

Rural Crime Prevention Tips



FIRST PRINCIPLE

suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple

**Are you Safe? – Are you Secure?
Use First Principle to check your security!**



Rural Crime Prevention



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY

[suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple](https://www.suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple)



We have put together a summary of our First Principle crime prevention tips which we think are particularly relevant to rural communities.

More detailed information about each of these tips is available on our Website. <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/>

We also have a number of Self-Assessments which will enable you to assess your own level of security and advise on how to make improvements. These will be of interest to:

- **Farmers**
- **Small Business Owners or Managers**
- **Home Owners**
- **Anyone involved in their local Church**

If the information you need is not here look on our website under the Advice Section – A - Z of Crime Prevention [Suffolk First Principle](https://www.suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple) or scan the QR code below



Here are some general tips to keep in mind when considering security

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.

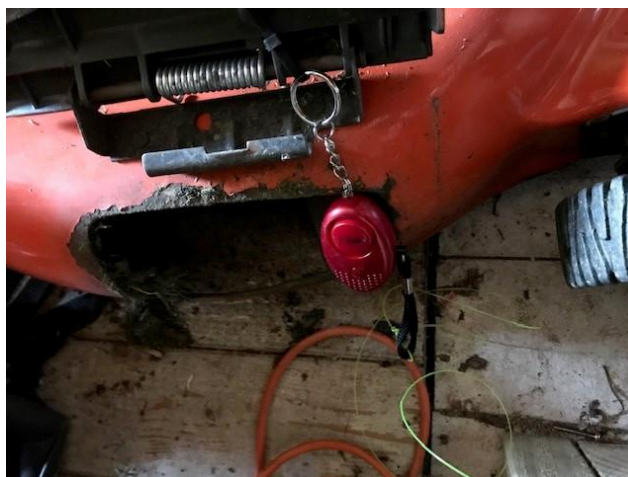
Improvise

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

Lock things together with strong cycle cable locks. This is another layer of security which just makes it harder for thieves.

Allotment Security



- Perimeter fencing should be in good condition and should allow passers-by to see into your allotment.
- Consider planting thorny shrubs inside the fence at low level to deter climbing.
- Try to ensure that there are no climbing aids near the perimeter ie bins, waste heaps, trees etc.
- Ensure that the public facing side of the gates are screened to prevent being used to climb over.
- Vehicle gates should be strong and be unable to be lifted off their support brackets.
- Gates should be secured with strong key operated locks.
- Shed doors, frames and walls should be in good condition. Hinges should be secured with

threaded coach bolts and back plates or large back washers.

- Shed doors and windows should be robustly secured and valuable items should be removed.
- Visibly paint/mark property with postcode or other identifying marks. Note serial numbers and record or register on www.immobilise.com
- Keep photos of valuable equipment.
- If possible don't leave anything valuable on your allotment.

CCTV



- Do you need CCTV or are there other ways to meet your security requirements?
- Will your CCTV system affect the privacy of others?
- CCTV isn't a guarantee that you will be safe and secure.
- Never use dummy cameras.

- If you already have CCTV, make sure that images are clear and can be used to identify individuals or licence plates.
- Ensure you can operate your system and can retrieve images and make recordings from it.
- Before you go any further read our more detailed information about CCTV on our website which also includes information about your responsibilities and legal requirements.

Caravan Security



- Lock the coupling head using a good quality hitch lock and use a good quality clamp on the wheels.
- Consider fitting a reputable tracking device.
- Make sure your caravan is security marked with the 17 digit vehicle identification number

(VIN) onto the vehicle chassis and etched it into the windows.

- Fit an alarm.
- Close and lock doors, windows and any roof lights when you leave, even if only for a short time.
- Always lock your caravan and take the keys with you.
- Remove all your personal belongings when you are not using your caravan.
- Security mark all your contents.
- Keep a photographic inventory of all your equipment. This should be kept at your home address.

Catalytic Converters



Catalytic converters contain several valuable metals. This is why thieves steal Catalytic Converters.

- Park your vehicle in a locked and secure garage/compound at all times or a well-lit public area.
- Park in such a way as to make access to the catalytic converter difficult or parallel with another vehicle if you own one.
- Security mark your catalytic converter.

Hare Coursing



The Hunting Act 2004 made hare coursing illegal and anyone convicted of the offence can be fined up to £5,000 by a Magistrates' Court.

- Hare coursing tends to start after harvest when large tracts of land are left without standing crops. This is usually around the end of August or start of September.
- Coursing is more likely to take

place at dawn or dusk but it can also take place in broad daylight.

- The most obvious sign is a group of vehicles parked in a rural area perhaps by a gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track or bridle path.
- There will usually be estate cars, four wheel drive vehicles or vans.
- If you see an event taking place we would advise you not to approach the participants but contact us on 999 immediately.

Heating Oil



- Keep your tank in a well overlooked position
- Make sure that it can be seen from your house.
- Make sure that the area is well lit.
- If you have a gate, keep it closed and locked when you are out.
- Make sure your perimeter fence

is in good condition and is not easy to climb.

- Invest in an approved tank alarm.
- Check your oil gauges regularly.

Horses and Stables



- The tack room should be of sound construction with solid walls and doors.
- Doors should be able to be properly secured and hinges and fixings must not be accessible from the outside.
- Lock doors when nobody is in the tack room and keep the number of key holders to a minimum.
- Never leave tack and equipment lying around the yard.
- During shows always lock your tack inside the horsebox or vehicle.

- Security mark your tack.
- Make a photographic inventory of your equipment with clear descriptions.
- If you use a horsebox or trailer, make sure you record details of the chassis and the frame numbers.
- Take colour photographs of your horse in summer and winter.
- Have your horse security marked, preferably by a visible freemark.
- Keep your horse's passport secure.
- Keep all medications for your horses secure away from your stables.

Occupiers Liability

The Occupiers Liability Act 1984 (OLA 1984) deals with individuals other than visitors and is taken to mean trespassers or even those entering with criminal intent.

A duty of care has to be established and occurs when:

- The occupier is aware of the danger; and
- The occupier knows the other person will be near the danger or

that they have reasonable grounds to believe that it is the case; and

- The occupier ought to reasonably have thought about providing some protection to the other person.
- Under OLA 1984, no duty will exist when a person willingly accepts a risk when they trespass on a certain type of land.



- An occupier is not automatically absolved by putting up a warning notice.
- For more detailed information about your responsibilities as an occupier see our separate information sheet.

Power Tools

- Remove tools from vehicles if possible.
- Always lock all doors & shut

windows, physically checking doors are locked.

- Always set your alarm or immobiliser and take action if you hear the alarm sounding.
- Park in a garage or secure area where possible.
- Park in an area covered by CCTV where possible.
- Park with the rear/side doors against a wall.
- Mark all tools with an engraver and/or a permanent marker with your postcode/initials and/or using forensic markers.
- Register your tools for free at www.immobilise.com
- Consider upgrading locks or fitting additional protection.
- If you store tools in a shed or garage, ensure it is securely locked and alarmed.
- Do not leave any items on display.
- Be particularly aware when unloading tools/materials from your van.
- Always check your van/tools before heading off to work/site.
- Remove copper piping from storage tubes on the van.
- To increase the security of tools, you can bolt either a cage or box

to the base of the van which should be secured with a sturdy close shackle padlock.

Sheds and Garages



- Always keep your shed or garage locked.
- Where possible, ensure that the shed or garage is behind a secure perimeter.
- Locate the shed or garage within sight of the house.
- Use dusk to dawn lights to illuminate your shed/garage.
- Use coach bolts to fasten hinges and hasp and staples or padbar.
- Security mark property and register it on Immobilise. Fit anchor points to secure items to.
- Have an alarm fitted and use it.
- Check your shed or garage regularly.
- Avoid storing high value items in the shed.
- Ensure your shed is in good condition.
- Avoid having windows in the shed.
- Use two good quality closed shackle padlocks to secure the door.
- Always lock integral doors between the garage and house.
- Add ground mounted locking bars to enhance security on 'up and over' garage doors.
- Use two good quality close shackle padlocks or a 5 lever mortice and rim lock (BS3621) to secure outward or inward opening doors.
- Lock all windows and keep them covered.

Report Suspicious Behaviour



As the additional 'eyes and ears' you can help by knowing what to report and how to report it.

Sometimes it can be confusing about what to report and when to report it.

Here is a list of items you can describe when providing a suspect description:

When Reporting People

- Gender
- Race / Ethnic Origin
- Age
- Height and build
- Hair colour and style
- Complexion – skin tone, imperfections
- Speech – accent, slurred, vulgar
- Distinguishing Features ie tattoos, facial hair, glasses
- General appearance – dirty, well-groomed
- Clothing: colour, style, shoes, jewellery

When reporting vehicles

- Make – (Ford, Vauxhall, Honda etc.)
- Model – (Escort, Insignia etc.)
- Colour
- Registration number
- Stickers, damage or dents, lettering
- Direction of travel
- Occupants
- Is there a sunroof or a roof rack

When reporting locations

- Provide as much information as possible. An exact location and specific address is always best if possible.
- Provide nearby roads and junctions.
- In rural areas, provide county road numbers or landmarks that can be recognised. Describe the location with as much detail as possible.
- Consider downloading the **"What3Words App"** so we will know exactly where you are.

[What3Words](#)

Protecting Your Livestock

Grazing animals are potential targets for criminals and should be treated like any other valuable property. On the whole, sheep are the most common animal to be stolen and this advice is designed to help prevent you from becoming a victim of theft.

- Check the security of boundary fencing/hedging and make regular checks of fields where animals are kept to ensure fences are not breached.
- Use ear tags, forensic keel paint, horn brands, freeze marking or tattooing to make animals more easily identifiable.
- Take photographs of particularly valuable animals.
- Keep all documentation and stock movement books in a secure location away from areas where the stocks are kept.
- Report all suspicious activity involving livestock to the police.

- Ask neighbours and those living nearby to be your ears and eyes. Any suspicious behaviour should be reported immediately to the police.
- Consider placing trail cameras in discrete locations at main vehicular entrances and exits.
- Keep all medications for livestock in a secure location.

Protecting your Dogs

Dogs, especially working dogs, are also targeted by thieves.

- Make sure all dogs are chipped.
- Keep detailed photos of each dog and update these regularly
- If you keep your dogs in an outside enclosure, make sure it is secure and covered by an alarm and CCTV.

First Principle:

Related links

Ask the Police

Official Police Resource. The Ask the Police website provides you with information on a wide range of non-emergency policing matters. askthe.police.uk

Secured by Design

Official UK Police initiative that combines the principles of 'designing out crime' with physical security. securedbydesign.com

Sold Secure

Dedicated to reducing the risk of crime by assessment of security products. <https://www.soldsecure.com/>

Crimestoppers

An independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously, by phone 0800 555 111 or online. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care

Covering the whole of Norfolk and Suffolk, a free, confidential support service specifically designed to help victims and witnesses of any crime.

<https://www.nsvictimcare.org/#>

Contact us on: 0300 303 3706
(weekdays between 8am-5pm)
Out of hours 0808 16 89 111

Alternatively, if you would like to access help online you can use this link: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/request-support>

Call us on 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency

To see the full range of information go to:

[Suffolk First Principle](#) or [Norfolk First Principle](#)

Or alternatively use your mobile phone to scan this QR code.

