

Cleveland Police

[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 Cleveland Police 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. We are happy to meet on line.



How did the force respond to CTC? You can select multiple options.

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Other

What steps have they taken?

We are not aware of any FWGs in this county.

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

- ✓ No

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?

Not known

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
✓	-	-	-	-

Why have you given this rating?

Only 2 WCOs (working alongside other duties). Not known how much training they have. There is no aide memoir and police are not willing to engage with us. As there are very few or no FWGs in this area it would be entirely down to the police to spot any illegal hunting (except possibly an MOP reporting) so a knowledgeable police force is much needed. On the plus side their website does specifically mention illegal fox hunting in some detail - more than many forces.

The Cleveland Hunt operates in the county.

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

✓ Unknown

Why have you given this response?

Unknown. Can find no FWGs operating in that area

Overall, how do you rate this force?

Take into account willingness to engage with AAF, willingness to engage with FWGs, actions in the field etc.

1	2	3	4	5
✓	-	-	-	-

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

After the webinar conviction (see above), 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. The Cleveland Hunt is mostly unsabbed and unmonitored. This is an opportunity for the police to find out if the hunt is acting “within the law”. Cleveland Police should show an interest in the hunt’s activities. Hunts arrange sporting visits where other hunts come across county borders. There is a large number of nearby hunts. If the Cleveland Hunt receives no attention from police or anti-hunt groups, sporting visits are attractive to other hunts as they can operate in private and kill wildlife as they please. A knowledgeable police force is much needed.

There are only 2 WCOs (working alongside other duties). We have no information about their training.

On the plus side their website does specifically mention illegal fox hunting in some detail - more than many forces.

All 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.