



BLANKSHIRE POLICE

RURAL CRIME DELIVERY PLAN

2026 – 2029

A Collaborative Approach to Reducing the Rural Crime Risk Across the County



IMPORTANT NOTICE

This document, created by Rural SafeGuard, a rural crime reduction programme from the Optimal Risk Group, is a worked example of a Rural Crime Delivery Plan, prepared to illustrate how a county or regional police force in England or Wales might choose to adopt a collaborative, risk-based approach to rural crime reduction¹ in full. “Blankshire Police,” “Blankshire,” and every place name, personnel role, statistic, and organisational detail used within it are fictional and have been constructed for illustrative purposes only.

Any resemblance between Blankshire and any existing county, police force area, or police force in the United Kingdom is coincidental. Nothing in this document should be taken to imply that any real police force, Police and Crime Commissioner, local authority, or other body has endorsed, adopted, or been consulted on the approach or content of this Plan.

The commercial relationship between Blankshire Police and Rural SafeGuard described in Section 7 is fictional. It is included to show transparently how and why this type of public-private partnership could add value and reduce rural crime risk.

References within this document to genuine national bodies, standards, strategies, and publications, such as the National Police Chiefs’ Council, the College of Policing, the National Protective Security Authority, and British Standards, are accurately represented and footnoted or referenced in the bibliography, but their inclusion does not imply that those bodies have reviewed or endorsed this Plan.

This document is intended as a model and a discussion aid for policing, farming, and private-sector audiences considering how a similar risk-based approach could be delivered locally.

¹ Rural SafeGuard, a rural crime reduction programme delivered by the Optimal Risk Group, offers a collaborative, risk-based framework for challenging established practices that have had limited impact in isolated rural communities.

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1. Executive Summary

Rural crime affecting Blankshire's farms, estates, and rural businesses has not fallen to an acceptable level despite sustained effort by neighbourhood and specialist policing teams. On several measures the problem has become more organised, more mobile, and more costly to the communities it touches. This Delivery Plan sets out how Blankshire Police will meet that challenge by adopting, in full, a structured risk-partnership approach: a framework under which rural crime risk is treated not as a problem for the police to solve alone, but as a shared risk that the force, farmers, landowners, insurers, representative bodies, and the private security sector manage together, using the disciplines of modern risk management alongside police response and enforcement.

This is not a plan to hand any part of policing to the private sector. Policing remains a state function, exercised under democratic mandate and legal authority that no commercial partner holds or seeks. What this Plan describes instead is a structured, governed partnership in which suitably qualified security professionals, many of them former police officers or military personnel, contribute the left-of-incident capability, vulnerability assessment, deterrence, target-hardening, and behavioural change, that a stretched rural crime team cannot deliver to every farm, every season, alone.

This Plan commits the force to a clear governance structure led by a Superintendent as strategic owner and an Inspector commanding the Rural Crime Engagement Team (RCET), sets out how the six categories of farm space defined by the Rural SafeGuard standard will be used to map vulnerability across the county, describes the partnerships that will be built with farming bodies, insurers, critical national infrastructure operators and others, and establishes the key performance indicators against which this Plan will be audited. It should be read by every rank and role within the force, and by the farming, business and community partners it invites to work alongside Blankshire Police.

2. Introduction

2.1. Background

Rural crime is a persistent and, historically, an under-recognised drain on Blankshire's agricultural economy, its rural communities, and the wellbeing of the people who live, work, rest, and play within them. Livestock theft, machinery and equipment theft, fuel and fertiliser theft, hare coursing, fly-tipping, and organised incursions onto farmland have, over the last decade, evolved from opportunistic, low-level offending into a feature of serious and organised crime affecting the county.

Blankshire Police carries statutory responsibility for reducing and detecting crime across the county. Rural crime, however, competes for finite officer time and budget against urban demand, safeguarding caseloads, counter-terrorism duties, and a wide range of other statutory priorities. This is a challenge acknowledged candidly at national level: the National Police Chiefs' Council itself has recognised that rural and wildlife crime has often been treated as a secondary priority relative to its true cost and impact.² This Plan sets out how Blankshire intends to correct that imbalance.

This Plan adopts a collaborative, risk-based framework in its entirety as the means through which Blankshire Police will work alongside the private security sector, farming representative bodies, and rural insurers to reduce the rural crime risk across the county. It is written to be read by every level of the force, by farming representative bodies, by rural insurers, and by the private security sector operating in Blankshire, as an invitation to collaborate rather than a directive that excludes or marginalises any partner.

2.2. Scope

This Plan sets out how rural crime reduction services will be delivered within Blankshire Police to reduce acquisitive and organised rural crime, principally affecting farms, estates, agricultural contractors, and rural businesses across the county. Consistent with the national strategy, it also recognises that Blankshire's Rural Crime Engagement Team routinely carries related responsibility for wildlife crime, for aspects of domestic abuse in rural settings, and for road safety on the county's rural road network, and this Plan is designed with that operational reality in mind rather than pretending these responsibilities can be neatly separated.

The wider rural economy is affected by the same underlying risk. Agricultural suppliers, rural hotels and farm shops, aggregates and resource distributors, and rural sports and leisure venues such as shooting grounds, polo pitches, and golf courses all report a similar exposure to acquisitive and organised crime. This Plan is deliberately scoped to farms and agricultural businesses for its first edition, so that the model can be proven and refined before it is broadened, with the extension of its principles to the wider rural economy anticipated as a natural direction for future editions. To keep this Plan readable while still complete, the detailed case for its accredited commercial partnership, the national standards and safeguarding guidance it draws on, and its wider funding and partnership model are set out in full at Annexes A to D, sign-posted from the relevant point in the main text.

²National Police Chiefs' Council, Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2025–2028.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Delivery Plan is threefold. First, to set out, using an evidence base drawn from policing, insurance, and farming representative bodies, a model of rural crime reduction in which Blankshire Police takes a coordinating role rather than attempting to reduce the risk alone. Second, to describe how the private security sector's experience, capacity, and commercial risk discipline will be lawfully and constructively channelled into rural crime reduction across the county, without displacing or duplicating the statutory role of the police. Third, to set out, in terms that can be audited, the commitments this Plan makes to farming bodies, insurers, and the security sector, so that progress against them can be reviewed and reported.

*This Plan is founded on a defined set of national and international standards and guidance documents, referred to throughout by footnote. These are listed in full, together with an explanation of how each informs this Plan, at **Annex A: Normative References**.*

4. Vision

The vision of this Plan is for Blankshire to become a county in which organised crime groups find no advantage in operating: a place where a coordinated, communicated, and consistently delivered rural crime reduction plan makes the county a demonstrably harder target than its neighbours, so that offenders who might otherwise target Blankshire's farms and rural businesses look elsewhere. Deterrence achieved through visible, joined-up partnership is treated in this Plan as being as valuable as deterrence achieved through enforcement alone.

In this vision, the risk of crime to farms, rural businesses, and the people who depend on them is actively and continuously managed by a coalition of the willing: Blankshire Police contributing intelligence, enforcement, and investigative capability; the private security sector contributing vulnerability assessment, deterrence design, and behavioural change; farming representative bodies and insurers contributing reach, trust, and financial incentive; and farmers and land managers themselves contributing local knowledge and a proportionate, affordable set of physical, technical, and procedural defences. No single partner is expected to eliminate rural crime alone; the risk is assessed, owned, treated using the full range of options available, and reviewed continuously as the threat evolves.

5. Force and County Profile

5.1. Geography and Demography

Blankshire is a ceremonial county in North West England, bordered by Cheshire to the north, Frankshire to the north-east, Rickshire to the east, Mikeshire to the south-east and south, Westset to the west, and Southset to the south. The county covers an area of approximately 7,485 km² (2,890 sq mi) and had an estimated population of 893,575 in 2025. Blankshire is predominantly rural, with its centre and south-west particularly sparsely populated. For local government purposes the county comprises two unitary authority areas, Sildon and Blankshire.

The largest settlement is Sildon, in the north-east of the county, with the city of Spalding in the south-east and the towns of Telbridge and Cheverham in the west forming the county's other principal centres of population. The north-west of the county lies within the limestone Hotswolds; the remainder is characterised by chalk downland, including the Mildborough Downs and Silversnake Forest in the north-east, the Vale of Pordsey and Spalding Plain in the centre, and the West Blankshire Downs, Vale of Wildour, and Crimeborne Chase in the south and south-west. The county's two principal rivers, the Alpha and the Bravo, together with the substantial areas of protected national landscape and the Norman Forest National Park in the south-east, shape both the rural economy and the operational geography that Blankshire Police must cover.



Figure 1: Map of Blankshire, showing landscape areas, principal settlements, and the main road network (©. Google Maps).

5.2. Policing Structure and Estate

Blankshire Police delivers neighbourhood policing through nine team bases, five police response hubs, and six open police stations, distributed to reflect the county's geography and population. Six of the county's nine Neighbourhood Policing Team areas are classified as mainly rural, and it is within these six areas that the Rural Crime Engagement Team's embedded specialists are deployed.

Neighbourhood Policing Team Bases	Police Response Hubs	Open Police Stations
Adderbury	Cheverham	Cheverham
Cheverham	Derisies	Muksham
Derisies	Sildon	Sildon
Muksham	Spalding	Mildborough
Woodenbasett	Telbridge	Spalding
Sildon		Telbridge
Spalding		
Telbridge		
Westminster		

Table 1: Blankshire Police neighbourhood and real estate footprint.

Blankshire Police operates a whole-force response to all crime, including rural crime. When a report reaches the force control room, the call handler allocates the response using the THRIVE model, which assesses Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, and Engagement to determine the appropriate priority and resourcing.³ Rural crime reports are assessed through this same model, with the Rural Crime Engagement Team providing specialist input to the response where the nature of the offence, or the vulnerability of the victim, warrants it.

5.3. Local Priorities within the National Strategy

Blankshire Police supports in full the National Police Chiefs' Council's Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2025–2028.⁴ Within that national framework, the force has further prioritised organised rural acquisitive crime, principally machinery and livestock theft, and wildlife crime, principally illegal hunting, poaching, and hare coursing, as the areas where a dedicated county-level response will make the greatest difference. Working in close cooperation with environmental specialists from the county's local authorities, the force also treats waste crime and fly-tipping as a standing focus for rural policing, recognising both its direct cost to landowners and its frequent association with wider organised criminality.

³College of Policing, Introduction to Vulnerability-Related Risk (THRIVE).

⁴National Police Chiefs' Council, Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2025–2028.

6. Governance and Delivery Structure

Delivery of this Plan is vested in Blankshire's Rural Crime Engagement Team (RCET), a dedicated team of eight officers and staff commanded by an Inspector who also leads one of the force's neighbourhood policing teams. The RCET's structure is deliberately compact and specialist, sitting within, and reporting through, the force's wider neighbourhood policing command, with clear lines of strategic, tactical, and operational responsibility set out below.

6.1. Strategic Lead – Superintendent

A Superintendent holds strategic ownership of rural crime reduction as one of several portfolio responsibilities, alongside the overall strategic lead for neighbourhood policing across the county; ten per cent of this role's time is dedicated specifically to rural crime. The Superintendent commands the RCET at force level, owns the Rural Crime Strategy, informs rural crime policy, and champions this Delivery Plan to chief officers and to the Police and Crime Commissioner's office. The Superintendent is responsible for securing the budget and resource needed to deliver both the strategy and this Plan, and for ensuring rural crime reduction is treated as integral to force policing rather than as a discretionary extra.

The Superintendent minimises abstraction of RCET specialists to duties outside their rural crime remit, requiring strategic approval before any such abstraction is authorised, and represents Blankshire's rural crime interests at national policing forums. Working with the Police and Crime Commissioner or mayoral office, the Superintendent builds a coordinated county approach to policing rural communities, and seeks or approves memoranda of understanding with non-policing bodies, charities, and commercial enterprises capable of reducing the likelihood and consequence of rural crime, including commercial security, intelligence, and business continuity organisations operating on the pre-event side of the adversarial risk bowtie described in Section 9.2. By reducing the likelihood of crime through this pre-event partnership, scarce police resource is freed to focus on investigation and prosecution.

The Superintendent also considers and, where appropriate, forms trusted partnerships with agricultural and rural-space informed Chartered Security Professionals and other suitably qualified and experienced specialists, to share and develop the data that informs intelligence-led rural policing, mirroring the public-private partnership model used successfully in countering the national terrorism threat and in regional serious and organised crime units. This includes chairing a specialist forum bringing together the rural, farming, growers, forestry, aquacultural, equine, and rural sports communities, together with supply chain partners such as insurers, lenders, food manufacturers, membership bodies, and hobbyist and enthusiast groups, so that the force understands the challenge from every perspective represented in the county.

6.2. Tactical Lead – Inspector

An Inspector leads the RCET on a day-to-day basis, championing the team's work across the force, owning and maintaining this Delivery Plan, and allocating resource, including budget, on a risk-based model. Thirty percent of the inspector's time is allocated to leading the RCET, with the remainder assigned to one of the Neighbourhood Policing Team areas. The Inspector validates the efficacy of the Rural Crime Risk Register on a quarterly, season-aligned basis, owns the annual Rural Crime Awareness Campaign, and validates its effectiveness each year.

The Inspector liaises with specialists within the local authorities and the local judiciary to raise awareness of the impact of rural crime, working alongside the Police and Crime Commissioner and mayoral offices, and facilitates the specialist stakeholder forum described above. The Inspector also liaises with the Church of England dioceses and other faith organisations operating across the county to help reduce heritage crime

affecting rural churches and glebe land, a partnership that if explored further may include potential funding stream – see Annex D.3.

6.3. Operational Supervision – Sergeant

A Sergeant, working full-time on rural crime, supervises and supports the six dispersed embedded rural crime specialists, removing obstacles to their delivery of RCET responsibilities and organising cover for leave, training, and illness so that neighbourhood policing teams are not left without rural crime support. The Sergeant maintains a rural crime threat, risk, and vulnerability register across the force area, scored separately for each of the six rural neighbourhood areas, and communicates this to senior police leaders in each area of responsibility.

The Sergeant coordinates knowledge-sharing from technical specialists to the wider RCET as part of continuing professional development, maintains oversight of each specialist's development and the volume of learning shared with colleagues, and actively encourages innovation and external learning. This role also maintains continuous engagement with the force's emergency call response centre, provides county-level liaison with farming, countryside, commercial, and charitable organisations supporting rural crime reduction, and maintains tactical liaison with the National Rural Crime Unit on operational initiatives and knowledge-sharing.

6.4. Operational Coordinator and Analyst – Constable

A full-time constable fulfils the role of operational coordinator and analyst, colocated with the sergeant and inspector at the heart of the RCET rather than embedded within a neighbourhood team. The role is deliberately dual: it coordinates the RCET's day-to-day tasking on the sergeant's behalf, and it is the RCET's dedicated intelligence analyst, collecting, analysing, and distributing meaningful information across the RCET, force stakeholders, and trusted partners, within information security norms, including the creation of memoranda of understanding. The inspector, sergeant, and the six embedded specialist constables described in Section 6 draw on this analysis to communicate confidently with their own local and external stakeholders. The role creates and communicates the key performance indicators described in Section 12, champions the RCET's service within the force and across community bodies, events, and discussion forums, and coordinates the learning from root-cause analysis described in Section 10.3, disseminating findings to trusted stakeholders and, in appropriate form, back to farmers so that they can make informed decisions.

6.4.1. Crime Pattern Analysis and Criminal Intelligence

In its analytical function, this role is, in essence, a specialist crime and intelligence analyst of the kind found across UK policing, pointed specifically at rural, wildlife, and heritage crime rather than at force crime in general. Its core task is turning individual reports, of livestock theft, machinery, GPS, and quad bike theft, fly-tipping, poaching, hare coursing, and wildlife offences, into patterns: where and when offending is happening, which offenders or networks are behind it, and what that means for where the RCET's embedded specialists, and their neighbourhood colleagues, should be deployed. The analyst works within the same analytical-product framework the College of Policing sets out for force intelligence generally⁵, problem profiles, subject and network profiles, and tactical and strategic assessments, applied to a category of crime that is otherwise easy for a mainstream force to lose sight of because it is low-volume and geographically dispersed.

The table below sets out the kind of recurring activity expected of the role, reflecting how comparable rural crime teams and force crime analysts operate elsewhere in UK policing.

⁵College of Policing, Analysis intelligence products.

Cadence	Typical activity	Output / who it goes to
Daily	Screen overnight crime reports, livestock, machinery, quad bike and ATV, fuel, and tool theft; fly-tipping; poaching; hare coursing, for coding, method, and cross-border links; update hotspot and predictive maps and check ANPR, CCTV, and tracker or forensic-marking hits against known series.	Morning intelligence flag to the RCET and duty inspector; patrol tasking for response officers and embedded specialists.
Weekly	Compile the rural crime trend report, comparing the same week last year and, where shared networks allow, against neighbouring forces; build and update subject and network profiles on prolific offenders and organised acquisitive-crime groups.	Tasking and Coordination Group and RCET weekly briefing; supports arrest, warrant, and disruption activity.
Monthly	Produce a problem profile on a priority theme, such as quad bike theft, heating-oil theft, or fly-tipping, using the College of Policing's analytical-product framework.	Informs the force's problem-solving plan and partnership action with the National Farmers' Union, the Country Land and Business Association, and local authorities.
Quarterly	Compile the strategic and tactical assessment for rural and wildlife crime: demand, threat, risk, harm, and performance against the previous quarter's tasking.	Chief officer and RCET governance reporting; feeds the Police and Crime Plan and Police and Crime Commissioner performance reporting.
Seasonal	Pre-empt known seasonal spikes, autumn machinery theft ahead of harvest, winter heating-oil theft, lambing-season livestock theft, and shooting-season poaching, and brief resources ahead of the pattern.	Proactive tasking and target-hardening campaigns rather than reactive response.
Ongoing	Maintain and quality-assure the rural crime dataset, cross-referencing recorded crime against industry sources such as insurer data and farm-watch reporting, so that rural offences are not lost within generic crime categories.	Data integrity underpinning every product above; audit trail for inspection.

Table 2: The analyst's recurring intelligence and engagement cadence.

6.4.2. Community Awareness and Situational Crime Reduction

A significant part of the role is turning the analyst's own findings into public-facing communication tools, not generic, year-round reminders, but messaging targeted at the specific crime, method, and location the data shows are currently live. This work is grounded in situational crime reduction, the evidence-based framework used across UK and international policing that treats crime as an opportunity to be closed, not only an offender to be caught⁶. The framework groups crime reduction activity into five approaches: increasing the effort an offender must make, through property marking, defensive barriers, and immobilisers; increasing the risk of being seen or caught, through visible farm-watch signage, coordinated reporting networks, and deterrent patrol timing; reducing the reward of a successful theft, through asset marking and forensic traceability that make stolen property harder to sell on; removing the excuses offenders use to justify offending; and reducing the provocations that expose easy targets, such as keys left in unattended machinery.

The analyst evaluates whether this messaging changes behaviour and reduces opportunity, by comparing crime data for the targeted offence or area before and after a campaign, in much the same way that the national cost of GPS unit theft fell by 80 per cent as property marking and tracking became widespread⁷. This evaluation, in turn, confirms which crime awareness messages are worth repeating or scaling up in the next problem profile.

⁶ASU Centre for Problem-Oriented Policing, Situational Crime Prevention.

⁷NFU Mutual, Rural Crime Report 2026.

The analyst produces, or obtains from trusted partners, meaningful advice and guidance in a format usable by embedded RCET specialists in their engagement work, and studies the agricultural calendar and local events to map foreseeable crime windows across the seasonal cycle for both arable and livestock farmers. This mapping informs an annual crime reduction awareness programme built around four seasonal campaigns addressing the protection of people, property, agricultural data, and recommended response plans. The analyst also designs engagement surveys, which may be anonymous, for use by embedded specialists to gather crime type, frequency, and attack method data, and farmer-led solutions, directly from stakeholders, and identifies and maps car boot sales and pop-up markets through which stolen property may be sold, working alongside retail crime colleagues and drawing on national initiatives that help identify stolen goods entering secondary markets.

This role also identifies opportunities to engage secondary schools, young farmers' clubs, and cadet and youth organisations on farm safety and hazard avoidance, embedding the principles of the Countryside Code⁸ in the next generation, in collaboration with local authorities, farming membership bodies, and local charities where appropriate.

The analyst liaises with owners and operators of the critical national infrastructure networks⁹ that cross the county, who suffer similar acquisitive and malicious crime, as a potential source of funding for specialist resources such as off-road vehicles, drones, and technical surveillance equipment, and represents the force at relevant private-sector forums to maintain a strategic picture of commercial crime trends and good practice.

The analyst works alongside, and helps direct the services of, the accredited rural crime reduction partner described in Annex A, ensuring that partner's community-facing products are targeted using the same intelligence picture that drives the RCET's own engagement work.

6.5. Embedded Rural Crime Specialists

Six rural crime specialists are embedded within Blankshire's six rural neighbourhood policing areas, providing geographically specific specialist knowledge to neighbourhood officers and Police Community Support Officers, and supporting complex or protracted investigations that require expertise not typically held within a neighbourhood, road policing, or response teams.

Each specialist develops subject-matter expertise in one of the sub-disciplines identified within the national strategy, such as machinery theft, livestock worrying, fly-tipping, or hare coursing — researching, studying, and developing tactical solutions that are shared across the RCET and with neighbouring forces. Each specialist is professionally supervised by the Sergeant described in Section 6.3, and is also locally accountable to the police commander of the neighbourhood policing team in which they sit, who safeguards the ring-fenced nature of the role and ensures the specialist is not abstracted to backfill absent officers on routine patrol or response duties.

Embedded specialists act as the principal point of contact for farmers, growers, land managers, country estates, rural sports venues, and other isolated or vulnerable rural businesses exposed to organised crime, and map forestry, public rights of way, and dog-walking areas that may be used by offenders. Specialists use the six categories of space defined by the Rural SafeGuard standard, RSG 1001:2026, to map the farms within their area of responsibility, set out in Table 3 below.

⁸HM Government, The Countryside Code.

⁹ Road, rail, waterways, electrical power, gas, fuel, water, communications, renewables, and data centre networks.

Ser	Category	Descriptor (summary)
1	Unoccupied Farm Yard	Buildings where assets are assembled but which are not a residential or permanently occupied yard.
2	Closed Farm Yard	Assets assembled at the farmer's home; not open to public access.
3	Day Access Farm Yard	Farmer's home with daytime public access for legitimate business, such as a farm shop, leased units, or training.
4	24-hour Access Farm Yard	Farmer's home with around-the-clock non-farming access, such as lettings or a bed and breakfast, or split by a public road, footpath, or green lane.
5	Enclosed Field	Private agricultural land with a defined boundary, accessible to authorised people only.
6	Public Access Field	Agricultural or grazing land open to the public, or crossed by a public road, footpath, or green lane.

Table 3: Farm space categorisation, adapted from the Rural SafeGuard™ Farm Security Standard, RSG 1001:2026.

6.5.1. Knowing the Business Community

Embedded specialists map all stakeholder businesses within their area of responsibility: their location, using what3words to identify the entrance to each site precisely; their type and size; the responsible person; and the assets most attractive to offenders. For every country estate, farm, and farmyard, this includes the family members and permanent staff on site, livestock type and numbers, fuel and fertiliser storage, weapons, prime agricultural machinery, small-wheeled vehicles, towable equipment, static specialist equipment, and the role-critical tools, GPS systems, and data storage devices the business depends on; any automation, robotics, or fixed operational technology in use; on-farm renewable generation such as anaerobic digesters, solar, or wind; diversified enterprises such as lettings, holiday accommodation, training and education use, livery, sports and event hosting, retail, or forestry visitor experiences; and on-farm water storage and waste management arrangements.

The same discipline extends to the wider rural business community that supports, supplies, and surrounds the farm estate, summarised in Table 4 below.

Stakeholder category	Detail recorded
Agricultural vehicle and machinery suppliers	Location (what3words) and purpose; owner, operator, and staff numbers; make, model, type, and number of vehicles and equipment held on site, set against capacity.
Agricultural supply chain service providers	Location (what3words) and purpose; owner, operator, and staff numbers; covering garden machinery outlets, farm vets, agricultural merchants, wood mills, grain and seed suppliers, membership body offices, and livestock markets.
Rural heritage and sports venues	Location (what3words) and purpose; owner, operator, and staff numbers; covering places of worship, historic sites, golf courses, remote cricket grounds, shooting venues, beauty spots, woodland and forests, and popular car parks used by walkers and cyclists.
Agricultural universities, colleges, and training providers	Location (what3words) and purpose; owner, dean, or lead academic and staff numbers; course syllabus, student numbers, and residential capacity; vehicles and equipment held on site.

Table 4: Wider stakeholder categories mapped by embedded specialists.

This mapping exists to build a relationship, not only a record. By visiting every business in their area of responsibility, embedded specialists put a face to a name, so that a farmer, grower, land manager, or business owner knows the RCET before they need it, not only after a crime has occurred. Each visit is an opportunity to remind stakeholders what to look for, what to record, and why speed of reporting matters, so that small

anomalies, an unfamiliar vehicle, a gate left open, a drone overhead, become the breadcrumbs that allow the RCET to join the dots before an incident develops.

Specialists coordinate periodic engagement sessions with key stakeholders, including family farmers and supply chain partners, ideally hosted at livestock markets, country estates, supply chain sites, or on suitable farms, taking the service to the customer rather than expecting attendance at a police venue. Specialists encourage farm clusters, cooperatives, and parish groups to adopt shared defences and to use their collective bargaining power with suppliers. They also coordinate root-cause analysis on notable crimes and cascade the resulting learning throughout the RCET, and liaise with private security providers and manufacturers within their area to build a register of trusted local suppliers, encouraging those suppliers to obtain recognised certification such as Secured by Design or Rural SafeGuard accreditation, encouraging local solutions for local challenges.

Embedded specialists also maintain awareness of the WhatsApp and social media forums through which rural communities already share information, joining them, where invited, in a deliberately dormant listening role. This keeps the RCET alert to community concern, the sharing of information, and the creation of leads, without the RCET contributing to, moderating, or appearing to coordinate a community-run group; the specialist's role is to listen, not to lead.

6.5.2. Geography, Choke Points, and Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Embedded specialists liaise with the force's roads policing team, the British Transport Police, and river bailiffs to map the road, rail, and waterway networks across their area, identifying the key gateways into and out of the area of operation, the road junctions, and the bridges over water and rail that can become choke points, or cut-off opportunities, once intelligence indicates a pending visit or an ongoing incident. This includes understanding where Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras are sited, so that the analyst described in Section 6.4 can use them to recognise vehicle patterns, place a target vehicle within the area of operation, or trigger an alert when a convoy of vehicles passes a known point in the early hours of the morning.

Specialists also build an understanding of the natural segregation of their area, rivers, principal roads, railways, and undulating ground that divide rural communities and reduce the freedom of movement for vehicles, channelling routes into and away from isolated farms. This understanding allows the RCET to predict likely attack routes and to foil likely routes of escape, rather than relying on a general presence across the area.

Taken together, a detailed understanding of an area's geography, of the people who work it and the purpose of their businesses, of the vehicles, equipment, and materials each business depends on, and of the supply chains and customers that connect them, is what allows the RCET to build a genuine rural crime risk reduction strategy for each neighbourhood area. The alternative, patrolling the area of operation without that understanding, in the hope of simply encountering an offence in progress, is not a strategy this Plan endorses.

7. Engage Rural Crime Reduction Commercial Partners

Cognisant that the rural crime risk will not be eliminated through police response alone, Blankshire Police shall engage a trusted partner to support the left-of-event activities that help raise awareness and reduce complacency across the community. This includes individual farm and site security reviews to identify vulnerabilities and enhance affordable defences; rural crime reduction workshops to raise awareness and reduce complacency among farmers, growers, land managers, and rural business owners; post-crime root-cause analysis¹⁰ to understand how an attack occurred, what existing defences failed, and how reoccurrence and re-victimisation can be further reduced; and the pro-active collection of community information that supports the analytical function described in Section 6.4. The analyst described in that Section works alongside, and helps direct the services of, this partner, which in turn helps create content and material, including toolbox talks¹¹, to support the force's rural crime risk reduction awareness campaigns.

Rural SafeGuard¹² is Blankshire's fixed-term preferred provider of this specialist service, appointed following a procurement exercise and re-tendered every three to five years so that the arrangement remains open to any accredited provider that meets the same standard. Annex A sets out the rationale for this appointment and the wider accreditation model within which it, and any future provider, would operate.

The accredited partner's deliverables sit predominantly on the left-hand side of the risk bowtie introduced at Section 9.2: they act before an incident occurs, reducing the likelihood of a rural crime taking place and reducing the opportunity available to an offender, rather than responding only after the event. They also extend to preparing farmers for the crime risks that cannot be entirely mitigated: accredited specialists help farmers draft a response plan for foreseeable crimes identified during a security review, as described further at Section 10.3, and signpost farmers to verified private security service and product providers and to established farming mental health charities, as described further at Annex C.3. Table 5 below sets out the full range of these deliverables, distinguishing those funded within the core partnership arrangement from those available subject to additional funding from agricultural partners.

Deliverable	Funding Basis
Acts as a critical friend and an intelligent customer on the force's behalf.	Core partnership funding
Develops a rural crime engagement programme to raise awareness and educate force officers, staff, and external stakeholders.	Core partnership funding
Facilitates a quarterly Rural Crime Consultation Panel (RCCP) through which the force communicates with the rural community.	Core partnership funding
Produces a monthly rural crime newsletter and a monthly podcast for officers, staff, and community stakeholders.	Core partnership funding
Prepares briefs for commanders to highlight topical rural crime issues.	Core partnership funding
Produces toolbox talks and other content for farmers, growers, and rural communities.	Core partnership funding
Produces rural crime reduction material for use across the force area, subject to the force Communication's approval.	Core partnership funding
Delivers a free-to-attend quarterly, seasonally timed rural crime reduction awareness workshop available for rural businesses and communities.	Core partnership funding

¹⁰ This is separate to the police investigation and is not designed to gather evidence for prosecution; it is intended to help reduce reoccurrence and re-victimisation.

¹¹ A communication tool outlining how to safeguard property, designed for use by business owners to engage their staff in crime reduction behaviours.

¹² <https://ruralsafeguard.com/>

Deliverable	Funding Basis
Supports the force at County shows and other public events.	Core partnership funding
Facilitates an annual rural crime conference inviting neighbouring forces to share best practice.	Core partnership funding
Helps farmers draft a response plan for foreseeable crimes identified during a security review (Section 10.3).	Core partnership funding
Signposts farmers to verified private security service and product providers, and to established farming mental health charities (Annex C.3).	Core partnership funding
Delivers additional workshops at barn events, agricultural universities, colleges, and rural training providers.	Subject to additional funding
Performs farm and rural business security reviews to reduce complacency and the opportunity for crime.	Subject to additional funding
Conducts root-cause analysis on crime incidents, separate from the police investigation, to identify ineffective defences and affordable solutions for sharing in workshops, shift briefings, and the force intelligence picture.	Subject to additional funding
Facilitates quarterly webinars to share seasonal guidance and advice.	Subject to additional funding

Table 5: The accredited partner's left-of-event deliverables, reducing the likelihood and opportunity for rural crime before it occurs.

8. The Rural Crime Risk in Blankshire

8.1. A Rising Risk Despite Sustained Policing Effort

Rural crime in Blankshire mirrors the national picture described by the National Rural Crime Network: an offending profile that has become more organised, more mobile, and more resistant to a purely local, reactive response.¹³ Offending groups operating across county boundaries treat Blankshire's dispersed farms, extensive rights of way, and long rural road network as an environment in which they can strike quickly, move on, and disperse stolen assets before local policing can respond effectively. This Plan treats that trend as the central operational reality against which the RCET's structure and this Plan's partnerships are designed.

8.2. The Changing Character of the Threat

The organised groups targeting Blankshire's rural businesses typically operate to a recognisable business model, treating theft of livestock, machinery, fuel, and equipment, together with fly-tipping and related waste crime, as component parts of a wider illicit enterprise rather than isolated opportunistic acts.

8.2.1. Organisation and Mobility

These groups are frequently nomadic, travelling well beyond their home area, and in most cases well beyond Blankshire's borders, to target the county's farms and land, before dispersing quickly across neighbouring force boundaries. This cross-border mobility is a deliberate tactic, exploiting the practical limits of any single force's jurisdiction, and is a principal reason why this Plan places such weight on intelligence sharing with neighbouring forces and national rural crime bodies.

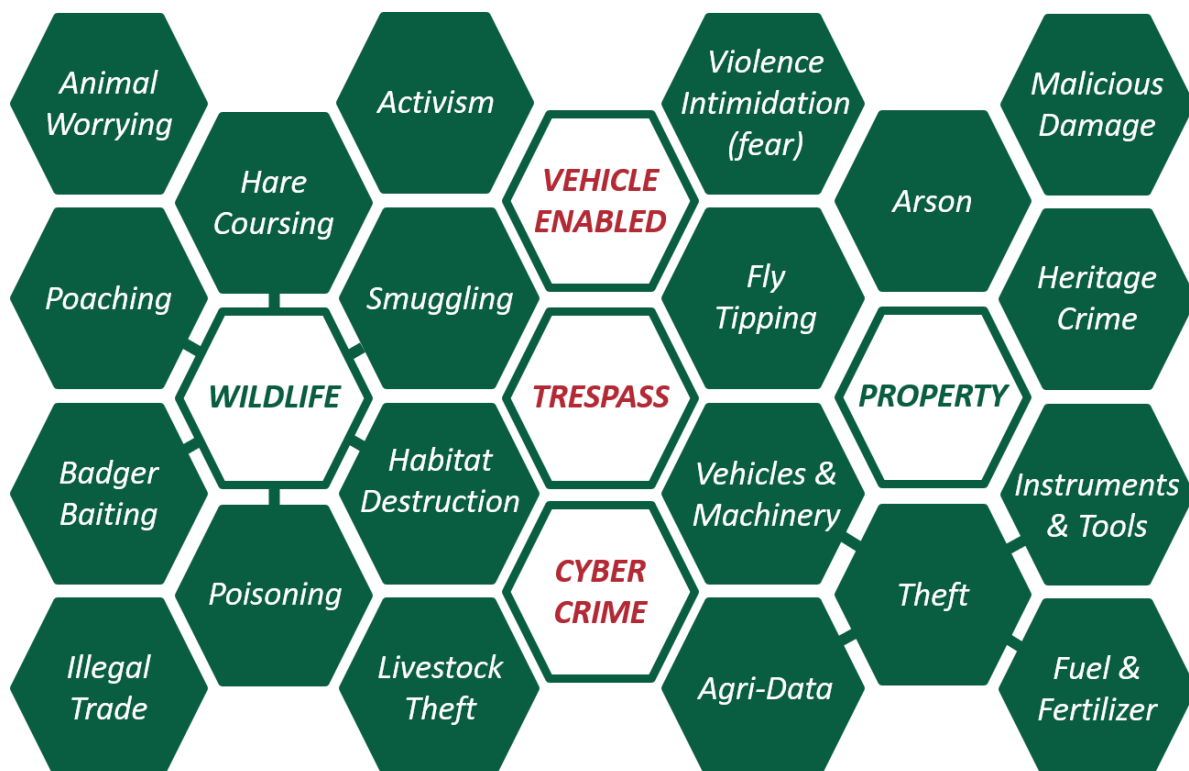


Figure 2: The illicit business model typically underlying organised rural crime affecting Blankshire (illustrative, not exhaustive).

¹³National Rural Crime Network, Rural Crime: Serious, Organised and International – Who Victimises Rural Communities? (Dr Kate Tudor).

8.2.2. Technology-Enabled Offending

Offending groups increasingly use online reconnaissance, route planning software, and signal-jamming equipment to defeat modern farm security measures before physically attending a site, and may return to a previously successful target having studied how it responded the first time. Blankshire's rural crime specialists are trained to recognise these patterns and to advise farmers accordingly, treating a first incident as a signal to review and strengthen defences rather than an isolated event to be filed and forgotten.

8.2.3. Lower-Harm but Persistent Nuisance Offending

Alongside organised acquisitive crime, embedded specialists also encounter lower-harm but still significant problems, including irresponsible dog walking on farmland, trespass by curious or disaffected young people, and low-level anti-social behaviour, which, while less serious individually, contribute materially to a farmer's overall sense of insecurity and are addressed through the same engagement channels described in Section 11.

Offending groups adapt continuously and actively seek out weakness. Reconnaissance, both online and in person around a target farm, frequently precedes an attack, and groups that succeed once are highly likely to return, meaning that a farm's response to an initial incident materially affects its likelihood of repeat victimisation.



Figure 3: Typical tools and methods used by organised offenders targeting rural Blankshire (illustrative, not exhaustive).

8.3. The Crime Types to be Mitigated

This Plan focuses the RCET's specialist effort on vehicle-enabled, trespass, and technology-enabled crime affecting farms and rural businesses, including load-carrying vehicles used to remove machinery and livestock, drones used for reconnaissance and, increasingly, to disrupt or distract, and cyber-enabled offending including online reconnaissance, attack route planning, and interference with connected farm technology. Offenders also make use of handheld tools capable of defeating physical security, identity-masking clothing and equipment intended to frustrate forensic recovery, technical jammers targeting wireless cameras, alarms, and trackers, and distraction techniques aimed at farm dogs and livestock. Embedded specialists incorporate awareness of this evolving toolkit into every farm security review and every piece of guidance issued under this Plan.

9. Rethinking the Paradigm: Beyond a Policing-Only Model

9.1. The Limits of an Enforcement-Led Response

An enforcement-led model, in which the police are the principal actor responding after a crime has occurred, will always have a structural limitation: it acts predominantly after the event, once loss, damage, or distress has already occurred. Blankshire Police's RCET, however dedicated and skilled, cannot realistically visit every farm across a 7,485 km² county frequently enough to reduce the likelihood of an incident through presence alone. This Plan does not propose that the force does less enforcement; it proposes that enforcement be supplemented by a much larger, distributed capability focused on reducing the likelihood of an incident in the first place.

9.2. The Risk Bowtie: Moving Left of the Event

This Plan adopts the risk bowtie model, a recognised risk-management tool, to frame where different partners' contributions sit relative to a crime event. On the left-hand side of the bowtie sit the crime reduction controls, target-hardening, deterrence, education, and vulnerability reduction, that reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring at all. On the right-hand side sit the controls that take effect once an event has happened: response, investigation, recovery, and prosecution. Blankshire Police's statutory role sits predominantly on the right-hand side, and this Plan is explicit that this is entirely appropriate to the force's mandate; but it means the left-hand side has, to date, been comparatively under-resourced and under-owned across the county.

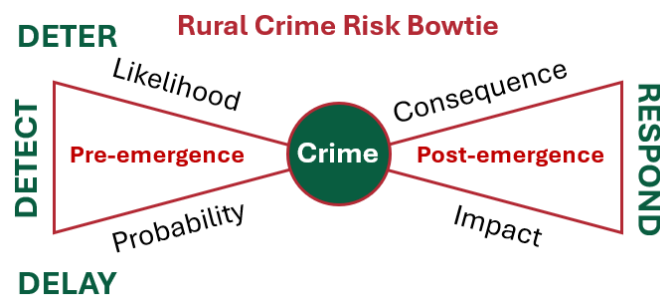


Figure 4: The rural crime risk bowtie, showing reduction (left-of-event) and responsive (right-of-event) controls.

The private security sector's natural home, by training, culture, and commercial model, is precisely this left-hand side of the bowtie: risk assessment, vulnerability review, deterrence design, and the blending of physical, technical, and behavioural measures into an integrated farmyard defence [security] plan. This Plan formally recognises that capability, resources the partnerships needed to connect it to policing intelligence and to insurers, and stops it developing in isolated, uncoordinated pockets across the county.

Figure 5: The rural crime risk bowtie, showing likelihood-reducing (pre-event) and consequence-mitigating (post-event) controls.



10. Treating the Rural Crime Risk

10.1. Applying the Risk Treatment Options

BS ISO 31000:2018 sets out a small number of generic risk treatment options that apply regardless of sector: avoiding the risk, accepting or increasing the risk to pursue an opportunity, removing the risk source, changing the likelihood, changing the consequences, sharing the risk with another party, and retaining the risk by informed decision.¹⁴

This Plan requires that every farm security review conducted under this Plan in Blankshire make each of these options explicit to the farm or rural business concerned, rather than defaulting to a single generic set of recommendations.

Changing the likelihood of an incident is achieved in Blankshire through reduction-focused, left-of-event controls: perimeter security, control of access, lighting, cameras, marked and immobilised machinery, secure storage of weapons, keys, fuel and fertiliser, and community-level vigilance schemes such as farm and countryside watch networks. Changing the consequences of an incident is achieved through asset marking and forensic coding, which increase the likelihood of recovery and reduce resale value to offenders, and through business continuity planning that allows a farm to keep operating while a claim and investigation proceed.

Sharing the risk is principally achieved through insurance and through collective arrangements such as farm clusters pooling resources for shared security infrastructure or a shared private-sector consultant. Acceptance, formally retaining a risk by informed decision, is entirely legitimate where the cost of further mitigation genuinely exceeds the value protected, provided the decision is made knowingly; too many rural crime risks in Blankshire today are accepted not by informed choice but by inertia, and correcting that is a central aim of this Plan.

10.2. Rural Area Security Management Review

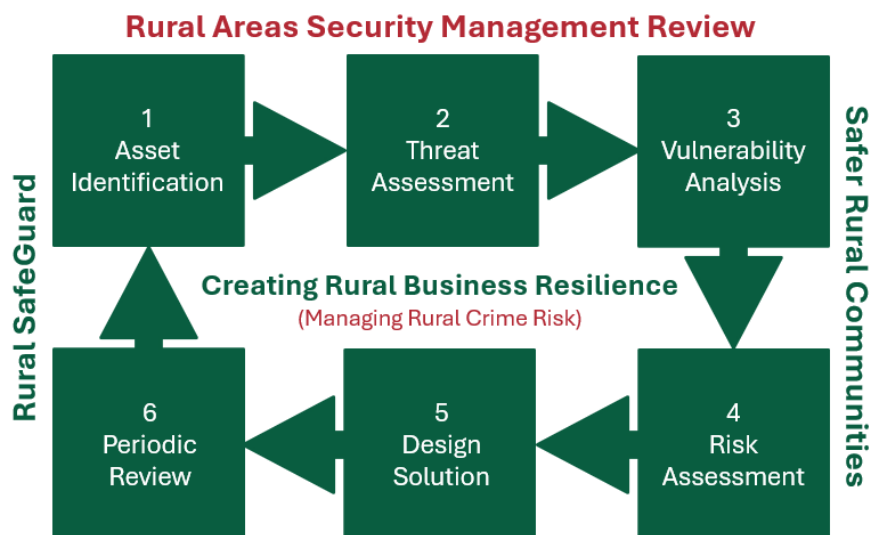


Figure 6: The six-stage Security Management Review applied to the farmyard, from approach to asset, consistent with the RSG 1001:2026 standard.

Farms and rural cooperatives adopting this approach in Blankshire do not need to develop their own methodology. The Rural SafeGuard Farm Security Standard, RSG 1001:2026, offers a ready-made, standards-based benchmark for conducting a farm security review, built on defence-in-depth and As Low As Reasonably Practicable principles, organised around a six-stage security management review process and the six categories

¹⁴British Standards Institution, BS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management – Guidelines.

of farm space set out in Table 3 above.¹⁵ This Plan adopts RSG 1001:2026 as the standard against which farm security reviews conducted under this Plan in Blankshire will be benchmarked, while allowing future partners to propose an equivalent standard built to the same rigour where one exists.

10.3. Root-Cause Analysis and Regaining Control After a Crime

Accredited private-sector partners' contribution does not end when a risk reduction measure fails and a crime occurs. A root-cause analysis will be conducted following notable incidents — and after the police have declared the area open — to establish not only what was taken, but how the barrier that should have stopped it was defeated, closing the loop between an incident and the next security management review, and this learning will be cascaded through the RCET as described in Section 6.

Equally, accredited rural crime specialists will help farmers draft a response plan for foreseeable risks identified during a security review, covering who to contact, what evidence to preserve, how to continue operating with a damaged or stolen asset, and how to communicate with staff and family in the hours after an incident. Helping a farmer regain and retain control of their business quickly after a crime measurably reduces the sense of helplessness that so often follows an incursion and directly supports the mental health considerations addressed in Annex C.3.

¹⁵Rural SafeGuard (Optimal Risk Group), RSG 1001:2026 Rural Protective Security – Defending the Farmyard Against Serious and Organised Crime.

11. Engagement and Cultural Change

11.1. Understanding the Farming Mindset

An honest delivery plan must acknowledge that farmers and land managers across Blankshire are frequently resistant to changing long-standing working practices, even where those practices demonstrably increase their exposure to foreseeable crimes like theft. Keys left in unattended vehicles, gates left open, and barns left unlocked are not, in the great majority of cases, signs of carelessness; they are rational responses to decades of low crime risk and to the overriding operational pressure of running a farm, where every minute spent on security is a minute not spent on livestock, machinery, or the harvest.

Academic research into farmer decision-making confirms that such habits are shaped less by a rational weighing of risk than by habit, identity, and the practical rhythms of daily farm work, and that engagement calibrated to that behavioural culture, rather than generic advice, is what changes practice on the ground.¹⁶

The RCET treats this as a generational shift rather than a sudden one, closer to changing the climate than changing the weather. Persuading a farmer of forty years' standing to change a long-held habit is not achieved by a single victim support leaflet or a single post-crime police visit; it requires sustained, respectful, and practical engagement from people the farmer trusts, delivered through repeated contact, a farm walk conducted at the farmer's own pace, and recommendations calibrated to what the farm can actually afford.

Because this work is time-consuming, it is often omitted from rural crime policing plans. Blankshire RCET will therefore work with Rural SafeGuard to build, deliver, and continually develop a culture of rural crime reduction.

11.2. The Seasonal Awareness Campaign

Blankshire's Rural Crime Awareness Campaign, owned by the Inspector and reviewed annually, is built around four seasonal campaigns mapped to the agricultural calendar, addressing the protection of people, property, agricultural data, and recommended response plans at the points in the year when specific crime types are most foreseeable. This includes, for example, heightened hare coursing activity immediately after harvest, when short stubble drives hares to seek alternative cover, and heightened acquisitive crime risk around county shows and other seasonal events that draw large itinerant crowds to the county.

11.3. Engaging the Next Generation

The RCET's engagement with agricultural colleges, secondary schools, and Young Farmers' organisations is treated in this Plan as a primary mechanism for long-term cultural change, not a secondary strand, so that a new generation of farmers enters the industry already treating proportionate security as a normal part of good farm management. This work embeds the principles of the Countryside Code¹⁷ and is delivered in collaboration with local authorities, farming membership bodies, local educational authorities, and cadet and youth organisations, including opportunities to work with local sports clubs or rural sports venues affected by vandalism or anti-social behaviour on their grounds.

This Plan draws throughout on established national protective and cyber security guidance, including that published by the National Protective Security Authority, the National Cyber Security Centre, and Secured by Design, and commits every accredited rural crime specialist to signposting farmers proactively, as a routine part of post-incident engagement, to established farming mental health charities such as the Royal Agricultural

¹⁶Dr Kreseda Smith, Harper Adams University, published research on farmer behavioural culture and crime prevention decision-making.

¹⁷HM Government, The Countryside Code.

Benevolent Institution, the YANA project, the Farming Community Network, and the Farm Safety Foundation. The national standards adopted and the safeguarding approach taken are set out in full at Annex C.

12. Performance Management and Audit

This Plan is designed to be auditable. The measures set out below allow chief officers, the Police and Crime Commissioner's office, and partner organisations to assess whether the commitments made in this Plan are being delivered and provide the basis on which the Inspector reports progress to the Superintendent and the Superintendent reports to force command.

12.1. Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Indicator	Review Cycle
KPI 1	Proportion of stakeholder businesses, farms, agricultural suppliers, supply chain partners, rural heritage and sports venues, and agricultural colleges, mapped within each rural Neighbourhood Policing Team area against the full population identified.	Quarterly
KPI 2	Rural crime intelligence products delivered against the analyst's cadence, daily intelligence flags, weekly trend reports, monthly problem profiles, and quarterly strategic assessments, and the outcome of rural crime data-quality and coding audits.	Quarterly
KPI 3	Rural crime reports by category (livestock, machinery, fuel, fly-tipping, hare coursing and wildlife crime), compared against the same period in the previous year.	Quarterly
KPI 4	Repeat victimisation rate for farms and rural businesses previously reviewed under this Plan.	Quarterly
KPI 5	Attendance and reach of the seasonal Rural Crime Awareness Campaign, including stakeholder engagement session numbers.	Quarterly
KPI 6	RCET specialist abstraction rate to non-rural-crime duties.	Quarterly
KPI 7	Number and proportion of farms within each of the six rural Neighbourhood Policing Team areas that have received an accredited farm security review.	Quarterly
KPI 8	Root-cause analyses completed on notable incidents and evidence of learning cascaded across the RCET.	Quarterly
KPI 9	Number of active memoranda of understanding with accredited private-sector, insurance, and representative body partners.	Biannual
KPI 10	Farmer and stakeholder satisfaction, drawn from engagement surveys administered by the RCET.	Annual

Table 6: Key performance indicators against which this Plan is audited.

12.2. The Rural Crime Risk Register

The Sergeant maintains a Rural Crime Risk Register covering each of the six rural Neighbourhood Policing Team areas, scoring threat, vulnerability, and risk separately for each area and updating the register as new intelligence, including vulnerability data shared by accredited private-sector partners under agreed memoranda of understanding, becomes available. The Inspector validates the Register's efficacy quarterly, aligned to the agricultural season, and the Register forms the evidential basis for resource allocation decisions taken under Section 6.3.

12.3. Review and Reporting Cycle

This Plan is reviewed formally on an annual basis by the Superintendent, informed by performance against the key performance indicators above, feedback from the Rural Crime Consultation Panel, other specialist stakeholder forum, and any material change in the national strategic picture. The Inspector reports quarterly to the Superintendent, and the Superintendent reports, at a frequency to be agreed with the Police and Crime Commissioner's office, on progress against this Plan's commitments, with these reports forming the primary audit trail against which this Plan's delivery is assessed.

13. Conclusion and Commitment

Continuing to expect Blankshire Police alone to solve rural crime, using an enforcement-led model applied for a generation, is unlikely to produce a materially different outcome, however dedicated and skilled the officers involved. The threat facing the county's farms and rural businesses has become more organised, more mobile, and more technologically sophisticated than a purely reactive model can realistically contain alone.

This Plan does not ask Blankshire Police to do less. It commits the force to a clearly governed structure, a defined set of partnerships, and a published set of performance indicators against which its delivery can be audited, while asking every other stakeholder with a genuine interest in rural crime reduction, the private security sector, farming representative bodies, insurers, and farmers and land managers themselves, to do more alongside it.

Rural safety in Blankshire is not a state that, once achieved, looks after itself; it must be tended, season after season, by a community working together. This Plan is the force's commitment to leading that work. Central to that leadership is the formally engaged commercial partnership described in Section 7 and set out in full at Annex A, and the national standards and safeguarding commitments signposted throughout this Plan and detailed at Annexes B, C, and D; together they turn this Plan's commitment into a structure that can be audited, tested, and renewed.

Annex A. Accredited Partners and the Rural SafeGuard Exemplar

This Plan does not treat any single commercial provider as the only possible delivery model for its principles in Blankshire, but recognises programmes such as Rural SafeGuard as evidence that the model already works in practice. Rural SafeGuard was created by a cooperative of Chartered Security Professionals dedicated to the UK countryside and agricultural industry, and its methodology, built around defence in depth formed from layers of security that offer the classic protective security sequence of deter, detect, delay, and respond, is explicitly designed to complement rather than duplicate policing. At the time of writing, it is the United Kingdom's first commercially available national programme designed to reduce rural crime before it happens.

Blankshire selected Rural SafeGuard as its preferred provider against criteria drawn directly from this Plan's own risk-based approach: a defence-in-depth methodology built specifically for the farmyard rather than adapted from generalist commercial security; a published, referenceable standard, RSG 1001:2026, against which every farm security review can be benchmarked and audited, rather than an informal or provider-specific checklist; and delivery by Chartered Security Professionals with a specific agricultural and rural-space background. Taken together, these factors gave the force confidence that engaging Rural SafeGuard would connect farm-level security advice to policing intelligence in a way that a locally improvised or unaccredited arrangement could not readily match, and this rationale, referenced from Section 7, is the basis on which the appointment was made and will be tested at each re-tender.



Figure 7: The seven levels of protection model applied to farm security reviews.

Programmes of this kind, whether Rural SafeGuard specifically or equivalent regional or force-level schemes built to the same standards, will be formally recognised by Blankshire Police as accredited delivery partners, so that vulnerability data collected during commercial farm visits can, subject to consent, feed into local policing intelligence, and so that farmers engaging with an accredited programme can be confident they are working to a nationally consistent, professionally governed standard rather than an unregulated patchwork of commercial offers.

The specific activities delivered under this arrangement, distinguishing those funded within the core partnership from those available subject to additional funding from agricultural partners, are set out in Table 5 in Section 7.

Annex B. Normative References

The following standards, guides, and strategy documents inform the approach taken in this Plan. Reference is made to them throughout the main body of this Plan by footnote.

B.1. Risk Management Standards and Guidance

BS ISO 31000:2018, Risk Management – Guidelines, provides the internationally recognised principles and generic framework for managing risk of any type, in any organisation, and underpins the risk vocabulary and process used throughout this Plan.

HM Treasury's The Orange Book: Management of Risk – Principles and Concepts (May 2023) sets out the UK public sector's own risk management doctrine and is used here to frame how Blankshire Police, as a public body, formally recognises and accounts for a shared-risk model with private partners.

The College of Policing's risk management guidance sets out how operational and organisational risk is expected to be managed within policing itself, and provides the bridge through which the Superintendent formally recognises the private security sector as a risk-treatment partner.

B.2. Policing and Private Security Sector Strategy

The National Police Chiefs' Council's Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2025–2028 sets the national policing direction for rural crime and is treated throughout this Plan as the primary policing reference point against which this Plan's local delivery is designed to be complementary.

The College of Policing's THRIVE model informs how rural crime reports are triaged and resourced within Blankshire's whole-force response, as described in Section 5.2.

The Rural SafeGuard Farm Security Standard, RSG 1001:2026, Rural Protective Security – Defending the Farmyard Against Serious and Organised Crime, is adopted in Section 10 and Annex A as the benchmark against which farm security reviews conducted under this Plan will be assessed.

B.3. National Protective Guidance

The National Protective Security Authority's guidance on protecting people, property, and assets from a range of threats informs the farm security review methodology adopted under this Plan, as described in Annex C.1.

The National Cyber Security Centre's guidance for small and medium enterprises informs the cyber-security element of every integrated security plan produced under this Plan, as described in Annex C.1.

Secured by Design's SBD Design Guides, Police Preferred Specification scheme, and Rural and Agricultural Security Advice inform the physical and technical security recommendations made under this Plan, as described in Annex C.2.

B.4. Farming Policy and Research

HM Government's (Defra's) Farming Roadmap 2050: Growing England's Future informs the wider policy context within which this Plan sits, in particular its recognition of the agri-food sector as Critical National Infrastructure and its emphasis on business resilience.

HM Government's The Countryside Code informs the youth and community engagement work described in Section 11.3.

Published academic research into the behavioural culture of farm crime prevention decision-making, and into the mental health impact of agricultural crime victimisation, informs the engagement approach described in Section 11.1 and Annex C.3 respectively.

B.5. Rural Crime Analysis and Reduction Evidence

The NFU Mutual Rural Crime Report 2026 provides the national claims cost and trend data used in Section 8.1 to evidence the changing character of the rural crime risk, and the analytical value described in Section 6.4.

The College of Policing's guidance on analysis intelligence products sets out the standard analytical-product framework, problem profiles, subject and network profiles, and tactical and strategic assessments, that the role described in Section 6.4 applies specifically to rural, wildlife, and heritage crime.

The ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing's guidance on situational crime prevention, developed from the work of Ronald Clarke and Derek Cornish, underpins the five-approach framework used to design the targeted community awareness activity described in Section 6.4.2.

Annex C. Leveraging National Guidance and Safeguarding Wellbeing

C.1. National Protective Security Authority and National Cyber Security Centre

C.1.1. National Protective Security Authority

The National Protective Security Authority provides UK-wide guidance on protecting people, property, and assets, and its methodology, understanding an asset base, assessing threat and vulnerability, and designing proportionate, layered protection, maps directly onto the farm security review process adopted under this Plan.¹⁸ This has a genuine counter-terrorism dimension as well as a crime reduction one: farms legitimately hold fertiliser, ammunition, firearms, and large plant machinery of established interest to serious organised crime groups and, in rare cases, terrorists, and accredited rural crime specialists are well placed to act as a further resource for Counter Terrorism Security Advisors operating a similarly regional structure.

C.1.2. National Cyber Security Centre

Modern farm businesses in Blankshire are increasingly dependent on connected technology, including GPS-guided machinery, telematics, automated livestock monitoring, and online banking and record-keeping, each of which introduces a cyber dimension to rural crime risk that a purely physical security review will miss. The National Cyber Security Centre's guidance for small and medium enterprises provides a proportionate, non-technical starting point that every integrated security plan produced under this Plan will incorporate alongside physical measures.¹⁹

C.2. Secured by Design

Secured by Design, the official police security initiative, offers a further, directly applicable resource: a suite of Design Guides and a Police Preferred Specification accreditation scheme that gives farmers and their advisors an independent basis for selecting tested and certified security products.²⁰ Secured by Design also publishes rural and agricultural security advice covering farmyard access, equipment marking, and fuel security. An accredited farm security review conducted within Blankshire will treat Secured by Design's guidance, alongside the RSG 1001:2026 standard described in Section 10.2, as a primary reference point when specifying physical and technical controls.

C.3. The Mental Health Impact of Rural Crime

No delivery plan for rural crime is complete without acknowledging its human cost. Published research has found direct evidence that agricultural crime causes measurable psychological distress among farmers, extending well beyond financial loss into anxiety, a persistent sense of violation, and, in some cases, more serious mental ill health.²¹ Farming is widely reported to have one of the highest suicide rates of any occupational sector in the United Kingdom, and rural crime victimisation is one of the identifiable pressures that contributes to it. This Plan names that connection explicitly rather than folding it into a general reference to wellbeing.

This is precisely why the response planning and root-cause analysis described in Section 10.3 matter as much as the physical defences described elsewhere in this Plan: helping a farmer regain and retain control of their business quickly after an incident is itself a protective factor for mental health. Every accredited rural crime

¹⁸National Protective Security Authority, guidance on protecting people, property and assets.

¹⁹National Cyber Security Centre, guidance for small and medium enterprises.

²⁰Secured by Design, SBD Design Guides and Rural and Agricultural Security Advice.

²¹Kreseda Smith, 'Desolation in the Countryside: How Agricultural Crime Impacts the Mental Health of British Farmers', Journal of Rural Studies, 80 (2020).

specialist operating under this Plan will be trained to signpost farmers proactively to established farming charities, including the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, the YANA (You Are Not Alone) project, the Farming Community Network, and the Farm Safety Foundation, as a routine part of post-incident engagement, not as an afterthought.

Annex D. Partnership and Funding Model

D.1. Representative Bodies and Insurers

The credibility and reach of this Plan depend on the active participation of organisations Blankshire's farmers and land managers already know and trust. The National Farmers' Union, the Country Land and Business Association, and the National Association of Agricultural Contractors are natural convening partners, able to communicate this Plan's principles through channels farmers already read and trust. Rural insurers operating in the county carry the financial consequence of rural crime risk directly, and hold claims data that, if shared appropriately with the RCET and accredited security partners, would materially improve the county's intelligence picture. This Plan seeks to work with insurers to convert its risk-treatment logic into a direct financial incentive, through premium discounts for farms that complete an accredited security review or achieve a recognised certification standard.

D.2. Critical National Infrastructure Partners

The critical national infrastructure networks that cross Blankshire, including energy, water, and telecommunications assets, suffer similar acquisitive and malicious crime to that affecting farms and are a natural partner for this Plan. Operators of these networks are approached both as a potential source of funding for specialist RCET resources, such as off-road vehicles, drones, and technical surveillance equipment, and as a potential partner for data sharing under a memorandum of understanding, reflecting the shared interest in securing rural land against the same offending groups.

D.3. Heritage and Faith Partners

Rural churches, chapels, and glebe land across Blankshire are exposed to heritage crime, including lead and metal theft, and the dioceses and other faith organisations operating in the county are engaged by this Plan as partners in reducing that risk, working alongside the Inspector responsible for this Plan. This relationship is also treated as a potential source of funding where national church mission funding streams support local crime reduction and community safety initiatives.

Bibliography

This bibliography lists, with full web addresses, the external sources referred to by footnote throughout this Plan. It does not include Rural SafeGuard programme materials, which are cited in the footnotes as an illustrative commercial exemplar rather than as a normative source, nor any internal or unpublished force documents.

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