



Rural Community Security & Access Map Pack

A practical planning tool for villages, farm clusters, estates, community buildings and isolated rural properties.
COMMUNITY USE

Purpose: map the routes, access points and community assets that matter in a rural incident - without creating a public list of private security weaknesses.

Why this is different

Rural security is shaped by distance and access. A narrow lane, an unmarked farm track, a ford that floods, a field gate beside a main road or a public footpath through working land can matter more than the front door of any one building.

What to map

- Primary and secondary road approaches, dead ends, passing places and turning points.
- Farm tracks, field entrances, shared drives, estate roads and legitimate contractor access.
- Public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and other public access routes.
- Fords, weak bridges, narrow lanes, weight/height restrictions and routes that become difficult in winter or flooding.
- Village halls, community buildings, farms, workshops and other locations that may act as useful landmarks - use general labels, not occupants' names.
- AED/defibrillator locations, agreed emergency meeting points and places where an ambulance, fire appliance or recovery vehicle can turn.
- Known poor mobile-signal areas and locations where power or broadband loss can isolate part of the community.
- Recurring fly-tipping, poaching/hare-coursing access, machinery-theft or suspicious-vehicle locations - mark a general zone, not a person or allegation.

Keep the map useful - and safe

Do not record alarm PINs, key-safe codes, gate combinations, CCTV blind spots, exact key locations, private medical information or names of vulnerable residents. Keep completed maps within the trusted group that needs them; do not publish them on social media or an open website.

- Use a simple reference such as G1, T2 or R3 for gates, tracks and routes. Put detailed remedial actions on the separate audit sheet.
- Observe and report. Do not organise confrontations, vehicle pursuits or unofficial roadblocks.
- If a crime is in progress or there is immediate danger, call 999. Use 101 or your police force's online reporting service for non-emergencies.

Public rights of way - important

Do not padlock, block, divert or add a new structure to a public right of way simply for security. In England, landowners and occupiers must keep public rights of way unobstructed, and permission from the local highway authority is required before installing a new structure on one.



Community Access & Asset Map

Draw the area people actually use: roads, lanes, tracks, gates, paths and useful emergency landmarks.

WORKSHEET 1

Area / village		Date	
Prepared by role		Review date	

Suggested map key

R Road / lane	T Farm / estate track	G Gate / entrance	P Public right of way	C Community building
A AED / defibrillator	M Emergency meeting point	F Flood / difficult access	N Poor mobile signal	H Recurring incident zone

Sketch map

Map notes / changes since last review

Privacy rule: use property or route references, not residents' names. Do not mark exact alarm, key, camera or code information on this sheet.



Rural Access Route Audit

Record the access points that matter, why they exist and what needs attention.

WORKSHEET 2

Think like an emergency responder and a legitimate visitor as well as a security assessor. A control that prevents theft but delays an ambulance, blocks a public right of way or traps farm traffic is not a good control.

Ref	Route / access point	Type & legitimate use	Issue observed	Practical action	Priority / by when

Rural access prompts

- Can emergency vehicles find the correct entrance at night, and can they turn around without reversing a long distance?
- Does a gate control vehicle access without obstructing a lawful public right of way?
- Is a field entrance directly accessible from a fast road, lay-by or known night-time parking place?
- Does a farm or estate track create an unseen route between properties, yards or machinery stores?
- Can seasonal vegetation hide a gate, camera view, sign or approaching vehicle?
- Do flooding, snow, mud, harvest traffic or livestock movements change which routes are actually usable?
- Are there repeat fly-tipping, hare-coursing, poaching or suspicious-vehicle locations that should be reported and monitored rather than confronted?
- Is mobile coverage poor at the exact place an incident is most likely to be noticed?



Community Action & Reporting Plan

Turn the map into proportionate action without creating informal patrols or a public vulnerability list.

WORKSHEET 3

Agree the basics

- ☐ Who keeps the current master copy of the map and who needs access to it?
- ☐ Which local Farm Watch, Rural Watch, Neighbourhood Watch or police rural-crime channels are actually active?
- ☐ Which routes should be checked after storms, flooding, hedge cutting, roadworks or a change of land use?
- ☐ Which community locations can be used as safe landmarks or meeting points during an emergency?
- ☐ Who reports damaged gates, dumped waste, blocked rights of way, failed lighting or damaged signs to the correct owner or authority?
- ☐ When an unusual vehicle or activity is seen, does everyone know to record useful facts and report promptly rather than challenge the people involved?

Rural reporting quick guide

Situation	Route	Useful information
Crime in progress / immediate danger	999	Location, direction of travel, vehicle description/registration if safely seen, people involved and what is happening.
Non-emergency suspicious activity / rural crime intelligence	101 or local police online reporting	Time, exact/general location, route used, vehicle/person description and any repeat pattern.
Small-scale fly-tipping	Local council	Location, waste type/amount, date/time noticed and safe photographs if available.
Large-scale / serious environmental dumping	Environment Agency incident hotline - 0800 80 70 60	Location, scale, hazardous material concerns and any vehicle information safely observed.
Public right of way obstruction / structure issue	Local highway authority / rights-of-way team	Route/location, nature of obstruction, date noticed and photograph if safe.

Review record

Review date	
Reason	
Reviewed by role	
Main change / action	

Guidance basis

Built around current English police rural-crime advice on community intelligence and suspicious vehicle reporting, GOV.UK public-rights-of-way responsibilities, Countryside Code land-manager guidance, and GOV.UK fly-tipping reporting routes. This is a planning aid, not legal advice or an instruction to patrol or confront people.

Action Register

Community Security & Access Map 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.