

September 2021

SEVEN POLICE FORCES BECOME BORDERLESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HARE COURISING



Essex Police has teamed up with six other police forces in the Eastern Region in an effort to tackle hare coursing.

The borders between the forces, which include Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Kent, have been removed when using certain tactics, making apprehending and prosecuting offenders easier. The agreement, which has been completed with

the support of the Crown Prosecution Service, means the forces become one when using certain powers. This will assist with the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and the sharing of all interactions and movements of people suspected to be involved in hare coursing.

This move supports the ongoing national initiative - Operation Galileo – which aims to tackle hare coursing.



For up-to-date information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** in Essex, please check [essex.gov.uk/coronavirus*](https://www.essex.gov.uk/coronavirus) and make sure you **#StaySafeEssex**

 [thurrock.gov.uk](https://www.thurrock.gov.uk)

* in **Thurrock**, please check [thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus)

 [southend-on-sea.gov.uk](https://www.southend-on-sea.gov.uk)

or in **Southend-on-Sea**, please check [southend-on-sea.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.southend-on-sea.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Now there's a quick online alternative to calling 101 or visiting a police station:
DIGITAL 101



Do it online at:
[essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

The agreement effectively means that anyone caught committing anti-social behaviour (ASB) related to coursing, say in Norfolk, would be seen as also committing this in Kent.

If the same person were to carry on their behaviour in Kent, proactive measures can take place using the ASB legislation, and if that same person was to continue for a third time, in say Bedfordshire, a prosecution can commence alongside any other action as a result of earlier behaviour.

It means that if someone is involved in three incidents of ASB linked to hare coursing they will be prosecuted, irrespective of which area they commit the offences in.

The subsequent prosecution would then allow officers to apply for court orders following conviction. These can include driving disqualifications, Criminal Behaviour Orders, the forfeiture of assets - for example dogs and vehicles. Hare coursing traditionally begins in September when the fields have been harvested and ploughed, making them the perfect ground for the illegal blood sport. Hare coursing causes damage to crops, harms animal welfare and threatens the rural community. It can result in intimidation and even violence.

Landowners are urged to consider blocking entrances to their fields with ditches, fencing or trees or even barriers like barrels filled with concrete.

Anyone who sees hare coursing taking place is asked to contact police immediately on 999 and provide officers with a description of the people involved, any registration numbers, vehicle descriptions and the location and direction of travel. Its important people don't confront hare coursers or put themselves at risk.



What to do if you have issues with hare coursing on your land

1. Report every incident – if it's live 999, otherwise 101 or online (scan QR code using your smartphone)
2. Clearly state 'hare coursing'
3. Provide exact location (use what3words app)
4. Get photos or details of people and dogs
5. Get vehicle details – make, colour, registration
6. Be discreet. Approaching hare coursers may be inflammatory
7. Note down the crime reference number
8. Share intelligence with farmwatch, local whatsapp and speak to an NFU rep



DOG THEFT AND SECURITY

Dog theft continues to be a worry to the public but the problem is often over reported via social media which increases the fear of crime. The fact is that dog theft is not happening as often as people fear. That said, there is no place for complacency. If you own a dog please make sure that you have taken the necessary steps to protect your beloved pet.

Our team have been out and about across the county, working with our partners and setting up dog engagement events. The Rural Engagement



Team, Community Policing Teams, Essex Watch Liaison Officers and partner agencies such as Essex Wildlife Trust have all been doing their bit to raise awareness about dog related issues such as dog theft and security, livestock worrying, dog control and dangerous dog offences. Officers also answered questions relating to hare coursing, wildlife offences, heritage crime as well as general rural crime.

Our officers have been also handing out doggy goodies and offering a scanning service to check if your dogs information is correct.



It was alarming to find that a considerable amount of dog chips had the wrong information recorded on them. If you are unfortunate enough to be a victim of dog theft then the possibility of getting your dog returned will be less if you have not updated your details.

Please check that your dogs microchip has the correct information.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARTNERS AT NFU

NFU Suggest vigilance to prevent GPS thefts ahead of autumn operations

The NFU first saw a surge in thefts pre-harvest 2020 but the trend has continued to rapidly spread into a nationwide issue, leaving police and insurance companies to deal with cases from all across the country.

Thefts of GPS systems is a major concern for farmers. The equipment can be costly to replace and can massively disrupt day to day farming operations. The technology plays a vital role in modern farming and thefts of systems can take time to replace, causing delays during busy periods such as harvest.

To help protect GPS systems from thieves, NFU Mutual provides the following advice:

- Activate PIN security on GPS kit with your own unique number if available.
- If your system is not PIN enabled, mark your postcode to deter thieves and trace your property back to you.
- Keep tractors and combines with GPS fitted stored out of sight when possible.
- Remove GPS kit when possible from tractors and other machinery and store it securely when not in use.
- Record serial numbers and photograph your kit.
- Check serial numbers of second-hand kit offered for sale.



IN AUGUST WE DID



Speak up to stop rural crime.

Criminal gangs exploit our local wildlife, environment and communities.

Your voice can make a difference.

Speak up to our charity, 100% anonymous. Always.

crimestoppers-uk.org



CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



We've also been out and about with the Environment Agency and Angling Trust checking on poaching and theft offences, checking on rod licences and reporting those who fish without a licence. Don't get caught out !

Check on Gov.uk to see if you need a fishing licence.



Digital 101

You can report non-emergency crime by calling **101** or by using **Digital 101**, our quick and easy to use online service that's available at any time.

Digital 101 is available on the Essex Police website: essex.police.uk



If you, or anyone you know, is interested in protecting and serving Essex, you can follow us on social media, or search #FitTheBill

#FIT THE BILL