

# CRIME ADVICE PACK



## Gwarchod Gwledig Rural Watch



Cymru/Wales

**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555 111**

100% diennu. Bob tro.  
100% anonymous. Always.

HEDDLU DE CYMRU • SOUTH WALES POLICE

RIFW DMARGYFYNG  
24 AWR YR HEDDLU  
FFONWICHT 999 Mewn  
ANGYFYNG BOB AMSER



POLICE 24 HOUR NON-  
EMERGENCY NUMBER  
IN AN EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS CALL 999

   swpolice

[www.heddlu-de-cymru.police.uk](http://www.heddlu-de-cymru.police.uk)  
[www.south-wales.police.uk](http://www.south-wales.police.uk)



# FARM SECURITY

## Farm buildings

In your barns and outbuildings there is valuable equipment that will appeal to thieves - e.g. power tools, quad bikes, machinery and diesel.

### Remember:

- Make sure valuable equipment is stored in a secure building behind a strong locked door, or use a metal cage and keep it locked when unattended.
- When not in use, lock doors to barns and outbuildings at all times.
- Use locks that comply with the British Standards, good quality locking bars and high security padlocks.
- Windows can be an open invitation to thieves - protect them with metal bars or grilles.
- Consider improving security for your diesel tank and fertiliser.

## Farmhouses

Farmhouses are often in isolated locations and can be vulnerable to crime if not properly secured.

### Remember:

- Make sure that doors are kept locked - even when you're on the premises.
- Fit locks to all ground floor windows.
- Make sure doors and windows are well maintained and in a good state of repair.
- Fit mortice deadlocks that comply with the British Standards to all external doors and reinforce with locking bolts.
- Investing in timers that turn lights on and off inside the house and use them if you go out at night. Consider installing security lighting outside.

## Perimeter

A secure perimeter around your fields and out buildings will help deter thieves from targeting animals such as sheep and horses.

### Remember:

- Check fences and hedges bordering rural properties to identify weak-spots that could provide access to criminals or vehicles and secure where necessary.
- Install a barrier or gate to drives or entrances to restrict access from unwelcome vehicles and lock using good quality chains and padlocks. Make sure the gate cannot be lifted off the hinges.
- Install security lighting around yards, outbuildings and isolated locations. Consider installing perimeter alarms, where practical.
- Remember to secure your farm at all times

## Machinery and tools

Machinery and tools are very valuable to thieves so try and secure your property.

### Remember:

- Lock or immobilise vehicles and equipment when not in use. Remove keys from cars, tractors and other vehicles left unattended.
- Avoid leaving machinery in isolated locations or fields - particularly near roads - where they can be removed without attracting attention.
- Visibly mark your machinery and tools - this not only acts as a deterrent to thieves, but also helps the police capture the criminals and return stolen property if it is recovered. Keep a list of tools, together with serial numbers and any identifying marks.
- Keep tools locked away when you are not using them, as well as being stolen a burglar can use them to access your secured property.

## For more advice on preventing rural theft

Contact your local neighbourhood team or local crime prevention officer who will be able to give you more advice on preventing farm thefts and improving security.

If you see anything suspicious taking place or to report a crime, please contact South Wales Police on 101.

### You should call 999 if:

- violence is being used or threatened
- there is danger to life;
- a crime is in progress or offenders carrying out a crime have recently been disturbed; or
- there has been a road accident where people are injured, or there has been a non-injury accident where traffic is affected



# WILD GRASS FIRES

## Wild grass fires are defined as;

Large destructive fires that spread quickly over woodland, scrub, grasses, and other vegetation.

Burn Season on Agricultural land is allowed in conjunction with a Burn Management plan on:

**1st October - 31st March on Uplands**

**1st November - 15th March elsewhere**

The Vegetation which is allowed to be burned is; Heather, Rough Grass, Bracken, Gorse and Bilberry

## Consider the following as part of your burn management plan

- Notify owner occupiers of neighbouring land.
- Enough people to control burn.
- Engage with Fire Service.



## Do not

- Burn between sunset and sunrise.
- Burn more than 10HA in one burn.
- Burn on a slope greater than 45 degrees.
- Leave soil smouldering for longer than 48 hours.

## Consider that

- Sites of special scientific interest require consent from Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- Sites with scheduled ancient monuments requires consent from CADW - the Welsh Government's historic environment service.

**For further advice on safe agricultural burning contact Welsh Government; [www.planthealthandbiotech@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:www.planthealthandbiotech@wales.gsi.gov.uk)**

# SHEEP WORRYING BY A DOG ON YOUR LAND



Stock being chased by dogs can do serious damage to sheep, even if the dog doesn't catch them.

If a dog worries sheep in a field or enclosure (agricultural land) which includes attacking sheep, chasing them in a way that may cause injury, including suffering, abortion or loss of produce or being at large, on agricultural land, then the person in charge of the dog has committed an offence.

Agricultural land means land used as arable, meadow or grazing land, or used for the purpose of poultry farming, pig farming, market gardens, allotments, nursery grounds or orchards.

The owner of livestock, the landowner or anyone acting on their behalf, is entitled to shoot any dog if the offence above is being committed and they believe it is the only reasonable way of stopping it worrying livestock.

Such action must be reported to police within 48 hours (telephone **101**)

The owner of open access land can close areas containing sheep to dogs for up to six weeks once a year, as a safeguard during lambing. But at any other time the public can only go on this land if they keep dogs on a fixed lead of 2 metres or less near livestock.

Identifying the person in charge of the dog concerned is often difficult to establish, however a few simple steps can assist the police.

Take note of the following:

- Breed and colour
- Collar colour, and features, studs, disc or tag
- If possible take a photo of the animal
- Record Time and location of incident
- Search the area for the person in charge or associated vehicle.
- Record vehicle registration
- Advise person in charge of dog what has happened
- Request their cooperation

Where a Sheep worrying incident is taking place call **999**, if one has taken place then call **101**.

The Countryside Code for England and Wales does remind walkers that a farmer may shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing farm animals without being liable to compensate the dog's owner.

**The Countryside Code can be downloaded at**  
[www.naturalresources.wales/days-out/the-countryside-codes](http://www.naturalresources.wales/days-out/the-countryside-codes)



# TRESPASSING

Trespass is the wrong (known as a tort in legal terminology) of illegally entering another person's property. In some cases, the act of entering the property may have been lawful and authorised, but the person entering may still be trespassing on subsequent occasions. The word trespass covers much more than people usually realise. All land in the UK belongs to someone. If you go on to land without the owner's permission, you are trespassing unless there is some right of access for the public, or for you specifically (for example, if you have acquired a right to pass over the land to reach some land of your own). An example of this would be the person who has a ticket to attend a performance, enters the theatre and then, having caused a disturbance, refuses to leave the premises.

People in a park will often protest (if asked to leave) that it is public land. This does not mean that they have a right to be on it at all times - they do not. If the place closes at a certain time and someone is present after that time, they can then be considered to be trespassing. If a visitor misbehaves at any time and refuses to leave when asked to do so by someone with a right to do so (usually the landowner or a representative) then the visitor becomes a trespasser because they no longer have the landowner's permission to be there, even if they entered legally.

Trespassing is usually a civil wrong and dealt with accordingly. However, in England and Wales certain forms of trespassing, generally those which involve squatters, raves and hunt saboteurs are covered by criminal law. There are offences under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Sections 61 and 62 of trespassing on land and trespassing with vehicles. With this in mind, police attendance may be required.

Otherwise the owner of the land may need to deal by way of injunction. If you are in any doubt, you should seek legal advice.

## Civil trespass

Where the trespass does not form part of a specific criminal offence e.g. a person wanders onto another's land from a public footpath intentionally or otherwise, they may be sued for the hypothetical value of the benefit received by the person trespassing. The owner of the land can also get an injunction against the trespasser preventing them from continuing to trespass. An owner or occupier of property has a duty not to leave property in a dangerous condition, and in some circumstances a trespasser may successfully sue for damages if injury occurs. Vehicles parked or abandoned on private land can be treated as per civil trespass.

## Neighbours and trespassing

In most circumstances your neighbour should not go onto your land without your permission. However, in some situations your neighbour may need to access your land in order to make some repairs to their property. Their right to do this may be set out in the title deeds to your property or in England and Wales in the Access to Neighbouring Land Act 1992, which gives a limited right of access to a neighbour's garden/land to carry out 'basic preservation works'. The right given by the Act has strict rules attached to it. Written notification must be given to the next door garden owner and it is enforceable by Court Order if access is denied. This Act does not extend to Northern Ireland.



# FLY TIPPING

## Landowners

Under current Welsh law, it is the responsibility of a landowner to pay for and remove any illegally dumped waste left on your land.

If you find fly tipping on your land you must:

- Record as many details as possible including photographs and report it to your local authority
- Ask your neighbours if they saw anyone or anything suspicious
- You will need to dispose of the waste carefully, please check with the local authority that they have gathered any evidence they may require for a subsequent investigation before doing so.
- Remember - the waste may be hazardous so care must be taken when handling the waste.

**If you are giving away your waste to someone, you must make sure the person taking away your waste is registered with Natural Resources Wales as a waste carrier, and is disposing it lawfully.**

**If you have any doubts, call Natural Resources Wales on 0300 065 3000.**

Should you discover illegally dumped waste on the highway and it is a hazard to road users please contact the Police on **101**, or if its an emergency **999**.

Should you discover such material on the verge or layby please contact your Local authority.

**Further Advice and Guidance can be found on the Fly tipping action Wales website [www.flytippingactionwales.org/en/advice/](http://www.flytippingactionwales.org/en/advice/)**

