



Action Against Foxhunting
5 Brayford Square
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Dear Landowner

Allowing the hunts to use your land

On 4th December 2023, a hunt illegally killed a fox on private land and the crime was captured on video by a drone. The footage was shown on Channel 4 News on 25th January, and the hunt involved (the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt) was suspended by the British Hound Sports Association. Clearly, the hunt broke the law – but the landowner is also vulnerable to prosecution.

You, a landowner who allows the hunt to use your land, might want to decide whether prosecution is a risk worth taking. The recent exposure provides you with the perfect opportunity to opt out of any involvement with the hunt.

Most hunts are now being monitored by the police, members of the public and anti-hunt groups. Anti-hunt groups now have drones, meaning they can take footage of illegal hunting without trespassing on private land.

Hunting wild mammals with hounds was made illegal in 2004, and that position has not changed since. Landowners, who allow hunts to use their land, are also involved.

Section 3 (i) of the Hunting Act 2004 states this:

“A person commits an offence if he knowingly permits land which belongs to him to be entered or used in the course of the commission of an offence under Section 1”

Section 1 of the Hunting Act states:

“A person commits an offence if he hunts a wild mammal with a dog”

This means that if a hunt is caught breaking the law on your land, and you have given them permission to be there, you may also be prosecuted.

Hunts still claim to be “trail hunting”. However, police have now acknowledged that illegal hunting is “prolific”. On 25th Jan, Chief Superintendent Matt Longman said this: trail hunting is “without doubt...being used as a smokescreen to allow [the hunts] to continue hunting as they said they would twenty years ago”.

For more information about this, and how we know hunts are hunting live quarry, please scan the code above. If you need help and advice about how to keep the hunt from trespassing on your land, please email us.

We therefore urge you as a landowner to stop hunts from using your land. For years the hunts have routinely broken the law (they still do) and some landowners have been complicit in this. Please take the step and ban the hunt from using your land to commit wildlife crime.

Best regards,

Pip Donovan

Action Against Foxhunting

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