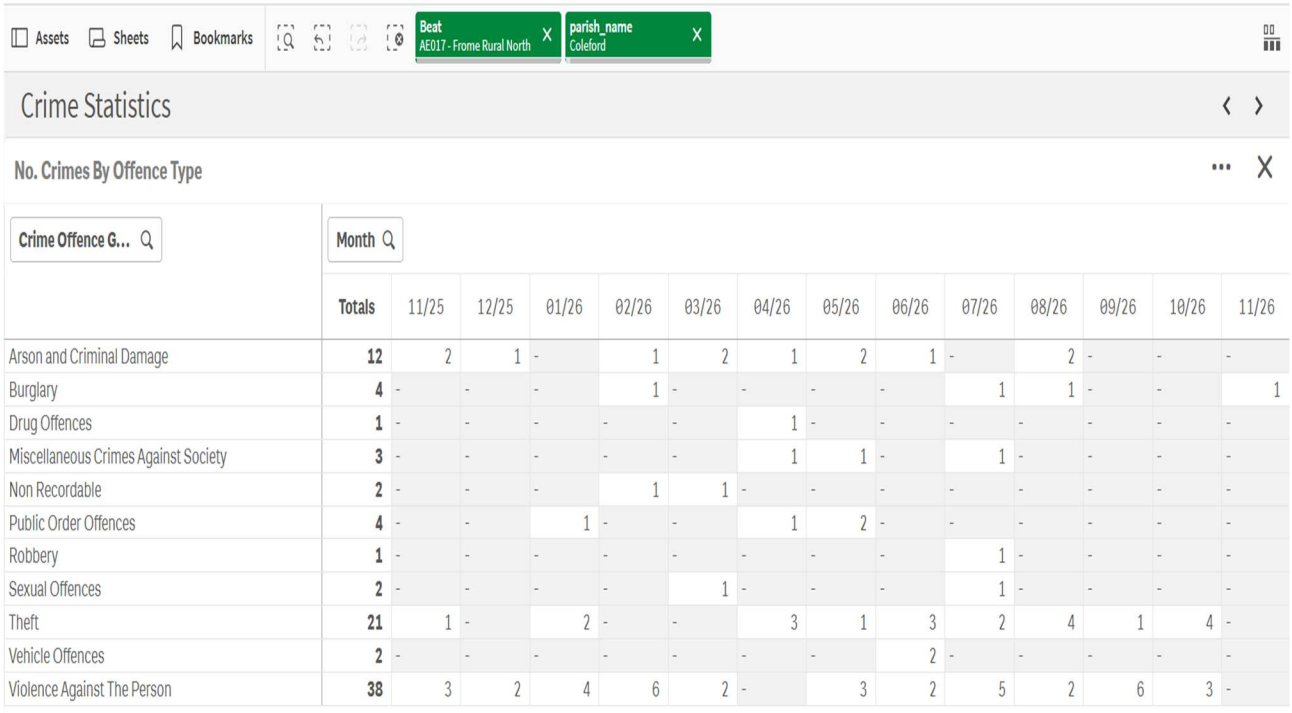
Hello,
This month's crime figures are attached, along with several additional documents which I hope you may find useful.
Unfortunately, rural crime continues to have a significant impact on our farming communities. Not all offences are committed by local individuals, as criminals often travel considerable distances to take advantage of our abundant wildlife, including hares, deer, badgers and pheasants. These offenders are not only responsible for the unnecessary killing of wildlife but are also involved in thefts from farms and rural properties, targeting equipment, machinery and other valuable items.
I would like to ask for your support in encouraging residents to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity. This may include unfamiliar individuals loitering in villages, suspicious vehicles, particularly those that appear unroadworthy, or bright lights being shone into fields and hedgerows during the hours of darkness. Such lights are frequently used by offenders to locate and pursue wildlife.
It is important to understand that poaching is far more than a minor inconvenience for landowners and farmers. It is often just the visible part of a much wider problem. Offenders routinely cause extensive damage to crops, gates, fences and hedgerows, resulting in significant financial costs.
Equally concerning is the needless and cruel suffering inflicted on animals that form an important part of our countryside and natural heritage. These animals belong to all of us in the sense that they are a valued part of our rural environment and deserve to be treated with respect, not subjected to unnecessary cruelty for sport or recreation.
Thank you for your continued support. By working together and reporting suspicious activity promptly, we can help protect our communities, support our farmers and safeguard the wildlife that makes our countryside so special.


Assets Sheets Bookmarks

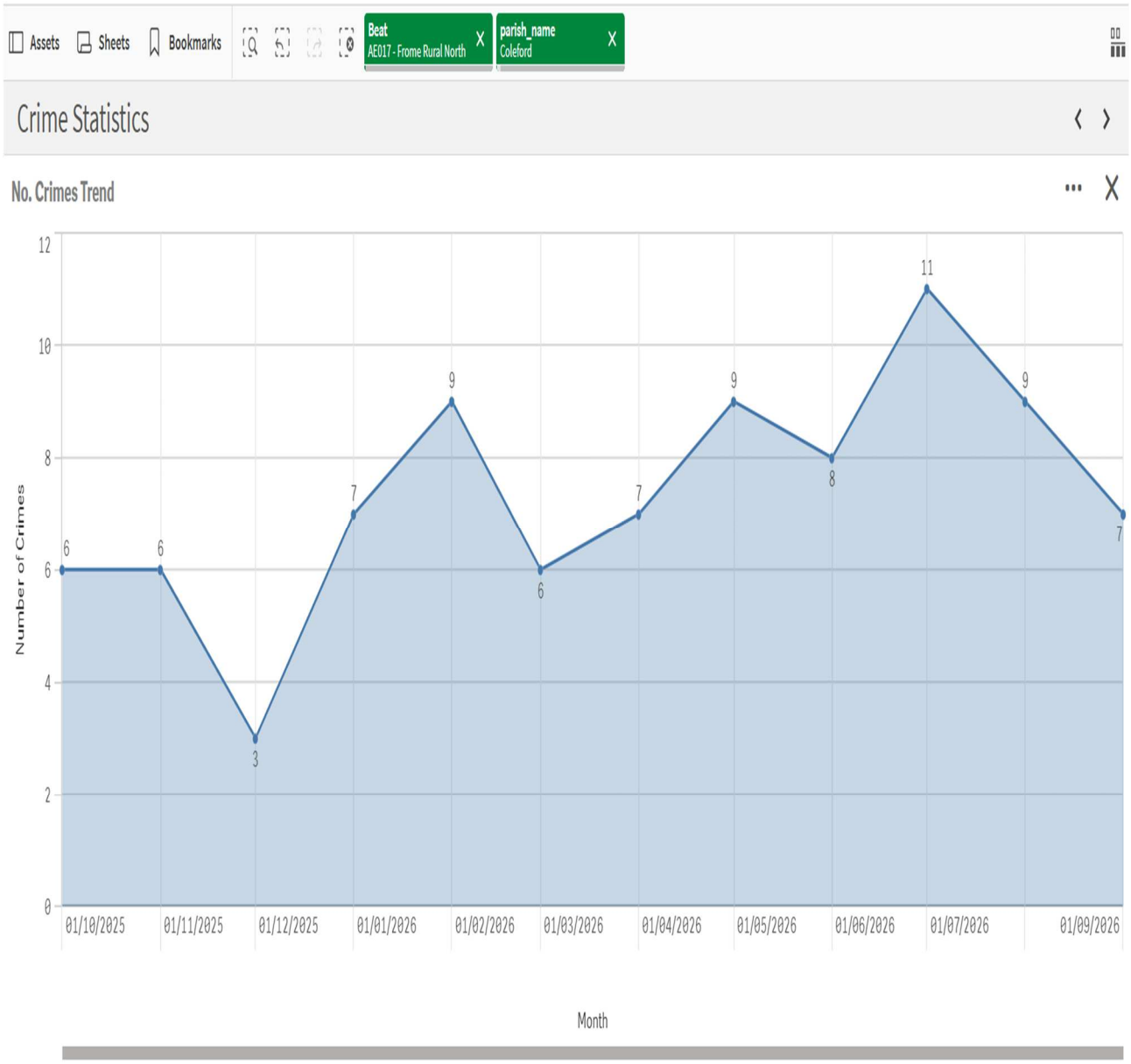
Beat AE017 - Frome Rural North X

parish_name Coleford X

Crime Statistics

No. Crimes By Offence Type

| Crime Offence G... | Totals | 11/25 | 12/25 | 01/26 | 02/26 | 03/26 | 04/26 | 05/26 | 06/26 | 07/26 | 08/26 | 09/26 | 10/26 | 11/26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arson and Criminal Damage | 12 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Burglary | 4 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Drug Offences | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Non Recordable | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Public Order Offences | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Robbery | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Sexual Offences | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Theft | 21 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 4 | - |
| Vehicle Offences | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Violence Against The Person | 38 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | - |


Assets
Sheets
Bookmarks
Beat
AE017 - Frome Rural North
parish_name
Coleford
Crime Statistics
No. Crimes Trend
Number of Crimes
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
6
6
3
7
9
6
7
9
8
11
9
7
01/10/2025
01/11/2025
01/12/2025
01/01/2026
01/02/2026
01/03/2026
01/04/2026
01/05/2026
01/06/2026
01/07/2026
01/09/2026
Month

## 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.
-

CARING

COURAGEOUS

INCLUSIVE

LEARNING



Meeting members of the National Farmers Union and local farmers where we discussed a number of issues including Hare/deer coursing , catapults being used to kill pheasants and the theft of equipment .




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

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME

HELP REDUCE DEATH AND INJURY ON OUR ROADS

## 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.
-

CARING

COURAGEOUS

INCLUSIVE

LEARNING

## Report Suspicious Activity




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**. Your local Neighbourhood Policing Team can also offer non-urgent advice on rural crime.




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.




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

CARING

COURAGEOUS

INCLUSIVE

LEARNING