

# Cambridgeshire Constabulary

[Counting the Crimes 2](#) (CTC2) was written by Action Against Foxhunting in Autumn 2021.

CTC2 is a follow up to our first report [Counting the Crimes: Police Response to Hunt-Related Calls](#).

CTC2 consists of the main body of the report and reports on 34 English police forces.

The report for Cambridgeshire Constabulary is set out below.

All the reports on other forces can be found [here](#)

The report is based on a large amount of [research](#). Some of the research is included in the report, and the rest is available on request. To the best of our knowledge, everything is correct.

[The conviction of Mark Hankinson](#) occurred as we were writing this report. We know that the public will be looking to the police to take action against those who hunt foxes illegally and we hope that this report will be of use as it includes practical advice. The report is intended to be helpful and honest, rather than critical.

For the Facebook links, we are aware that posts on social media are not always completely accurate. We have tried to verify the contents, and have contacted many of the posters for further information. Some have replied, and some have not. We are always interested in hearing different views of the same incidents, and if police are able to provide further insight, we would be happy to include this.

FWG – Frontline Wildlife Guardian. The term includes both saboteurs and monitors.

If any force wishes to discuss the report, please contact us [info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org](mailto:info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org). We are happy to meet on line.



**How did the force respond to CTC?**

- One email
- Exchange of emails
- Meeting
- ✓ No response at all

**For the forces who did not respond, how do you rate the response?  
(suggest no stars)**

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1	2	3	4	5
✓	-	-	-	-

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**Why have you given this response?**

See below. The force's reputation amongst the FWGs is reasonable.

**Has this force taken any actual steps to improve their relationship with FWGs?**

- Yes
- ✓ No

**Does this force have an aide memoire or any guide to policing illegal hunting?**

- Yes
- ✓ No

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**How well trained are the police in this force?**

1	2	3	4	5
✓	-	-	-	-

**Why have you given this response?**

2 officers out of 1654 are trained in wildlife crime. The WCOs are largely well respected but this is nowhere near enough given the number of fox and hare hunts that operate in the area.

**How do you rate this force's behaviour in the field with regard to illegal foxhunting and incidents involving FWGs?**

- Always appear biased
- Usually appear biased
- Sometimes appear biased
- ✓ Rarely appear biased
- Never appear biased

**Why have you given this response?**

Can only go on the observations of a local FWG plus an AAF member who attended a hunt protest with police present.

**Looking at the response to our FOI asking about police systems and organisation with regard to foxhunting, how do you rate their ability to take action on illegal foxhunting?**

1	2	3	4	5
-	✓	-	-	-

Sabs believe that the Rural Crime Team are "pretty decent". However, the force has not committed many resources to the issue.

The lack of an Aide Memoir for non WCO officers will prevent officers who attend a call to illegal hunting from gathering evidence. They are unlikely to know what to look for.

**Do you think the force focuses too heavily on public order as opposed to dealing with illegal foxhunting?**

- Yes
- ✓ No

**Why have you given this response?**

This is not something that the FWGs have complained about.

**Overall, how do you rate this force?**

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	✓	-	-

**Any other comments?**

The FWGs think the force is pretty decent, but the force doesn't appear to want to improve in any way. There is plenty of room to improve in all forces.

The force's public website (which mentions illegal fox hunting in more detail) includes this statement "Fox hunting is a common form of illegal hunting and we are responsible for investigating any alleged cases" - so they do at

least acknowledge that illegal fox hunting is widespread. This is an improvement on nearly all the other forces' websites. However, the force did not engage with AAF.

Nb: there is more hare hunting than fox hunting in Cambridgeshire.

Regardless of the outcome of any court cases relating to the Hunting Office webinars which were exposed November 2020, what was stated in the recordings cannot be unsaid. The Hunting Office made it clear trail hunting IS fox hunting and there was much talk about ways to create a "smokescreen" to cover up illegal hunting. Disrespectful comments were made about the police. The Hunting Office represents all registered hunts in England and Wales therefore the discussions were relevant to all police forces.

### **In the opinion of AAF, how can this police force improve?**

It was a shame that Cambridgeshire Constabulary did not engage with AAF in any way whatsoever. There is potential here; most organisations (not just police) look to improve and the opportunity to engage with AAF was missed. Other forces were very keen to engage.

Cambridge officers would benefit from a much greater understanding of the issues surrounding illegal hunting and the motivations of FWGs. We have created three helpful documents:

[Practical Advice for All Officers](#) – this includes training advice

[A Field Guide for Officers](#) – to use if they are called to a hunt

[A Study - Why sabs and monitors are not protesters.](#) – an insight FWG organisations.

### **[Hit Reports And Media Reports Mentioning Cambridge Police And Hunting](#)**

<https://www.facebook.com/peterboroughhuntsabs/posts/1879738315514866>

19/12/20. Police attended as Fitzwilliam hunt appear to be going out to hunt. They allegedly were breaking Covid and Avian Flu regulations.

<https://www.facebook.com/Southcambshuntsabs/posts/2837948683150636>

24/12/20. The Thurlow out hunting – Police aware.

<https://www.facebook.com/peterboroughhuntsabs/posts/1966553333500030>

March 2021. Artificial earth in Cambridgeshire (allegedly built by the Fitzwilliam hunt). Presume reported to the police.