

Advice to horse owners following reports of suspicious activity



Following reports of horses manes being plaited and horses being marked whilst they out at grass, Police are advising horse owners to be vigilant and report anything suspicious.

Rumours are circulating in both the press and on internet forums that this could be in preparation for their theft.

There is clearly a great deal of speculation around the matter, and it remains unclear whether these reports are as a result of criminal activity and trespassing or whether the horses in question have rubbed their manes, if the wind has caused the plait like tangles or if children have been involved.

PC [Claire Salmon](#), Wildlife and Countryside Liaison Officer said:

"The cause of the plaits or tangles remains speculative and I am unable to confirm or discredit these reports, however I would advise the following to all horse owners in the county ...

For peace of mind and if feasible, consider moving the animal to another location.

Review your security - Check for weaknesses in the boundaries where someone could access your field/stables. Reverse or cap hinges on your gates and lock and secure your gates with a suitable chain and padlock.

Block off and secure any disused gateways. Do you have security lighting - there are solar powered PIR security lights on the market if you haven't got electricity at your stables and consider fitting a sensor system to alert you of unwanted visitors to your yard/fields?

If your horse isn't already freeze-branded and/or micro-chipped for identification purposes, consider getting this done. Your local Police Officers or Horsewatch members may be able to give you some crime prevention advice.

Consider joining your local Horsewatch or Police Community Messaging to find out what is going on in your area, as they report crimes and incidents; you can also find out about crime prevention events.

If you do see anything suspicious, please call us on 03000 111 222 or call Crimestoppers anonymously 0800 555 111"

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