



# Rural crime prevention

Safety advice for people living and working in North Yorkshire's rural communities



**Prevent Crime.**  
**Put Off Criminals.**  
**Protect Your Home.**

# Farmhouse and other buildings, gardens and property marking



## Doors

Fit British Standard deadlocks to all outside doors and reinforce them with strong bolts – preferably ones that are key-operated.

## Windows

Install window locks on ground floor windows and near flat roofs or drainpipes.

## Sheds

If you have a shed, padlock the door and fit grilles or mesh to the windows. Don't keep expensive tools or equipment in your shed. Chain large items (eg bicycles) together to make them harder for a thief to carry away and lock ladders to a secure fixture so they can't be used to reach top-floor windows in your home.

## Driveways

Use gravel on your driveway to increase your chances of hearing an intruder.

## Gardens

Photograph and mark garden tools, ornaments and planters with your postcode, using a UV pen.

## Fences

Keep fences in good repair. Grow your own security by planting prickly plants, bushes and shrubs by fences to deter burglars from climbing. Try: Berberis, Rosa Rugosa "Rubra", Pyracantha, Holly, Hawthorn, Japonica or Acanthus.

## Dot peen marking

Every year, police recover hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of stolen property from the hands of criminals, but all too often there is no way of identifying its rightful owners.

Being able to trace the ownership of the property not only helps people get the property back, but it can also provide evidence that is vital in securing convictions.

Once you have marked your property, you must make people aware that it is marked. Place notices where they can be seen by visitors and passers-by.

North Yorkshire Police have invested in 'dot peen' property marking machines, and are offering the service free to residents and businesses across North Yorkshire.

Dot peen marking involves using a tungsten carbide-tipped pin to indent an object with dots to create a visible, permanent unique number. It can be used on many items, including power tools, equestrian tack and electronic devices.

Contact your local police team to find out more about this service.



## Possessions and wellbeing



## Take care with callers

Fit a security chain and wide-angle door viewer or spy-hole to your main door so you can check who a caller is before opening the door. Check the identity of callers you don't know by calling the number for their company in the phone book. Make use of password schemes operated by most of the utility companies. With these schemes, you set a password that the representative must give when they call, so you know they are genuine.

## Possessions

Photograph and make a record of your valuable possessions, and keep them in a secure safe.

## Don't advertise you're not at home

Leaving notes for delivery drivers can alert thieves.

## Modern slavery

Modern slavery can be a hidden crime, taking place in remote, rural locations away from public view – particularly in the agricultural sector. Be aware of the signs of exploitation. Visit the Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority website to find out what to look for.

## Wellbeing

Farming is a way of life as well as a business, but times are not always easy - often due to factors beyond our control. There may be times when you see something not quite right, but don't feel that it is your job to let anyone else know about it. You may be aware of somebody who is struggling to look after their stock, or isn't managing the paperwork and worried about the repercussions. You may have concerns that someone in your family or community is vulnerable in some way.

The police are often the organisation that gets called out as a last resort, but help at the right time may have been able to stop problems spiralling out of control. Your input could help to save lives.

Search for 'rural wellbeing' on the North Yorkshire Police website for sources of advice and support.

# Vehicles, tools and equipment, chemicals and metals





## Vehicles

Four-wheel drive vehicles, tractors, trailers, caravans, horse-boxes and quad-bikes are an attractive target for thieves. Where you can, keep your vehicles in a lockable garage or building. If this is not possible, consider installing security lighting. Speak to your dealership about anti-theft devices such as alarms, immobilisers and trackers.

## Keys

Lock your vehicles and keep keys away from windows, doors, cat-flaps and letterboxes.

## Selling your vehicles

When advertising, don't provide details of your address until you are sure the enquirer is genuine.

## Tools

Mark or stamp your tools and small items of machinery and keep in a secured building.

## Machinery

To avoid theft of batteries and accessories, avoid leaving tractors and other farm vehicles in the fields, and keep valuable equipment away from public roads when not in use.

## Guns

Keep shotguns and firearms in a securely locked cabinet, and keep ammunition separate.

## Heating oil

Plant shrubs or install fences to hide your tank, and make sure empty drums are removed to avoid drawing attention to your oil tank. Consider investing in technology like remote alarms.

## Fertilizer

If you store or handle fertiliser, you must secure it to prevent it from being stolen.

## Metals

Thieves like metals because they are easily recycled. Recent legislation is helping to make disposal more difficult, but you should still keep metal items locked away, or use ground anchors to secure. Use padlocks or chains for ladders, beer kegs, wheelbarrows and wheelie bins (which are sometimes used to transport stolen metal). Be aware that catalytic converters on cars – especially 4x4s – are a target, so report people looking under cars.

# Livestock, horses and dogs, field boundaries and fly-tipping





## Livestock

Identify your animals by taking photos and using ear-tags, horn-bands, freeze-branding, hot-branding or tattooing. An animal that is clearly marked is less attractive to thieves. Installing CCTV in barns or yards can help you to watch over your livestock.

## Horses

Horses must not be sold without a Horse Passport, but it is also useful to keep colour photographs of your horse (side, front and rear, and in its summer and winter coats). Tag your horse by freeze-marking, hoof-marking or microchip implanting.

## Tack

Tack should be securely marked using electronic tagging, post-code letter stamps or microchipping. Keep a list with identification details.

## Horse-box/trailer

Park your horsebox/trailer in a well-lit area where you can keep an eye on it and consider the use of a wheel-clamp or ground anchor. Secure your horse-box when at events.

## Dogs

Microchip your dog, and make sure it wears a collar and identification when in a public place. If your dog is neutered, it will reduce the chances of theft for breeding. Vary your walk times and routes, and try to make sure that your dog is not out of sight. Be careful if you invite people into your home to view puppies for sale. Limit the number of visitors at a time and have someone with you.

## Field gates and boundaries

Keep hedges, fences and gates in good repair. Field-gate hinges should be the capped or inverted type to prevent easy removal. If gates have been tampered with, report to North Yorkshire Police on 101.

## Fly-tipping

If you see an incident of fly-tipping in progress, dial 999. Do not approach those responsible. Give the location including landmarks and road numbers, what has been tipped and the car registration or vehicle details if you can. You can also report fly-tipping to your local council.

# Protection of wild animals, birds, plants, and poaching



## Hunting

Under the Hunting Act 2004, it is an offence to hunt wild mammals with dogs, unless the hunting is exempt (eg rats or rabbits with dogs) and the person has permission to do so on the land in question.

## Animal poisoning

Poisoned carcasses are often used as bait to entice a wild mammal. If you find an animal you believe has been poisoned, do not touch it. Make a note of its location and what is around or near it. Cover and mark the spot, and report it to North Yorkshire Police on 101.

## Traps and snares

There are laws to control the use of traps and snares. Visit [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk) for details of what is allowed and how to apply for a licence.

If you find a snare or trap that you believe has been unlawfully set, or that contains an animal, please report it to North Yorkshire Police on 101.

## Protected species

Badgers must not be killed, injured or mistreated. Call 101 if you have any information about badger persecution. Bats and their

breeding sites and nesting places are also protected. If you wish to carry out work in a building where bats are present, contact a Wildlife Crime Officer at North Yorkshire Police. All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law. A licence is required to deal with birds that are affecting crops or causing health issues.

Find out more at [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) or [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

## Poaching

Nowadays poaching is often carried out by gangs of people, who are often pursuing other criminal activities too. If you suspect poaching is occurring in your area, do not approach the suspected poachers. Call 101 and provide location, time, date, description and registration numbers of vehicles. Poachers may return to fields with easy access. Block holes and lock gates as a priority.

## Wild plants

All wild plants in England and Wales are offered some protection under the law. It is unlawful to uproot a wild plant without permission from the landowner or occupier.



# Contacting NYP and others

Discover more about North Yorkshire Police's work to keep communities safe at:  
[www.northyorkshire.police.uk](http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk)

You can also follow us on social media:  
Twitter: @NYorksPolice  
[www.facebook.com/NorthYorkshirePolice](http://www.facebook.com/NorthYorkshirePolice)

Join a Rural Watch scheme for practical support to combat crime in your area. Contact your local police station or visit our website to find out more.



North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free community messaging system for North Yorkshire that allows you to register to receive the latest crime notifications and community news happening in your local community. Visit [www.nycm.co.uk](http://www.nycm.co.uk) to get started.

Your local rural crime police contact is:  
.....*Caroline Saville*.....

To report a crime anonymously, you can visit [www.crimestoppers.uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers.uk.org) or telephone: **0800 555 111**

When it is not an emergency, or to report suspicious behaviour, you can call North Yorkshire Police on: **101**

In an emergency, for example, if a crime is happening now, or someone you suspect of committing a crime is nearby, you should always call: **999**

It's important we know exactly where you are.  
You can use what3words to help us get to you more quickly.  
Consider downloading the what3words app.

