



Crime Reduction Advice

The hare coursing season is upon us once again, running from September until March. The Hunting Act 2004 made all forms of hare coursing illegal.

Thames Valley Police is therefore urging farmers/gamekeepers and landowners to report any activity as soon as it is seen or suspected.

Signs to look out for are:-

- A group of vehicles parked in a rural area, perhaps by the gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track or bridle path. They will usually be estate cars, four wheel drives or vans and may contain evidence of dogs inside
- People walking or driving across fields with lurcher type dogs
- Torches or lamplights shining in fields at dusk

If you see an event taking place we would advise you not to approach the participants but contact the police immediately by dialling 999. If you are suspicious of persons on your land and suspect hare coursing activity may take place call the police on the 24-hour non-emergency number, 101.

When reporting a wildlife crime it would help if you could provide any of the following information:

- 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?
- 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?

You may wish to consider these tips:

1. Regularly check the perimeter of your land, especially access points that lead to main roads. If these access points aren't required consider blocking them on a temporary basis, if feasible.
2. For crime reduction advice for farmers and landowners regarding access control and target hardening, contact your local Crime Reduction Advisor either by calling 101 or check the Thames Valley Police website www.thamesvalley.police.uk or www.thamesvalleycountrywatch.co.uk