

# Crime Prevention Advice for Agricultural GPS Systems

Theft of GPS systems, used by farmers on their vehicles and implements, is on the increase nationally, especially those used on tractors.

As well as the loss of this important piece of equipment, offenders can also cause damage to the tractor when removing it.

Forces around the country and abroad are working together, with key agencies, to identify the offenders and tackle this emerging crime.

If you have this kind of equipment on your tractor, combine harvester or other machinery please consider the following:

- Remove all GPS guidance receivers, aerials or antenna globes when not in use and keep them locked away in a secure place.
- Consider fitting security tethers or brackets to stop units being removed.
- Property mark your equipment visibly with your postcode or property name making it unique and identifiable. Marking in a prominent, permanent way will assist as a deterrent.
- Covert marking by either using a forensic solution such as Smartwater, Selecta DNA or other products assists with identifying stolen goods and returning them to the rightful owner. Stickers stating the equipment is marked also assists as a deterrent. UV pens can also be used but will fade after a few weeks so should be checked and applied regularly (these are available from the Police). *It is advisable to check with the manufacturer or supplier that the methods you choose to identify/mark the units with will not affect the system.*
- Put signs up stating property is marked.
- Store machinery inside locked outbuildings if possible. Consider fitting alarms and/or beam alarms around the perimeter of areas where machines are stored. Solar or battery operated systems can be used for areas with no power.
- Consider fitting a tracker or other monitoring device. *Check with the manufacturer or supplier that this will not affect the system and whether it is possible to put inside or on the external casing. Some suppliers will do this for you.*
- Install CCTV and intruder alarms covering all key areas where vehicles and key areas of equipment are kept. Check the footage from the cameras regularly and ensure you know how to download footage in case it is ever needed.
- Keep a record of all the equipment's serial numbers, product details, where and how it is marked. Take photographs for reference to help police identify stolen items and increase the chances of them being recovered.
- Let employees know the security arrangements that are expected of them whilst working on the farm.
- Encourage everyone working or living on the farm to be vigilant at all times and report any suspicious activity, persons or vehicles to the police on 101, online at [www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk) or call 999 in an emergency. This includes when working in the fields.
- If you have a system with a security pin set up ensure this is done. If unsure contact your dealer. .
- Join Warwickshire Rural Watch to receive alerts on incidents, news and crime prevention advice at [www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk) and put up Rural Watch gate signs on your farm.

