

Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

Guidance Note

Equine Security – Tack, Stables, Horses



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Stables and Riding Equipment

Stables and riding equipment are prime targets for thieves in Norfolk and Suffolk. This Guidance Note provides some advice you may find helpful:

- Good physical security is the first line of defence. The tack room should be of sound construction with solid walls and doors. Doors should be of solid construction, ideally covered with steel panels and fixed firmly into a solid door frame. Hinges and fixings must not be accessible from the outside. Mortice locks used to secure doors should conform to BS 3621 and padlocks should be hardened steel close shackle, conforming to European Standard EN 12320 and achieving the security grade classification 5 or above. Also use with an equally strong locking bar.
- Windows and roof-lights should be fitted with substantial metal bars or grilles to prevent access.
- Consider the use of an intruder alarm where large quantities of tack are stored. Alarm companies should be registered to NSI (National Security

For Further Crime Prevention Advice:-

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For Suffolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team

Inspectorate) or SSAIB (Security Systems and Alarms Inspectorate Board).

- Lock doors when nobody is in the tack room. Where facilities are shared, keep the number of key holders to a minimum and always keep a record of who has keys. If a key goes missing change the locks. If the building is alarmed, access to the code should be limited and changed regularly to maintain good security.
- Limit access to your tack room from adjoining stables or buildings or over any partition walls. Ensure a secure ceiling is in place - substantial metal grilles may be fitted for this purpose.
- Never leave tack and equipment lying around the yard and make it easy for opportunist thieves - if it is not in use, lock it in the tack room and use an alarm.
- During shows always lock your tack inside the horsebox or vehicle, ensuring it is out of sight. If possible use a vehicle alarm. Opportunist thieves can strike anywhere!
- Mark your tack. Tack can be effectively marked with your postcode using ultra-violet marker pens, engraving, stamping or even paint. Alternatively you could consider **forensic marking solutions** - these are harmless solutions that contain a unique forensic code (like a fingerprint), making it easy to identify marked items.
Firms that provide these marking solutions include:
SmartWater – www.smartwater.com
SelectaDNA – www.selectadna.co.uk
Applied DNA Sciences - www.adnas.com
Property marking may dissuade a thief if you advertise the fact that your property is coded and it will certainly improve the chances of tracing

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stolen items and perhaps catching the thief.

- Alternatives to property marking are microchips such as Datatag or Chips4Tack.
- Make an inventory of your equipment with clear descriptions. We recommend that you take photographs of any valuable equipment. If they are stolen, the police can circulate the photo to dealers who can then look out for your property. You can also register property on www.immobilise.com Immobilise is the world's largest FREE register of possession ownership details and together with its sister sites the Police's NMPR (www.thenmpr.com) and CheckMEND (www.checkmend.com), forms a very effective tool in helping to reduce crime and repatriate recovered personal property to its rightful owners.
- If you use a horsebox or trailer, make sure you record details of the chassis and the frame numbers.

Horse Security

- Take colour photographs of your horse in summer and winter.
- Take photos from the side, front and behind.
- Have your horse security marked, preferably by a visible freezemark. Marking your horse and tack does deter thieves. Present recognised methods of security marking equines are
 - Freeze marking
 - Hoof branding
 - Microchip implant
- If your horse has a particular mark or scar, photograph them separately, making sure that it is clear where on the animal the mark is. Ensure marks, whorls etc are shown on a suitable diagram.

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- Keep your horse's passport secure.

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