

WILDLIFE CRIME AND HOW TO REPORT IT

If you witness a suspected wildlife crime in action call 999 immediately. In all other instances call 101.



Wildlife crime needs to stop

- It reduces the numbers of rare animals and plants, pushing them closer to extinction
- It causes animals pain and suffering
- It can be linked to other serious crimes, like drugs, money laundering and firearms offences

Hollow wooden statues used to smuggle elephant ivory.
Border Force



A badger killed by a snare.
SSPCA



What is wildlife crime?

People buying, selling, harming or disturbing wild animals or plants that are protected by law.

Examples include:

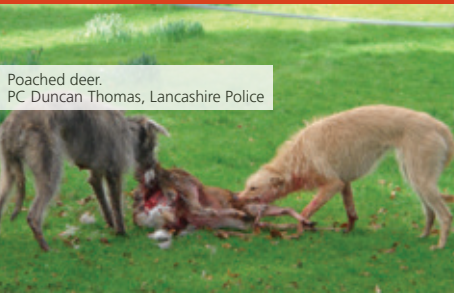
- Smuggling protected species and their parts (such as tortoises, rhino horn, ivory and caviar)
- Illegally trading in endangered species
- Poisoning of animals, such as birds of prey
- Disturbing or killing wild birds; or taking their eggs
- Poaching of game, venison and fish
- Disturbing, injuring or killing bats, and damaging or obstructing their roosts
- Taking protected plants from the countryside

People being cruel to animals

Examples include:

- The illegal use of poisons, snares or explosives to kill or injure animals
- Violence towards badgers, which includes being buried alive or being ripped apart by dogs

In some special cases, killing or taking protected animals and plants is allowed, for example when someone has received a licence.



Poached deer.
PC Duncan Thomas, Lancashire Police

How you can help

If you witness a suspected wildlife crime in action call 999 immediately and ask for the police. For all other enquires call 101. For your own safety, do not approach suspects yourself or touch anything at the scene.

If possible give information on:

- What is happening
- The exact location (a map reference or local landmark can be useful)
- The date and time of the incident
- Who is involved (e.g. number of people, clothing worn, tools being carried or any dogs)
- The make, colour and registration number of any vehicle
- If it is safe to do so take photos which may be used as evidence and remember to ask the police for an incident reference number

It is an offence to sell wild bluebells.
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Brown long-eared bats in roof corner.
Hugh Clark © Bat Conservation Trust



Contact numbers for reporting wildlife crime

For all non-emergency calls in England and Wales, call 101 and you will be put in touch with the local police. Many police forces have special wildlife crime officers. Their contact details may be shown on the force website and you can ask to speak to them.

My Wildlife Crime Officer is:

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Tel:

To remain anonymous –
call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

To report smuggling –
call the Customs hotline on **0800 59 5000**.

To read more about wildlife crime go to:
www.nwcu.police.uk

Poisoned Buzzard.
RSPB



The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) brings together the Police, the Border Force, and representatives of Government Departments and voluntary bodies, with an interest in combating wildlife crime.

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