Closing the gate on criminality
## Estate Security
- General Home Security ................................................................. 01
- Outbuilding Security ................................................................. 02
- Boundary Security ..................................................................... 03
- Fire Risks .................................................................................. 03
- Illegal Activity ........................................................................... 04
  - *Fly Tipping* ........................................................................ 04
  - *Illegal Occupation* ........................................................... 04
  - *Illegal Off-Roading* ......................................................... 04

## Equipment Security
- Machinery Security ................................................................... 05
- Diesel Theft ............................................................................. 05
- Scrap Metal Theft .................................................................... 06
- Tack Security ........................................................................... 07
- Firearm Security ....................................................................... 07

## Counter Terrorism
- Suspicious Activity ................................................................. 08
- Chemical Storage ..................................................................... 08

## Wildlife Crime
- Endangered Species & Conservation ....................................... 09
- Cruelty & Persecution of Wildlife Species ............................. 09
- Hare Coarsing .......................................................................... 10
- Poaching .................................................................................. 10
- Reporting a Wildlife Crime ..................................................... 11

## Animal Crime
- Horse Crime ............................................................................ 12
- Animal Mistreatment ............................................................. 12
- Livestock Theft ....................................................................... 12

## Heritage Crime
............................................................................................ 13

## Farm Watch Scheme
.............................................................................................. 14
There has recently been an increase in the amount of metal that is being stolen, such as lead and copper. It is being stolen in many forms, including electricity and telephone cables, gas piping, drain covers and even train lines.

To some, this may seem like a minor crime but the knock on effects are huge and potentially deadly. Electricity and gas supplies have been cut off and the damage being caused to the gas pipes and electricity lines can make them extremely dangerous. Phone lines are also being damaged, which could affect your ability to contact the emergency services, should you need us.

**What are the Police doing about this?**

Our priority is to stop this type of crime. This includes ...

- Working closely with local scrap dealers to identify those responsible for the thefts and stop them selling the stolen goods on, illegally earning money.
- Carrying out warrants and arresting those responsible for the thefts and damage.
- Using forensic marking products to mark metal in the area. Anyone arrested, regardless of the crime, will be tested for traces of the liquid, which can’t be washed off. Anyone found to have it on their clothing or skin can be linked to the scene of the crime.

**What can you do?**

- Let us know if you see anything unusual in your neighbourhood. This could be anything from unknown vans parked up in the area, to the arrival of unexpected workmen.
- Think about where there is metal in your home and take steps to secure it. For example you may have a lead roof, drain pipes or copper boilers. Don’t leave ladders lying around which could make it easy for thieves to access these materials.
- If you have lead flashing stolen from your property, consider replacing it with non-lead based flashing products which are available.

Residents and visitors alike across North Wales can play their part by remaining vigilant and reporting suspicious behaviour to police by calling **101** (if in Wales) or **0300 330 0101**. Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.
General Home Security

Doors and Windows

• Ensure all doors and windows are shut and locked when not in use.
• Ensure windows and door frames are in good repair.
• Fit good quality deadlocks conforming to the latest British Standards to all external doors.
• Fit good quality British Standard window locks to all ground floor windows.

CCTV & Intruder Alarms

• Consider installing CCTV to provide formal surveillance to the most vulnerable areas of the property.
• Consider installing an audible stand alone or monitored intruder alarm system.
• Seek appropriate and realistic advice from a reputable security company that conforms to national standards:
  • National Security Inspectorate (NSI)
  • Security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board (SSAIB)

Security Lighting

• Install security lighting. Dusk to Dawn lights or motion sensored lighting (pir).
• Ensure that your property looks occupied by using timer switches to lamps in different rooms. Change the times on a regular basis so that they do not create an obvious pattern.
• Due to the potential fire risk in using any electrical device, it is important that all manufacturers’ instructions are strictly adhered to at all times.
Outbuilding Security

Doors and Windows

- Fit good quality door locks which comply with relevant British Standards. Use coach bolts and security rated closed-shackled padlocks.
- Protect windows with metal bars or grilles, or consider blocking them up completely.
- Ensure all windows are shut and locked when not in use.

Security Lighting

- Install security lights that come on automatically at dusk and go off at dawn or motioned sensed lighting which will identify the presence of unauthorised individuals or groups.

CCTV & 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.
- Seek appropriate and realistic advice from a reputable security company that conforms to national standards:
  - National Security Inspectorate (NSI)
  - Security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board (SSAIB)
Boundary Security

Entrance & Exits

- Inspect the perimeter of your land and ensure that it is as secure as possible.
- Consider removing all private access points that are no longer used and establish a single gated entrance and exit.

Gates & Hinges

- Invert and cap gate hinges so that gates cannot be lifted off. Ensure fixing bolts cannot be removed.
- Use good quality British Standard padlocks with covers so they cannot be easily cut off.
- Use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control large openings to yards.

Natural Boundary Protection

- Plant thorn hedges to use as natural boundaries.

Fire risks

- Hay and straw should be removed from fields as soon as possible after harvesting.
- Hay and straw should be stored separately from other buildings.
- Petrol, diesel and other fuels should be stored in secure areas and storage tank outlets should be padlocked.
- Refuse should be disposed of safely and on a regular basis.
- Seek further advice from your local Fire Officer.
Estate Security

Illegal Activity

Fly Tipping
- Restrict the opportunity for fly tipping by improving boundary security through the use of appropriate fencing and gates.
- Report all incidents of fly tipping to your local authority as soon as possible.
- Quickly remove evidence of fly tipping so it does not act as a signal and attract further offences.
- Collate details of suspicious vehicles in particular registration numbers and descriptions of people involved.

Illegal Off-Roading
- Improve boundary security through the use of fencing and lockable gates makes the land less accessible to off-road vehicles.
- Report incidents of illegal off-roading and if possible record vehicle details in particular vehicle registration details as well as descriptions of the people involved.
- Consider using signage to reinforce the illegal aspect of this activity and to warn that trespassers will be prosecuted.
- Consider your personal safety before approaching individuals.

Illegal Occupation
- Perimeter protection of buildings, vacant land and car parks reduces the risk, inconvenience and costs involved in removal of trespassers and illegal occupants.
- Look closely at the perimeter of your land to ensure it is as secure as possible.
- Consider your personal safety before approaching any individuals.
- The landowner can take proceedings to the County Court to obtain a Court Order for the eviction of illegal occupants.
Machinery Security

Keys & Locks

- Ensure that vehicles, when not in use, are locked away or out of sight of a passing opportunist.
- When vehicles or plant equipment are kept outside they should be locked and the keys secured in your possession or in a locked key safe.
- Consider the use of hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors. You may require a combination of the above to meet insurance requirements.

Security Markings

- All property including vehicles should be uniquely marked, photographed and recorded somewhere safe. This should include serial, chassis and model numbers.
- Include your Post Code and property name or number in a non-obvious place.
- Popular options include stamping, etching, UV marking and DNA products.
- Use property marking to uniquely mark all types of property. (see page 14).

Tracker & Data Tagging

- Consider fitting a tracking device or a data tagging chip.
- Your insurance company can provide advice on suitable products.

Diesel Theft

- Store diesel in a secure fuel tank within a bund and use British Standard security locks.
- Avoid siting storage tanks in isolated areas such as outlying buildings.
- Consider using a mobile bowser that could be removed to a secure place when not in use.
- Consider the use of a ‘diesel dye’ that makes your diesel traceable and therefore less attractive to thieves.
- Report incidents of suspicious activity to the Police and if possible record vehicle details and descriptions of the people involved.
Scrap metal Theft

Metal theft impacts on all aspects of the community, from crimes affecting individuals and communities through to its effect on national and global businesses e.g. power and transport providers. However, when crime prevention measures are used reductions in offences can be achieved.

Protect your Property

- Dispose of scrap metal regularly and legitimately to make your premises less vulnerable to metal thieves.
- If you are approached by opportunistic ‘scrap dealers’ tell them you have a contract with a legitimate scrap dealer and ask them to leave.
- Report such incidents to the Police and if possible record vehicle details (registration number) as well as descriptions of the people involved.
- Remove any easy access onto building roofs, such as water butts, waste bins and tall trees located near to the building which can limit the opportunity for individuals to commit crime. Remember to get any necessary approval from your local authority for tree cutting before work starts.
- Store ladders in a secure place out of sight.
- Where possible, keep gates locked to restrict vehicle access to the site.
- Make it difficult for thieves to move stolen metals by removing wheelbarrows etc.
- Maximise surveillance by reducing the height of any overgrown vegetation. Remember to get any necessary approval from your local authority for tree felling before work starts.
- Apply anti-climb paint to drain pipes and roof guttering which will restricts access to roofing. Do not apply the paint below a height of two metres. Display warning notices which warn people that anti-climb paint is being used. Display them prominently. Anti-climb paint can be bought from any security products company.
- Protect the lower section of lightning conductor ribbons using a metal cage or sheath securely fixed to the building fabric.
- Consider installing security lighting, particularly at roof level where metal roof coverings are present. Check with your local authority if permission is needed to do this.
Tack Security

- Secure windows on the inside of tack rooms with solid iron bars (tubular steel can be bent).
- Secure all doors with a good British Standard quality locks. Use bolts not screws on the hinges.
- Property mark tack and display signage to deter thieves.
- Padlock gates with substantial padlocks and heavy duty chains.
- Consider reversing the top hinge on yard gates to prevent them from being lifted off.
- Fit security lights and an intruder alarm.

Firearms Security

- There are strict regulations and legislation regarding the safe storage and use of firearms.
- It is an offence not to comply with these conditions.
- If you need advice about firearms security contact your local Police Firearms Licensing Department.
Suspicious Activity

- All communities should remain vigilant and report suspicious behaviour to the Police.
- Report individuals asking specific questions about or taking pictures of, a facility or a farm’s processes.
- Report any attempt to purchase fertilisers, diesel, herbicides or pesticides by those not authorised or suspicious individuals.

Chemical Storage

- Wherever possible store all fertiliser inside a dedicated locked building or compound.
- Do not leave fertiliser where it is visible to the public.
- Do not sell fertiliser unless the purchaser is known by you to be a bona fide farmer or user.
- Record fertiliser deliveries and usage and carry out regular stock takes. Report any discrepancy or loss to the police.
- Record any manufacturer code numbers from the bags and detonation resistance test certificates as you may be required to present them.
- The Health & Safety Executive can provide further advice on the storage and transportation of fertilisers, particularly ammonium nitrate.
- Register for VSAT (Vulnerability Self Assessment Tool), the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) have developed an online tool to help you identify and reduce the vulnerability to your establishment and help protect our communities against terrorism.

To register or for further information log onto: www.nactso.gov.uk
Endangered Species and Conservation

- UK legislation provides protection to wildlife and important habitats and sites.
- Crimes against protected species include killing or taking them from the wild, collecting their eggs or skins for personal collections, trading in them and taxidermy offences. People destroying nests and breeding sites, bat roosts and other protected habitats can also be committing offences.
- Contact the Police, Natural Resources Wales, or your local wildlife trust if you think an offence has been or is about to be committed.

Cruelty and Persecution of Wildlife Species

- Specific legislation protects particular species such as badgers and deer, by making it an offence to cause them unnecessary suffering by certain acts.
- Most hunts comply with the law but if you become aware of hunts that pursue live animals you should report this to the police.
- It is an offence for a person to hunt with a dog unless exempt. The exemptions are very closely defined.

- The Hunting Act 2004 states that a person will be hunting a wild mammal with a dog if he engages alone or participates with others in the pursuit of a wild mammal, and a dog is employed in that pursuit, whether or not in their direct control.
Hare Coursing

- The Hunting Act 2004 made Hare Coursing illegal.
- Hare coursing tends to start after harvest when large tracts of land are left without standing crops and usually occurs at dawn or dusk.
- 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.
- They usually use estate cars, four wheel drive vehicles or vans.
- Hare coursers often travel in convoy with vans at the front and rear containing minders.
- If you see an event taking place we would advise you not to approach the participants and contact the Police immediately.

Poaching

Poaching is illegal – hunting or fishing. It may be illegal because:

- The game or fish is not in season.
- The poacher does not possess a licence.
- The hunter used an illegal weapon for that animal.
- The animal or plant is on restricted land.
- The right to hunt this animal is claimed by somebody.
- The means used are illegal.
- The animal or fish is protected by law or has been listed as an endangered animal.
Reporting a Wildlife Crime

When reporting wildlife crime consider these points:

- Are the suspect/s alone or in a group?
- Are they trespassing?
- Do they have equipment with them?
- Do they have dogs or firearms with them? What type of firearms?
- Where are they going?
- Where have they been?
- What do they look like?
- Have they any vehicles?
- What are the number plates and vehicle models?
- Can you safely get a photograph?
- Call the police if you see something suspicious.
Horse Crime

• Take colour photos of your animal in the winter and again in the summer, full profile.
• If there is a distinctive mark or scar; take a close up photo of these.
• Get your horse freeze marked or have a microchip implanted.
• Ensure you have a passport for your horse. This is a legal requirement.
• If reporting a horse related incident, please use terminology that can be easily understood.
• Join your local Horse Watch Scheme (see page 14).

Animal mistreatment

• If you believe an animal wild or domestic is or has been mistreated call the RSPCA or the Police.

Livestock Theft

• Report any suspicious activity involving your livestock to the Police.
• Check your livestock regularly so as to prevent any rustling.
• 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, horn brands, freeze marking or tattooing to make animals more easily identifiable.
Heritage Crime

- Many land owners have ancient monuments and archaeological areas within or near to their property.
- It is recommended that instances of suspected theft or criminal damage involving a scheduled monument or an archaeological area should be reported to the Police as soon as possible. A report should include a description of offenders and associated motor vehicles.
- Carrying out work on a scheduled monument without consent should be reported to CADW.
- The vast majority of metal detectorists are law abiding and will only detect and search for objects on land where they have the landowner’s permission.
- A landowner cannot give permission for a person to use a metal detector on a scheduled monument.
- Metal detecting in a specified location without consent could amount to theft.
- Illegal detecting at night is sometimes referred to as “Night Hawking”
- Report suspicious incidents to the police as soon as possible.

Useful links

www.cadw.wales.gov.uk
Farm Watch

Please inform the Police of any suspicious persons or vehicles so that they can carry out all the necessary checks. Relevant information will then be sent to all members of Farm Watch. This format has proved successful within numerous other Police Forces and does limit the opportunity for criminals to target our rural communities.

Members of Farm Watch will be visited periodically by our Rural Crime Officers and updated of any new initiatives.

Horse Watch

North Wales Horse Watch has been set up to prevent, reduce and detect equine related crime, it is very similar to Farm Watch however it has been established to address issues such as the theft of tack.

For further information contact Helen Lacey, Horse Watch North Wales Co-ordinator:
Email: northwaleshorsewatch@yahoo.co.uk

OWL

OWL is an interactive tool that promotes two way communication between the police and their communities. You will receive relevant crime alerts, timely crime prevention advice, which are sent out by the OWL administrator to OWL users and Watch members.

The system allows messages to be received by email, telephone, mobile phone or fax so people who do not have access to the internet do not miss out on OWL.

For further information on OWL and other watch schemes email: owl@nthwales.pnn.police.uk or contact Community Safety Department on 01745 588776.

Immobilise

Register your property for FREE and improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen.

For further information log onto www.immobilise.com