



Secure Country Living UK

Practical security and preparedness for rural England

Equine Yard Security & Recovery Pack

Practical security records for horse owners, livery yards and rural equine properties.

Property / yard:		Review date:	
Completed by / role:		Police reference (if used):	

This pack brings the security information most likely to matter after a theft or suspicious incident into one place. Keep the completed copy private and update it when horses, vehicles, tack or security arrangements change.

YARD, FIELD AND BUILDING SECURITY AUDIT

☐	Roadside, yard and field gates close correctly; hinge pins cannot simply be lifted and chains/padlocks are suitable for the gate and location.
☐	Remote field entrances and seldom-used tracks have an appropriate security measure without obstructing any public right of way.
☐	Tack-room doors, frames, hinges, windows and roof-lights are physically secure; high-value tack is not visible from outside.
☐	Stable blocks, feed stores, workshops and equipment rooms are secured when unattended; ladders and tools that could assist entry are not left accessible.
☐	Horseboxes and trailers are immobilised when parked using suitable hitch/wheel/ground security where practical, and are parked to make removal difficult.
☐	Trailer, horsebox and vehicle identifiers, serial/chassis/VIN details and current photographs are recorded in this pack.
☐	CCTV covers useful approaches, parking and tack-room access without avoidable blind spots; date/time is checked and footage can be retrieved.
☐	Lighting provides useful visibility around access and loading areas without creating deep glare or preventing cameras from identifying people/vehicles.
☐	Horse passports and ownership/identification records are accessible as required but not left in an unlocked tack room, trailer or horsebox.
☐	A trusted person knows how to contact the owner/yard manager and what to do if horses, trailers or tack appear to be missing.

Security principle

Layer the yard: deter at the boundary, delay removal of trailers/tack, detect activity early, and keep enough identification evidence to help police and insurers recover property.



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Horse Identification & Recovery Record

One sheet per horse. Keep this private; it is designed to support identification and recovery, not replace the statutory passport.

Horse name / stable name		Registered name (if different)	
Passport issuing organisation		Passport number	
Microchip number		UELN (if shown)	
Breed / type		Sex	
Colour		Approx. height	
Distinctive markings / whorls / scars		Usual stable / field reference	

PHOTOGRAPH RECORD

Photo ref	Date	View / feature shown	Where original is stored

IDENTIFICATION NOTES

Feature / location	Description

England - passport and microchip reminder

GOV.UK requires a passport for each horse or related equine animal and requires horses in England to be microchipped. Keep ownership/passport details current with the issuing organisation. This sheet is only a security aid.



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Tack, Trailer & Horsebox Identification Record

Record the details that are difficult to reconstruct after property has disappeared.

TACK AND HIGH-VALUE EQUINE EQUIPMENT

Item	Make / model	Serial / ID	Marking / distinctive feature	Photo ref

TRAILER / HORSEBOX / TOWING VEHICLE

Type / use		Make / model	
Registration (if applicable)		VIN / chassis / serial	
Colour / livery		Distinctive marks / repairs	
Hitch lock / wheel clamp		Tracker / marking ID	
Usual parking location reference		Insurance reference	

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo ref	Date	What it shows	Original storage location



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Equine Yard - Overnight & Away Checklist

Use when the yard is left unattended, at competitions, or before a period of reduced occupancy.

☐ ☐ ☐	All horses expected to be on the property are accounted for and any planned movement/transport is known to the responsible person.
☐ ☐ ☐	Tack is returned to secure storage; saddles and high-value equipment are not left in vehicles, trailers, temporary stalls or unsecured changing areas.
☐ ☐ ☐	Horsebox/trailer doors, ramps and external lockers are secured; towing keys and spare keys are removed from vehicles and stored securely.
☐ ☐ ☐	Trailer/horsebox immobilisers are fitted and any tracker/security device is active with no known low-battery or signal fault.
☐ ☐ ☐	Field and yard gates are secured as intended after the final movement of horses, feed, bedding or equipment.
☐ ☐ ☐	Stable, tack-room, feed-room, workshop and store doors/windows are closed and locked as appropriate.
☐ ☐ ☐	Temporary event/contractor access keys, fobs or codes have been returned, cancelled or time-limited after use.
☐ ☐ ☐	CCTV, alarms and lighting are operating; cameras have not been moved, obscured or left facing an irrelevant area after loading/unloading.
☐ ☐ ☐	No valuable tack, branded equipment, medicines or portable machinery is visible from the public road or obvious approach.
☐ ☐ ☐	The responsible person knows who is expected on site next and how an unexpected visitor or alarm activation will be checked safely.

AWAY FROM THE YARD / EVENT SECURITY

☐ ☐ ☐	Use a lockable tack locker, vehicle compartment or supervised area; do not leave tack unattended simply because the venue appears busy.
☐ ☐ ☐	Photograph the parked horsebox/trailer position and note the location if leaving it for an extended period.
☐ ☐ ☐	Do not leave keys in the towing vehicle, horsebox cab or easily found bags; keep spare keys separately.
☐ ☐ ☐	Before departure, check wheel/hitch security, number plates and obvious tampering rather than assuming the vehicle is as you left it.



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If a Horse, Trailer or Tack Is Missing

Prioritise safety, preserve evidence and give police accurate identification information.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

☐	☐	If a theft is happening now, an intruder is present, or there is immediate danger, move to safety and call 999. Do not confront or pursue.
☐	☐	Confirm what is actually missing and the last reliable time it was known to be present; avoid moving or tidying the area unnecessarily.
☐	☐	Preserve CCTV/video in its original format and note any clock discrepancy. Do not crop, enhance or overwrite the original recording.
☐	☐	If a tracker is fitted, preserve the location information and provide it to police. Do not travel to a tracker location to confront anyone.
☐	☐	Provide police with microchip/passport details for a missing horse and VIN/chassis/serial/registration details for vehicles, trailers and tack where available.
☐	☐	Take photographs of forced gates, cut chains, disturbed locks, tyre marks or other damage before repairs if it is safe to do so.
☐	☐	Notify the insurer and relevant registration/marketing provider as appropriate after the police report; retain crime/reference numbers and call logs.
☐	☐	If a horse passport itself is lost or stolen, contact the Passport Issuing Organisation for the correct replacement/update process.

INCIDENT / RECOVERY NOTES

Date / time discovered		Last known secure / present	
Police crime / log reference		Officer / contact (if provided)	
Insurer / claim reference		Tracker / marking provider reference	

Time	Action / information received	Who contacted / source

Guidance basis

Built with reference to current Police.uk / English rural-crime prevention advice and GOV.UK horse passport and microchip requirements. Checked September 2026.

Action Register

Equine Yard Security & Recovery Pack

SECURITY INFORMATION: store completed copies securely and restrict access to people who need it.

Ref	Action required	Owner	Due	Closed
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

Use the Action column in the checklist for anything that needs correction, then record the detail here.