

## Kent 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 Kent 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](mailto: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

**For email response - was the response detailed?**

- Yes
- No

**How useful was the response?**

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	✓	-	-

**Why have you given this rating?**

Reasonably detailed. However, no specific suggestion of hoped-for improvement.

**Were there follow up emails and did the force reply?**

- Yes
- No

**How willing was this force to take on board what we said?**

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1	2	3	4	5
-	✓	-	-	-

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**Why have you given this response?**

The force appears satisfied with its response to hunting incidents. The FWGs think that Kent Police are unwilling to challenge the hunts - maybe because they "don't have the spine".

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

- Yes
- No
- ✓ The force meets with Martin Sims. They don't seem to meet with anybody else.

**What steps have they taken?**

The force would "welcome further local engagement". AAF is always willing to talk.

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

- Yes
- ✓ No

**Why have you given this response?**

They use the NPCC guidance.

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

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	-	✓	-

**Why have you given this response?**

All 15 officers in the Rural Task Force are WCO trained. But this is a very large force (3874 officers) so the proportion of trained officers is smaller than others.

**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?**

Generally receive relatively positive comments when their attendance is mentioned on hit reports

**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?**

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1	2	3	4	5
-	-	✓	-	-

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**Why have you given this rating?**

The Rural Task force investigates fox hunting offences. As they are all trained, this should mean that it is done properly. Training and communication with LACS is ongoing, reasonable relationship with FWGS - keen to improve this too

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

- Yes
- No
- ✓ Not particularly.

**Why have you given this response?**

Based on FWG feedback, doesn't appear to be a major issue, they compare favourably with (for example) Sussex

**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.**

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1	2	3	4	5
-	-	✓	-	-

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### **Any other comments?**

There is room for improvement (greater engagement with FWGs) but this is recognised. We need to find out if we can help.

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

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.

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. Kent Police should take this into account when policing hunts.

## **Hit and Media Reports mentioning Kent Police**

<https://www.facebook.com/westkenthuntsabs/posts/1200466023665594>  
5/9/20 ESRM hunt waste Kent police's time.

<https://www.facebook.com/westkenthuntsabs/posts/1243657422679787>

24/10/20. Police question FWGs near kennels ERSM/Ashford Valley kennels in Kent (hunt wasted police time). Kent police appear to deal with the FWGs fairly compared to Sussex police.

<https://www.facebook.com/westkenthuntsabs/posts/1249923095386553>

31/10/20. East Kent with West Street hunt. Police took details of hunt's aggressive behaviour and spoke to land owner at Knowlton Court.

<https://www.facebook.com/westkenthuntsabs/posts/1285466878498841>

<https://www.facebook.com/westkenthuntsabs/posts/1286433708402158>

12/12/20. ESRM kill. Kent police sent video footage. Disappointment in that police came out but disappeared when they realised it was a hunt gathering rather than coursers. See below:

<https://www.facebook.com/east.sabs/posts/3929869413700809>

Why did the police when finding out that this was a fox hunt- instead of a coursing event, just f\*\*k off?? We think they haven't got the spine to confront the huge land owners who host the hunts, as it may adversely affect their careers??

A big thank you to all the sabs involved, who volunteer their time