you are forced to consider several – often inconsistent – statutes, together with the common law as it develops on a case-by-case basis. The end result is not only a very uncertain situation, but also potential civil and criminal liability for those who use guard dogs in blissful ignorance.

Aside from the Guard Dogs Act, other relevant legislation includes the Animals Act 1971 and the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. To a lesser extent, there's also the Occupiers' Liability Act and the Health and Safety Act 1974.

### The Animals Act 1971

This is perhaps the most applicable statute to the use of guard dogs. Section 2(1) of the Animals Act provides for strict liability for any and all damage caused by an animal of a "dangerous species". By no stretch of the imagination could a guard dog be said to be a member of a dangerous species. However, Section 2(2) extends such strict liability to animals which are not members of a dangerous species in those circumstances in which the ensuing damage was likely to have been caused by such an animal (unless it was restrained), and was also likely to be severe.

Furthermore, such damage (and the severity of the same) must be due to the characteristics of the animal which are not normally found in animals of the species, and which are known to the keeper.

If Section 2(2) liability is established, then both the owner and the keeper will be strictly liable for any damage caused by the dog(s).



There are exceptions to such liability, provided for by Section 5 of the Act, which includes exceptions from liability if the damage caused is wholly due to the actions of the persons suffering the damage.

For instance, a trespasser ignoring a highly visible 'Beware of Guard Dogs' sign and trespassing onto property would be deemed to have voluntarily accepted the risk of damage, and the owner and/or keeper of any guard dog property may then avoid any liability.

### **The Guard Dogs Act 1975**

Despite its good intentions, many of the provisions of the Guard Dogs Act 1975 – including Sections 2, 3, 4 and 6 relating to the licensing of kennels – are not yet in force. Section 1 of the Act prohibits the use of a guard dog unless a handler capable of controlling the dog is present on the premises at all times, and the dog is under the strict control of the handler unless secured (and is not at liberty to 'run free'). The use of any such guard dog is prohibited unless a notice warning that a guard dog is present is clearly exhibited at each entrance to the premises. Under Section 5 of the Act, a breach of Section 1 will result in criminal liability and a fine of up to £5,000.

From a legal point of view, the requirement to have a notice at each entrance point warning that guard dogs are present is an interesting one, particularly in those circumstances in which the word 'entrance' has not been defined or limited. Would a hole in the perimeter fencing constitute an entrance point? From a legal point of view, it's likely that it would.

### **The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991**

In essence, the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 primarily prohibits the possession and/or custody of dogs bred for fighting, and is presently limited in its application to the Pit Bull Terrier and the Japanese Tosa – unlikely guard dogs by any stretch of the imagination! That said, Section 3 of the Act provides that if a dog is dangerously out of control in a public place (a shopping centre, for example), the owner and/or person in charge (potentially the security officer) is guilty of an offence and/or an aggravated offence if the dog injures someone as a result of such loss of control.

Any breach of the Act results in criminal liability, six months in prison and a fine of £5,000. If the dog's loss of control results in an injury to a third party, then the sentence is extended to two years' imprisonment.

### **Guard dog use and the common law**

The common law of tort applies to the ownership of all animals, and not just dogs. Any owner of domestic and harmless animals may be liable on the grounds of negligence for damage caused to third parties by the animals. At its most basic level, civil liability of the owner will depend on whether or not the owner owed a duty of care to the relevant third party, and whether or not it was directly foreseeable that the animal would cause the injury suffered by the third party.

It's very easy to foresee a situation in which a child climbs through a hole in a site's perimeter fencing, enters a premises patrolled by guard dogs (albeit that they are used in compliance with the Guard Dogs Act) and is then badly mauled by a guard dog secured on a chain. The owner and keeper of the guard dog would probably be strictly liable for the damage caused under the terms of the Animals Act 1971, and would (possibly) be criminally liable for the aggravated offence under the Guard Dogs Act 1975.



Independently, they would also probably be liable for a huge damages claim under the common law of tort in circumstances in which it could be argued that such damage was foreseeable, and that the security operator had not checked the integrity of the perimeter fencing before deploying guard dogs.

Before any security operator considers using guard dogs, it's vital that proper insurance cover is obtained, and that the operator consults with either The Security Watchdog or directly with the National Association of Security Dog Users (NASDU).



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