

Crime prevention advice for **Riding Clubs**



Whether you own your own ground or rent it from the landowner, the security of your equipment is paramount or the show won't go on!

Unfortunately there have been a number of incidents where show equipment has been taken, especially jumps, and unless they are marked and recorded in an inventory it will be very difficult to trace them or prove ownership once they have been stolen.

This advice has been put together to help you review your security arrangements and hopefully stop this happening to your club. If unfortunately a theft does take place it will also improve the chances of your equipment being returned to you.

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SHOW GROUND/FIELD

- Look closely at the perimeter of the field/show ground as if you were a criminal wanting to get in and steal equipment; look at the weak points and take action to strengthen them.
- If possible remove all gates/entrances that you no longer use.
- If possible plant thorn hedges with deep ditches and bunds (ditches should be fenced for health and safety and warning signs put up).
- Ensure all fencing is robust and secure.
- Make regular checks around your perimeter to ensure it is secure. Offenders can make an entrance, cover it up temporarily and return later. Ensure nothing seems unusual or out of place.
- Where possible at your entrance have a second inner gate.
- Invert and cap all gate hinges so that the gates cannot be lifted off.
- Use good quality padlocks with covers so that they cannot be cut off.
- Ensure all fixing bolts cannot be removed.
- If a gateway is not being used for a lengthy period of time, i.e. during the winter, ask the owner of the field if a temporary obstruction could be placed in front of it.
- Use locking posts or temporary obstructions to large openings.
- If possible use CCTV and sensor lighting (sensor lights are available with cameras).
- Put up signs all around the perimeter stating that all property owned by the club is security marked – these are available from Warwickshire Horse Watch.
- Become a member of the **Warwickshire Horse Watch Scheme**, put up signs stating that you are a member.
- Find out who your SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) Police Officers are (visit the Warwickshire Police website for details) and provide them with details of the club and who to contact in an emergency.
- If there are any houses near to the ground, introduce yourself and ask them to keep an eye on the field. Provide them with contact details so if they see something suspicious they can contact you so that you can either check it out or contact the Police with the details. **Do not go to the field on your own, always have someone with you and carry a mobile phone, consider carrying a personal alarm. Your safety is paramount.**

For more information email:
horsewatch@warwickshire.police.uk or warwickshirehorsewatch@gmail.com

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EQUIPMENT

All equipment should be marked, photographed and recorded in a log from the cheapest item to the most expensive. There is a form which can be printed off or downloaded from the Warwickshire Horse Watch website or alternatively use the national free property register system which police forces use around the country, Immobilise. Take photo's where relevant. For more details visit www.immobilise.com. Warwickshire Horse Watch will help and support you on either of these systems if required.

- After each show put your equipment away.
- All equipment should be placed in a secure area, preferably a container or secured compound.
- Wherever possible store equipment away from any road or right of way.
- Do not store equipment where it is visible from the road or a right of way.

General Items

- Jumps, including poles, fillers, wings and cups should be marked with either the initials of the riding club or a post code or the full name and postcode. Permanent marker pens or paint (use oil based paint) are cheap ways of doing this. Do a sample first to ensure it works on the relevant surface and cannot be wiped off. Branding is also used by some clubs.
- The same marking should be done on dressage boards, gymkhana and showing equipment.

Timing Equipment & Tanoy Systems

- Expensive items e.g. timing equipment or tanoy systems should be marked with either a property marking solution or UV pen and visibly marked with the clubs initials and a postcode. If you use a forensic marking system such as SmartWater put up signs around the perimeter and in the club caravan, if you have one, advertising this fact.
- Where possible do not leave expensive equipment at the show site.

Tractor & Implements

- If your club has a tractor or implements such as harrows, a roller or leveller – look at the possibility of storing them at secure premises.
- If this is not possible make a secure area and fence it off. Place an obstruction at the entrance. Store away from the road and rights of way.
- Do not store them where they are visible from the road or rights of way.
- Consider recording them on the National Plant & Equipment Register or immobilise.
- Mark with a property marking solution and put a label on the equipment showing it is marked. Put visible markings on the equipment, i.e. paint the postcode and club initials on a visible area. Consider a tagging security system, tracker, immobiliser or wheel/steering lock system.
- On the log of equipment record the chassis number and any other differentiating numbers or markings. Take a photograph of the vehicle.

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Caravan

- Try not to store equipment in the caravan, close the curtains and do not leave items on display.
- Fit a security alarm. Window shock alarms and basic shed alarms are available from Neighbourhood Watch.
- Put the clubs initials and a post code on the roof and on the side of the caravan; this can be done with paint or label kits (details on the Horse Watch website).
- High security door locks with cylindrical keys are more effective than the standard variety.

ALWAYS REPORT INCIDENTS TO THE POLICE

Policing is determined by the National Intelligence Model which is driven by reported incidents and recorded crime. If an incident is not reported the Police will not know there is a problem, they cannot help you or gain information on the crime. There may be a pattern of similar crimes which will not be identified or acted on if they are not reported.

Ring 101 or if there is a crime in progress 999 providing as much information as possible.

HORSE WATCH SCHEME

Warwickshire Horse Watch is a partnership between Warwickshire Police and proactive horse owners. By becoming a member you are raising the profile within the Police of horse owners and the need for crime awareness and crime prevention advice being made available. It is totally free to join.

- Benefits include alerts being sent by the Police, e.g. via email and facebook of equine related crime in your area.
- Crime prevention advice specifically for horse owners.
- Free forms and documents on security and recording details of your horse and tack available to download from the website.
- Website with crime log information including equine crimes reported from Police forces which border Warwickshire. Go to the website and join today online:

www.warwickshirehorsewatch.co.uk

Advise your club members of Warwickshire Horse Watch – the more people that join the more we can get the message out to protect our horses and property and show the Police that horse owners are an important consideration in the fight against crime.

Consider putting Warwickshire Horse Watch details on your club website, in the schedule, put a poster on the entry caravan (available from Warwickshire Horse Watch) and consider having a club 'security day' for members where all the recommended crime prevention measures can be done together, both for the club and for each individual member for their horse and tack.

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