



Monthly Police Reports

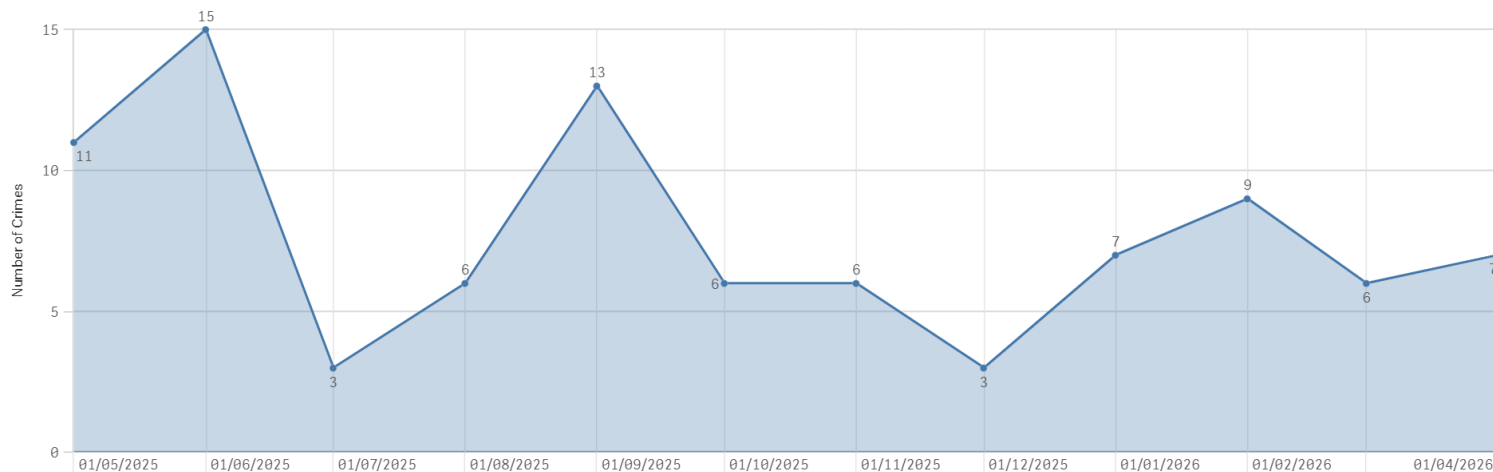
Coleford



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Crime Statistics

No. Crimes Trend



CARING



COURAGEOUS



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Report Suspicious Activity



Report Suspicious Activity

William Mortimer

Rural crime continues to have a significant impact on farming and countryside communities. Offences such as poaching, hare coursing, and the theft of farm equipment or livestock cause disruption, financial loss, and real emotional strain. A key challenge is that many incidents go unreported, often because suspicious behaviour is assumed to be legitimate rural work. People walking across fields with dogs may appear to be exercising them, when in some cases this behaviour is linked to illegal hunting or poaching.

Every report helps build a clearer picture of what is happening across rural areas. Even if something turns out to be harmless, the information may be vital in spotting patterns, directing patrols, or supporting future policing operations. Reporting plays a direct role in tackling hare coursing and deer poaching, theft of machinery, tools, diesel, and livestock, damage to crops, fences, and gates, and suspicious vehicles or unknown individuals on farmland.

Please report anything that seems unusual, including vehicles driving slowly or parked in remote locations, people stopping to watch fields, livestock, or farm buildings, dogs being used to chase wildlife, or unfamiliar individuals entering fields or woodland without a clear purpose. If you are unsure whether something is suspicious, report it anyway—it is far better to check than to miss vital information.

Call **999** if a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger. Use **101** for non-emergency reports and ongoing suspicious activity, or report online via [avonandsomerset.police.uk](https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk). Your local Neighbourhood Policing Team can also offer non-urgent advice on rural crime.

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Protecting wildlife from catapult attacks

Will Mortimer

League Against Cruel Sports has joined forces with police and wildlife groups in a coordinated response to a troubling rise in catapult attacks on birds and animals. Known as Operation Lakeshot, the initiative addresses the growing number of swans, geese, ducks, pigeons and gulls being killed or seriously injured with high-powered catapults.

Research suggests most offences are carried out by small groups of children or teenagers, often on foot or bicycles, typically in urban parks, ponds and waterways. In some cases, older youths have targeted wildlife from vehicles. Investigators have also uncovered evidence of a disturbing social media trend, with teenagers filming attacks and sharing them online.

The victims are wide-ranging. Waterfowl near lakes and rivers are frequent targets, alongside magpies, squirrels and even pet cats. Members of the public out for a walk are often the ones who discover injured birds with catastrophic wounds. There have also been incidents of offenders turning catapults on bystanders who intervene, as well as damage caused to cars and buildings when shots miss their mark.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is illegal to kill or injure wild birds or damage their nests. Conviction can result in up to six months' imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine.

If you witness an incident, call 999 if it is happening now, or 101 to report information. You can also share intelligence with Animal Crimewatch via the League's website, WhatsApp, phone or email.

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Fly-Tipping How to Report, Who Responds

William Mortimer

Flytipping is the illegal dumping of waste, and in most cases local councils lead the response. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, councils investigate incidents, clear waste, and pursue offenders. Avon & Somerset Police support when there is danger, organised criminality, repeat offending, or threats to the public or officers.

Most flytipping should be reported directly to your district or unitary council using their online portal or phone line. This is the default route for investigation and clearance. If an incident is happening in real time, involves confrontation, or poses a risk, call 999. Non-urgent intelligence about persistent offenders can be reported via 101 or to the local neighbourhood policing team.

Good evidence makes a real difference. The most useful includes CCTV showing the offence and vehicle registration, clear photographs of the waste or offenders, and witness statements with dates, times, and descriptions. Any paperwork found in the waste should be left undisturbed for council officers.

Councils handle most prosecutions, using fixed penalties or court action, with police support for serious or organised cases. Locally, the most effective measures include CCTV in hotspots, clear signage, prompt reporting, and checking that any trader removing waste has a valid waste-carrier licence.

Contacts:

Report flytipping: your local council (online or by phone)

Emergency or crime in progress: 999

Non-urgent police intelligence: 101 or your neighbourhood team

PARISHES



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Report Suspicious Activity



PROTECT WILD BIRDS

CATAPULTING WILDLIFE IS A CRIME





RECOGNISE / RECORD / REPORT

RECOGNISE: If you see someone with a catapult targeting wildlife it's a crime - Report it.

RECORD: If you have the opportunity to use a mobile phone without putting yourself in danger - Record It.

REPORT: If crime in action call 999 otherwise 101 and report to Animal Crimewatch.



HARE COURSING IS ILLEGAL



HELP STOP IT

Police officers in this area are committed to prosecuting anyone involved in hare coursing.

IF SEEN CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE	 101	IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999
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Community Speed Watch



**COMMUNITY
SPEEDWATCH
SCHEME**

**HELP REDUCE DEATH
AND INJURY ON OUR ROADS**



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**COMMUNITY
SPEEDWATCH**

Please follow the link below, which will take you to the CSW web page where you can find out how to join and lots more.
<https://communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Register.php>

Proactive Work



Unfortunately, poaching and Fly Tipping, remains prevalent in your parish and others, and I am very keen to help prevent it. I have continued my presence in the area, as often as possible and would ask the local community to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity



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I visited Bishop Henderson School where I used our “parking Buddies”



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Additional Information



- In previous crime figures, there is a segment titled ‘Violence Against a Person’. I have been informed that this may have caused some concern and confusion for a few of our Parish councils.
- **Violence Against a Person** is a broad classification encompassing various incidents. These can range from physical altercations, such as one person striking another, to verbal disputes where someone shouts, causing another person to feel unsafe. It also includes situations where body language suggests intent to harm, as well as instances where an individual perceives a potential threat—perhaps due to a mental health episode.
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