

Equine crime prevention advice

Protecting vehicles and machinery

Keys and locks

- Keep vehicles out of sight when not in use, if possible.
- Vehicles or plant kept outside should be locked and keys should be stored in a safe.
- Consider using hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors - you may require a combination of these measures to meet insurance requirements.

Security-marking

- Security-mark important items, including vehicles – the mark should be unique, in a non-obvious place and include your post code and house name or number.
- Take a photograph of items, including any identifying marks, and keep them somewhere safe along with details including serial, chassis and model numbers.
- Security-marking options can include stamping, etching, UV marking and forensic solutions.

Boundaries and access points

- Check the perimeter of your land and make sure boundaries are as secure as possible.
- If possible, remove any access points that are no longer used and establish a single gated entrance and exit.
- Consider installing an entry control system (infra-red, intercom or keypad entry).
- Consider using natural boundaries, for example thorny hedges or deep ditches, to help restrict access by people or vehicles.

Gates and hinges

- Invert and cap gate hinges so that gates cannot be lifted off and make sure fixing bolts cannot be removed.
- Use good quality padlocks with covers so they cannot be cut off easily.
- Use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control wide access points to yards.

Protecting outbuildings

Doors and windows

- Fit adequate locks that comply with British Safety Standards with good quality locking bars and robust padlocks.
- Protect windows with metal bars or grilles, or consider blocking them up completely.
- Keep doors and windows shut and locked when not in use.

Security lighting

- Consider installing lights which automatically come on at dusk and go off at dawn.
- Due to the potential fire risk when using any electrical device, always install lights according to manufacturer's instructions.



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CCTV and intruder alarms

- Consider installing CCTV to provide formal surveillance to the most vulnerable areas of the property.
- Consider installing an audible and monitored intruder alarm system.
- Get comprehensive advice from a reputable security company that conforms to national standards, for example the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) and Security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board (SSAIB).

Fire risks

- Hay and straw should be removed from fields as soon as possible after harvesting and stored separately from other buildings.
- Petrol, diesel and other fuels should be stored in secure areas and storage tank outlets should be padlocked.
- Rubbish should be disposed of safely and on a regular basis.
- Talk to your local Fire Officer for more advice and guidance.

Protect against horse crime

- Take colour photographs of your animal in the winter and again in the summer, from both sides, head-on and tail-on.
- Keep a detailed record of your horse by taking close-up photos of any distinctive marks or scars, including any 'chestnuts'.
- Get your horse freezemarked or microchipped.
- Make sure you have a passport for your horse – this is a legal requirement.
- Join your local Horse Watch scheme and sign up to **Kent Horse Watch** on Facebook.
- If you have to report a horse-related incident or crime, please use terminology that the authorities can easily understand.

Protecting tack

- Secure windows inside tack rooms with solid iron bars – tubular steel can be bent.
- Use good quality locks on all doors and use bolts, not screws, on the hinges.
- Security-mark tack – signs to show items are marked may also help to deter thieves.
- Lock gates using heavy-duty padlocks and chains.
- Consider reversing the top hinge on yard gates to prevent them from being lifted off.
- Install security lights and intruder alarms, if possible.

Reporting suspicious behaviour

- Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity, people or vehicles to the police.
- Report anyone who is asking specific questions about or taking photographs of a facility or a farm's processes.
- Report anyone who tries to buy or sell fertilisers, diesel, herbicides or pesticides if they are not authorised to do so or appear suspicious.
- Consider joining Country Eye: **www.countryeye.co.uk** or **info@countryeye.co.uk**

Contacting Kent Police

- Report a non-urgent crime online **www.kent.police.uk/report**
- Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 **www.kent.police.uk/contact**
- In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
- If deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**
- For news, advice and details about policing where you live, visit **www.kent.police.uk**
- Find us on Facebook or follow **@kent_police** on Twitter