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## [Operation Galileo 2018 - 2019](#)



**Operation Galileo is a national police operation in relation to the enforcement and disruption of those criminals who course hares.**

**Humberside Police works alongside many other forces to combat the issue as well as with other partners such as the local authority and local Farm Watch groups who are a vital source of information and our eyes in the countryside.**

**The hare coursing season is now at its seasonal end and we now have a clear picture of this last season's activity across the force as a whole.**

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WHEN IT'S LESS URGENT  
THAN 999



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ALWAYS  
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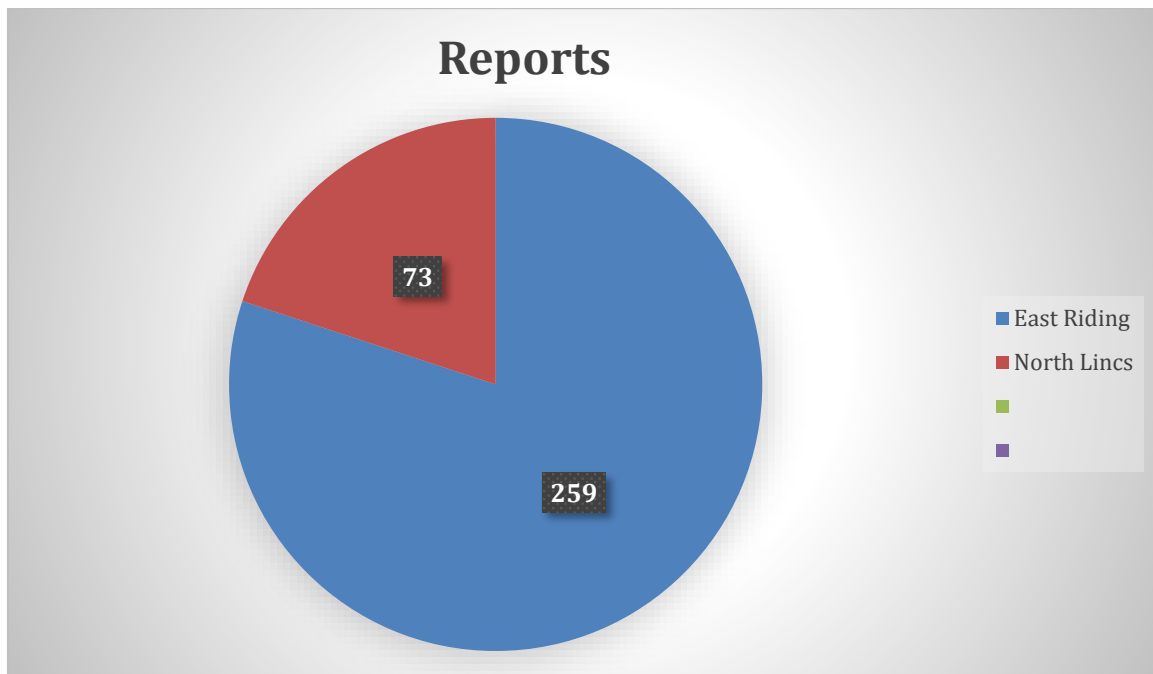
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Between **01 August 2018** and **02 April 2019** there have been a total of **332** reports regarding day time hare coursing, 'possible' hare coursing or sightings of vehicles by members of the public suspected to be involved in this activity.

During the previous season **2017 to 2018** the number was **508** reports from 01 August 2017 to late April 2018.



This is a significant drop of 35% across the Humberside area this past season.

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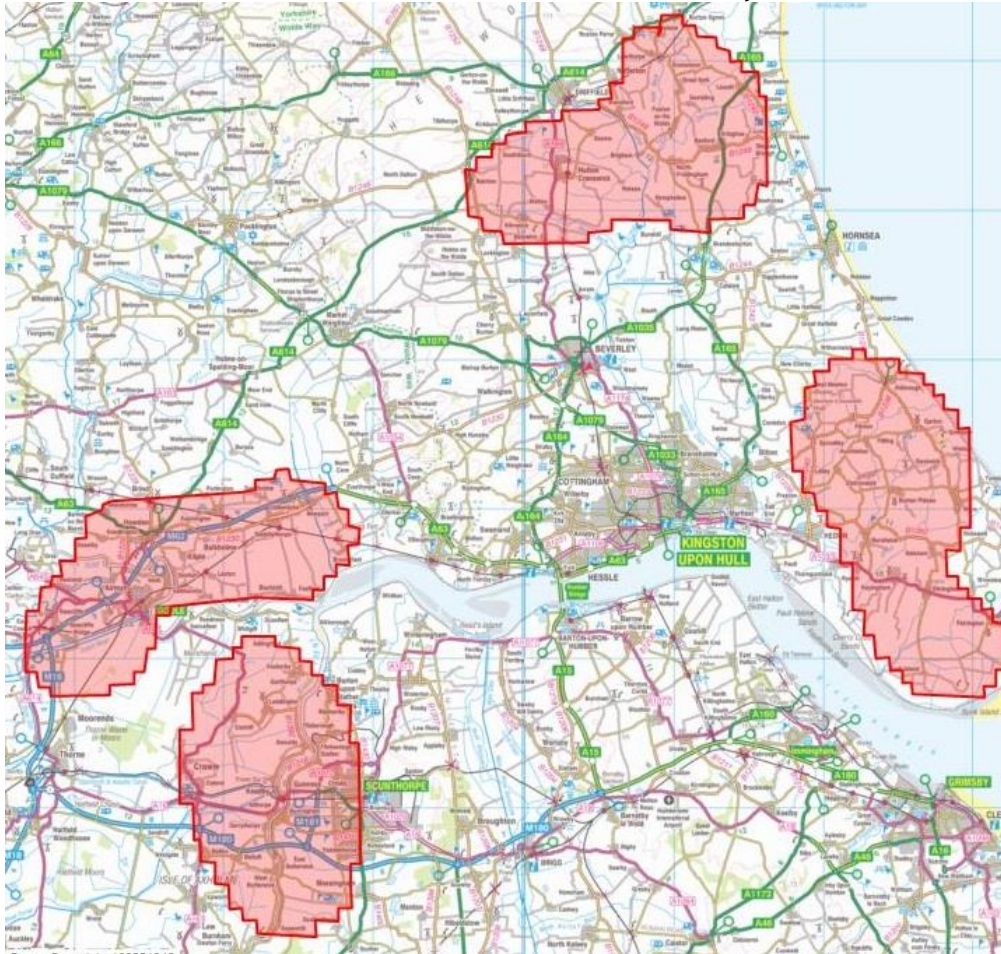


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The below map highlights the favoured areas targeted by hare coursers across the Humberside Police area, both in previous years and this last season. There are of course incidents outside of these areas but these are the areas subject of the most reports.



Once an incident is reported in one area those involved often make their way to one of the other highlighted areas. If they are not stopped in the initial area of the report they are often located travelling too or within another highlighted area.

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As a force we will continue to tackle this issue by,

### Prevention

- Working with other forces and partners to identify best practice.
- Using preventative dispersal powers and other anti-social behaviour legislation.
- Getting the views of those who are affected by the issue and discussing different ideas.
- Using social media to highlight what we're doing and also raising awareness amongst the general public of this crime.

### Intelligence

- Each call we receive helps form a bigger picture, not just for the Humberside area but other forces, as information is shared with them and the National Wildlife Crime Unit.
- Currently we are working closely with Lincolnshire Police with a national project.

Every vehicle registration number linked to hare coursing that is provided to us has a marker added to it flagging it up to other forces as these vehicles move around. This links in to both prevention and enforcement as most coursers travel some distance and many are stopped or have had vehicles seized travelling to or from the Humberside area. We can also intercept them early as they enter our counties and escort them back out.

**In other words each time you provide a vehicle registration number of a vehicle linked to poaching, disruption is caused to the individuals concerned, anywhere they travel in the country.**

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## Enforcement

- We currently have 44 Wildlife & Rural Crime trained officers and staff across the force. Most work in rural areas and during the season have been deployed on Op Galileo on dates identified as those most likely to see increased levels of hare coursers entering the area. This has allowed us to deploy staff at the right time in the right places.
- At least a further 20 staff will undertake the National Wildlife Crime course in May 2019 along with a local CPS prosecutor to raise the number of staff with specialist knowledge of wildlife and rural crime matters across the force to well over 60.
- We have also started to scan dogs and where no chips are found we have notified the Local Authority where the dog's owner resides.
- Community protection notices are now also used and are issued in partnership with East Riding Yorkshire Council as follows,

## Fairway letter, CPN warning, CPN notice, fine or prosecution.

12 people have now been issued with a CPW and 6 people a CPN which last for 12 months.

None are known to have returned since being issued the notice.

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## Reassurance

- Patrols have defaulted to the most affected areas throughout the season on dates other than dedicated days. Officers engaged on these patrols are encouraged to link in with the communities in those areas to encourage the reporting of crime, offer advice on matters other than poaching such as general crime prevention and identifying vulnerability.
- As well as tackling hare coursing, officers engaged on operation Galileo are also on the lookout for other criminality in the isolated rural areas they carry out patrols.

## Summary of results

In all 21 dedicated days of action have been undertaken during the past season.

1,500 officer hours worked across these dedicated days. This does not take into account hours worked by officers defaulting to hot spot areas as part of their normal duties and responding to reports.

35% reduction in reported incidents.

60% of reports have been deployed to by officers. This is a vast improvement on previous years and helped by the re deployment of response officers to rural stations.

153 x suspected hare coursers have been stopped by the police. Some of these have been stopped on more than one occasion. This is at least 90 more than the previous season and causes them significant disruption.

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- 122 x Fairway reports submitted to East Riding Yorkshire Council.
- 58 x Section 35 dispersal notices issued.
- 70 x Dogs scanned
- 9 x Lurcher type dogs seized with 3 being rehomed
- 26 x Persons reported for poaching related offences
- 8 x Persons dealt with for various road traffic offences
- 8 x Section 59 warning notices issued regarding the anti-social use of vehicles
- 1 x Person arrested for criminal damage and poaching offences (not charged)
- 9 x Vehicles recovered under various powers



Seized for no insurance

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**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**  
Call anonymously with information about crime



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## What now?

We intend to keep the pressure up in the coming seasons and are constantly looking at innovative ways of tackling the problem. Criminal Protection Notices and the scanning of dogs' microchips offer some great opportunities to tackle the issue.

There are some landowners who continue to suffer repeated incursions by hare coursers and it is these areas we will continue to concentrate our activity the most.

A number of these landowners have provided us with some very positive feedback and have noticed our determination to tackle this type of crime in their communities and have commented that they have noticed a reduction in incidents.

This update relates only to day time hare coursing and does not include other poaching related offences which are of concern in a number of areas, particularly the issue of illegal lamping activity at night and the associated damage caused by the vehicles used being driven over crops.

**Operation Zodiac** is aimed at this area of wildlife crime and we will be increasing our efforts to tackle this issue using many of the tactics used during Operation Galileo.

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## Thank you

The police can't tackle this or any other problem alone and lots of individuals and agencies continue to have an important input in to Operation Galileo, in particular members of Farm Watch groups and many other concerned members of the community.

**Thank you for your calls. Please keep them coming.**

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Serving our communities to  
make them safer and stronger



My  
Community  
Alert

### What can I do?

- Take measures so as not to become a victim of crime. Visit the Humberside Police website for crime prevention tips and advice.
- Sign up to **My Community Alert** via <https://www.mycommunityalert.co.uk/>
- Be our eyes and ears. Report any suspicious vehicles or persons via 101. If it doesn't look right it probably isn't.
- Contact Farmwatch / Country Watch at earliest opportunity to ensure early warning to members.
- Obtain vehicle registration numbers, descriptions of persons & dogs.
- Contact Humberside Police to report the incident. Request an incident log number to update Farm Watch/ Country Watch.
- Do not approach or try to challenge. Report, observe from a safe distance and try to remain unseen. We will have a better chance of stopping them even if they move to another area.

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