



Hunting: A Case for Change

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A comprehensive analysis of hunting and its impact on wildlife and people

An extensive research project into the observations and findings of hunt saboteur and monitor groups during the 2022/2023 hunting season.

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Executive Summary

Our report titled *Hunting: A Case for Change* offers a thorough examination of hunting practices during the 2022/23 season, focusing predominantly on fox, hare, and deer hunting in England and Wales.

The report utilised a combination of data from anti-hunting groups, public reports, and activist observations to evaluate the prevalence and impact of hunting on wildlife, communities, and individuals. And it examined policing and shortcomings in existing legislation, going on to propose recommendations for a more robust legal framework to properly ban the hunting of mammals with dogs.

Methodology

The methodology involved collating information from various sources, including reports from anti-hunting groups, activist observations, and public records. It analysed hunting activities, incidents of wildlife pursuits, attacks on activists, and broader implications for local communities.

Key Findings

01

The report highlighted widespread hunting of foxes, deer and hares despite the Hunting Act 2004 legislation.

Instances of 'dig outs' during hunting were common, which violated laws protecting badgers.

02

Physical violence towards anti-hunt activists, ranging widely in severity, was common amongst hunts across England and Wales.

03

04

Specific hunts, like the Warwickshire Hunt and Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt, were repeatedly reported as chasing and killing foxes in front of activists.

A significant portion of hunts remained unobserved, potentially leading to higher fox-chasing and killing incidents than reported.

05

06

The very presence of packs of hounds in the countryside is a threat to wildlife even if not actively hunting

The frequency and levels of policing of hunting varied across hunts observed in the 2022/23 season and there isn't a uniform approach to hunting across English and Welsh police forces

07

Key Numbers

- 46% of registered 'trail hunts' were caught chasing or killing foxes in the 2022/23 season
- 88 different deer chased and 21 killed by hunts in the 2022/23 season
- 2000+ meets of hare hunting packs in the 2022/23 season
- 211 instances of hunt violence perpetrated – 198 minor attacks and 13 major attacks
- 599 reported traffic offences, trespasses, road havoc and non-quarry based incidents
- 169 non-quarry incidents, majority of which related to badger sett interference
- 343 police vehicles attended hunting activities in the 2022/23 season
- 1/3 of observed Blackford and Sparkford Vale Hunt days saw a fox chased or killed
- 15,180 estimated hunt meets in the 2022/23 season
- 3478 – 5217 estimated foxes chased or killed by hunts registered to the Master of Foxhounds Association
- 73% of observed hunts were reportedly involved with some sort of harmful behaviour.
- 60 hunts were reported as causing at least one incident of road havoc
- 61 different hunts had at least one report of sett interference made against them

Critical observations and Trends

Despite the legal framework in place, hunting practices continue, exploiting loopholes and gaps in legislation. Acts of violence against activists have been recurrent, creating a hostile environment that inhibits holding hunts accountable.

Hunts often operate without oversight or observation, potentially leading to increased wildlife pursuits and community issues beyond reported figures.

The report highlights the imperative for stricter regulations and enforcement, advocating for a comprehensive 'Hunting of Mammals Bill.' This proposed legislation aims to remove all loopholes and act as a watertight ban on all hunting with hounds. It would involve imposing stricter penalties for violations, implementing enhanced measures to prevent unobserved hunts from flouting the law. Recommendations put forth include a ban on 'trail hunting', making landowners more liable and increasing 'search and seizure' powers, and ensuring hunting groups are held accountable for their actions. The report concludes by urging policymakers to consider these critical insights and put their support behind the Hunting of Mammals Bill as the most effective way to properly ban all hunting with dogs.

Introduction

This report responds to mounting concerns about the efficacy of the Hunting Act 2004 in prohibiting mammal hunting with hounds. Despite this legislation's intent to halt such practices, ongoing reports from anti-hunting groups raise questions about the continuous pursuit and killing of wildlife by UK hunting groups.

Commissioned by Protect the Wild, this report aims to comprehensively evaluate hunting practices during the 2022/23 season. Its primary goal is to examine reported activities of various hunting groups, analyse the frequency of wildlife pursuits and killings, and assess their impact on local communities and wildlife populations.

Reasoning behind the report

From the onset of our involvement in the anti-hunt movement, we have been keenly aware of the widespread prevalence of illegal hunting practices throughout the UK.

Through these years, our focus and advocacy against hunting led us to acknowledge the invaluable efforts of hunt saboteur and hunt monitor groups. These dedicated groups tirelessly combat illegal hunting through diverse methods, often documenting their observations and experiences on the ground.

However, we noticed there was a lack of centralised collation and comprehensive analysis of the data and reports compiled by these groups. Despite the commendable work of these individuals and organisations in documenting first-hand accounts, there was a need to consolidate these scattered reports into a singular, comprehensive overview. To address this gap, we embarked on a six-month-long initiative aimed at consolidating this scattered data into one place.

The primary objective of this endeavour was to create a consolidated report that presents a detailed overview of the prevalent issues surrounding illegal hunting. This report stands as the culmination of our rigorous research efforts, intending to shed light on the impact that hunting has on both wildlife and people and supporting our calls for new legislation to better protect wild animals.

estimated
15,180
hunt meets
in the 2022/23 season

Methodology

This report is based on data collected from publicly available sources. The sources include:

- Reports by hunt saboteur and hunt monitor groups.
- These reports include text descriptions, images, and video footage.
- Reports by members of the public.
- These reports are often published by anti-hunting groups, who have received the information from the public, but are sometimes published direct to social media by members of the public themselves.
- Reports by local and national media.
- Reports made by members of the public direct to Protect the Wild.

These are the only sources of primary data used in this report.

All incidents were collected from the 2022/23 hunting season, including 'cubbing', meaning the period between 1 August 2022 and 30 April 2023. For this report, Protect the Wild did not look at mink and otter hunting, which occurs during the late spring and summer months. The report also does not look at related but 'disorganised' activities such as hare coursing and badger baiting, although it includes terrierwork where it is used as part of a hunt.

When choosing what data to collect, Protect the Wild looked to areas of concern reported by

the aforementioned parties (anti-hunting groups, members of the public) and accounted for the issues that arose repeatedly and regularly. Some of these areas are clearly criminal (illegal hunting, serious violence) whilst others are less clear cut (trespass, worrying of farmed animals). The wider anti-hunting movement has highlighted all of these as areas of concern in the past.

Regardless of their legal status, Protect the Wild accounted for incidents that highlighted the relationship of hunts to wildlife, activists, and the local community.

A general assumption was made that all claims in the primary data were true. This is based on Protect the Wild's previous experiences with reports by anti-hunting activists as well as little reliable evidence by other parties (such as police or pro-hunting sources) to suggest widespread fabrication of events. Furthermore, in many instances, claims were backed up by photographic or video evidence. Where there was no such evidence, Protect the Wild used prior knowledge of hunting and anti-hunting activists to understand what happened.

This prior knowledge was also important in de-jargoning some public reports. For example, a common phrase used by hunt saboteur groups is “foxes seen to safety”. This doesn’t necessarily mean hunting hounds actively pursued a fox and saboteurs or monitors stepped in to prevent the chase. It can mean a fox was seen nearby a hunt but otherwise went undisturbed. As a result, when this phrase was used, Protect the Wild only accounted for incidents where reports specifically stated that hounds pursued a fox, hare or deer.

It is the pursuit and not the killing that is criminal.



It’s also worth mentioning that where a fox, hare or deer is marked as killed, it usually presumes a chase beforehand. If hounds kill their quarry without first pursuing the quarry, this is known as a ‘chop’. However, chops are rare and in fact run counter to the spirit of hunting.

The enjoyment that hunts and their supporters derive is from chasing the quarry and not necessarily the killing. Furthermore, in legal terms, it is the pursuit and not the killing of quarry that is criminal. Therefore, in Protect the Wild’s numbers, when reading

“foxes killed”, it’s best to think of this as foxes chased and then killed.

Another area of ambiguity was hunt attacks. On the one hand, reports may provide details of the type of attack, making it clear how to account for the incident (minor or major).

On the other, a report may simply have stated that a hunt saboteur was “assaulted” or “attacked” without any further details. In those cases, it was assumed that a major attack would have elicited further description. The incident was therefore marked down as a minor attack. In incidents

where groups have described riders with the hunt as using their ‘horse as a weapon’, it was only counted as an attack when the report specifically stated that some sort of physical assault had happened. This is because such phrasing may have described a rider using their horse to cut off or

block an activist. While this may be distressing for the people involved, it fell below the lower limit of what counted as an attack for Protect the Wild’s purposes. On the other hand, reported instances of verbal racism, sexism, ableism, etc were counted as a minor attack due to their clear intent to harm the target.

To further clarify the distinction made between minor and major attacks, the latter was only counted where the former clearly wasn’t sufficient. Most incidents reported by sab and monitor groups involved included pushing, shoving, spitting, failed and successful attempts at stealing equipment, and slashed tyres. These all fell into the minor category. This isn’t to say those incidents didn’t individually have a significant impact on the targeted person, but rather that they represented the lesser end of violence seen at hunts. The major attack category counted incidents including hit-and-runs on people by vehicles, humans trampled over by horses, vehicle windows smashed while people are inside, and tools or weapons used to attack people.

There was also a conscious choice in the wording of incidents related to the hunting of wildlife. Protect the Wild deliberately chose to mark down whether quarry was ‘chased’ or ‘killed’ rather than ‘illegally hunted’. There were two key reasons for this. Firstly, determining the actual legality of a chase is difficult without first-hand evidence, as there are a number of ways a hunt might chase a fox without the legal system finding it a criminal act: hounds might ‘riot’ (or chase without the huntsman’s intention) onto a hare, for example, or a fox might be pursued by just a single hound. Secondly, Protect the Wild is concerned primarily with harm caused to wildlife regardless of whether it is legal or not, and believes that harm is caused regardless of the hunt’s intent.

Given the sometimes ambiguous nature of the primary data, Protect the Wild’s numbers must be considered an account of claims and not of the incidents themselves. However, as previously explained, the organisation believes that these claims reflect what really happened during hunts.

Finally, these figures only looked at reports from England, and Wales. Hunting in Scotland is now subject to much more stringent legislation that effectively outlaws hunting with hounds in a way that the Hunting Act 2004 does not. Meanwhile, hunting in Northern Ireland remains completely legal and requires a special approach that is very different to that of England and Wales. Ultimately, the organisation is primarily interested in enacting an effective piece of legislation that will replace the Hunting Act and, as a result, focused on figures from England and Wales.

Observations and Findings

Research for this report included reading 2133 'hit reports' put out by hunt saboteur and monitor groups on social media. Of those, 1107 reports contained some sort of incident that fit into what Protect the Wild considers areas of concern. This section will elaborate and contextualise those figures.



Impact on wildlife

Foxes

The research reveals that a total of 324 foxes were reportedly chased with a further 42 killed. That means a total of 366 foxes were victims of hunting in front of anti-hunt activists and members of the public. This is by far the greatest figure in terms of the three types of quarry that Protect the Wild looked at, a ratio that is unsurprising considering foxhound packs remain the most common form of hunts across England and Wales.

There were some particularly egregious offenders when it came to foxes:

Warwickshire Hunt: 39 foxes chased, 1 fox killed



Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt: 30 foxes chased, 4 foxes killed



Beaufort Hunt: 12 foxes chased, 2 foxes killed



South Dorset Hunt: 11 foxes chased, 2 foxes killed



Eggesford Hunt: 10 foxes chased, 2 foxes killed



Cheshire Hounds: 9 foxes chased, 3 foxes killed



That means the Warwickshire Hunt alone accounted for 12% of reported fox pursuits and the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt (BSV) for 9.25%. The former was responsible for 2% of foxes reportedly killed and the latter for 9.5%.

There are a number of speculative reasons these two hunts account for such a large proportion of the total:

1. The anti-hunting groups that most frequently visit the Warwickshire Hunt and BSV – West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs for the former, and North Dorset Hunt Saboteurs and Weymouth Animal Rights for the latter – have the skill, wherewithal and numbers out in the field to keep the hunt under incredibly close scrutiny.
2. The two hunts are willing to continue chasing and killing foxes even when activists and members of the public are present.
3. The aforementioned anti-hunting groups were much clearer in their descriptions of the hunt chasing foxes. In many cases, the groups also provided photos or videos showing the incidents.
4. There are particularly high numbers of foxes in their respective hunt countries and/or the hunts use bagged foxes and artificial earths more frequently.

One or all of these factors may have combined to produce the figures mentioned above. A more in-depth breakdown of the Warwickshire Hunt and BSV's figures is found in the Analysis chapter.

In most other cases, the number of times any individual hunt was caught chasing foxes was in the low single digits. However, there are also a large number of hunts that go completely unmonitored or unsabbed. Their behaviour is therefore impossible to know.

78

different hunts were reportedly involved with chasing or killing foxes

What the data does show, though, is that 78 different hunts were reportedly involved with chasing or killing foxes during the 2022/23 season. The Master of Foxhounds Association (MFHA), which oversees the governance of foxhound packs, said it had 170 registered hunts during the 2022/23 season. That means nearly 46% of registered hunts were caught hunting foxes. Those hunts also spanned the length and breadth of England and Wales; from the Western Hunt in Cornwall to the West Percy Hunt in Northumberland, and from the Sennybridge Farmers Hunt in Wales to the Waveney Harriers in Norfolk.

What we do know only hints at what we don't know, but there is enough evidence to suggest that most if not all foxhound packs continue pursuing and killing foxes more than 17 years after it was outlawed.

Hares

The figures for hare hunting tell an interesting story. There were 29 reports of hunts chasing hares and no reports of any killing hares. On the face of it, this suggests that hare hunting with hounds (as opposed to hare coursing) is limited, but on-the-ground reports reveal a different picture.

According to Wildlife Guardian, during the 2022/23 season there were 57 packs of beagles, 11 packs of harriers, and 7 packs of bassets active in the UK. All are in England and Wales, as there are no such active packs in Scotland. These are all ostensibly hare hounds. However, harrier packs

are an anomaly.

While harriers were traditionally hare hunting hounds, today most harrier packs are used for fox hunting. As Wildlife Guardian explains:

“six hunt foxes only whilst two hunt hares and foxes”

Therefore, only a handful of 'true' hare hunting harrier packs remain. They include the Dunston Harriers in Norfolk and the Holcombe Harriers in Lancashire.

Nonetheless, there remains upwards of 70 packs still trained to hunt hares. Why are the numbers so different from those of fox hunting? That's where the interesting stories come in. In fact, the numbers tell three distinct narratives.

The first is that, of the 29 hares chased, only ten of those were chased by harrier, beagle or basset packs. The remaining 19 are the result of foxhounds accidentally picking up the scent of a hare in what is known as 'rioting'. Foxhounds rioting onto a hare is no less terrifying for the creature than a huntsman intentionally directing hounds to hunt them, but it's also less likely to end in a kill. It is usually in a huntsman's interest to stop foxhounds chasing a hare because he wants them to remain trained on the scent of a fox. The huntsman and whippers-in are therefore more likely to 'rate' foxhounds away from a hare, curtailing the pursuit.

The fact that foxhounds riot onto hares at all though is indicative of the chaotic nature of hunting and the threat that their presence in the countryside presents to all wildlife.

More on this in the deer section that follows.

The remaining ten reports of chases were almost entirely from beagle and basset packs. These are distinct from harriers because they are hunted on foot. That means the hunt itself is unable to outrun anti-hunting activists in any meaningful way. As a result, most beagle and basset packs will stop their day's meet altogether when sabs or monitors turn up. In the aforementioned ten chases, most were witnessed by sabs as they arrived in the area the hounds were hunting, thereby catching the hunt unaware. See the 1 October 2022 meet of the Severn Vale Beagles or the 7 January 2023 meet of the De Burgh and North Essex Bassets for examples. Once the hunt became aware of sabs, they stopped their meet.

2000 + hare hunting pack meets during the 2022/23 season

Such behaviour also goes a long way to explaining why the figures for intentionally hunted hares are so low. This is the second narrative that this report can tease out of the numbers. While anti-hunting groups only reported ten chases by hare hound packs, that doesn't accurately reflect the number of times activist groups turned up to such hunts. That number is disproportionately higher – although Protect the Wild didn't keep a record of the exact figure. Most of the time, due to the presence of sabs, these hunts will simply pack up and go home before they even get a chance to hunt. See the Ecclesfield Beagles on 17 December 2022 or the Stour Valley Beagles on 26 December 2022 for examples.



What this shows us more immediately than in any other area of hunting and anti-hunting is the impact of direct action. The mere presence of sabs was enough to stop a day's meet and, as a result, prevent the pursuit and killing of an unknown number of hares.

Nonetheless, the occasional intentional hunt is witnessed. The most famous of those from the 2022/23 season was during a meet of the Royal Agricultural Beagles on 25 March 2023, when sabs caught hounds chasing a hare on video. Meanwhile, the Three Counties Hunt Saboteurs filmed the Severn Vale Beagles intentionally hunting a hare on 6 February 2023. These incidents suggest that hare hunting continues out of sight of the public.

The 70-odd packs of hare hounds will meet at least once a week throughout the season, which runs roughly concurrently with that of the fox hunting season. If we assume that to be between 1 September 2022 and 31 March 2023, which is 30 weeks, then the 2022/23 season would have seen more than 2000 meets of hare hunting packs. With sabs only attending a small fraction of those, the evidence suggests that many of these meets will have led to the intentional chasing and killing of hares.

Deer

As with hare hunting, there are two distinct threads in the figures on deer chased and killed. The first is deer that were rioted onto and the other is deer that were intentionally chased and killed. Both instigate the same reaction in deer but the latter is usually far more prolonged.



The raw figures show that there were reports of hunts chasing 88 different deer and killing a further 21. Of these chases, 31 were the result of staghound packs intentionally chasing deer as their quarry. The remaining 57 were the result of other types of hunting hounds rioting onto deer during their course of the meet. Of the 21 deer that were reportedly killed, 18 were intentionally killed by staghound packs. There is also some crossover between these figures, as there were several meets where staghound packs chased a deer, failed to kill the creature, and then went on to chase and kill another deer.

Nonetheless, the figures reveal that the tendency for hounds to riot onto deer is great, although they are also frequently prevented from killing non-target quarry by either hunt staff or sabs.

Quite why fox and hare hounds riot onto deer so frequently is a matter of speculation. One anecdotal reason is that the scent of deer is the 'sweetest' or most alluring to hounds trained to hunt wildlife, though it's unclear what makes it that way. Another is that foxhounds were originally bred to hunt deer and haven't entirely escaped that breeding even hundreds of years after the foxhounds diverged from their ancestors. These two reasons may be complementary, of course. However, Protect the Wild isn't aware of any scientific explanations for this phenomenon.

The numbers show that hounds rioting onto deer is commonplace and even more so than the accidental pursuit of hares. One conclusion that can be drawn from this is that the very presence of packs of hounds in the countryside is a threat to wildlife even if the hunt isn't intentionally chasing quarry. This would apply even to those instances where hunts are following an artificially-laid trail.

The other story that these figures tell is the success of staghound packs in circumventing the Hunting Act. The 2022/23 season was the first in recent memory that hunt saboteur groups took systematic action against staghound packs. Although monitors – including those with the League Against Cruel Sports – had observed these packs for many years, the turning of saboteur groups' attentions to staghound packs brought with it much broader public visibility on the issue. As a result, it is the first time Protect the Wild could have gathered such information in this way.

What the figures show is how the three remaining registered staghound packs – the Devon and Somerset Staghounds (DSSH), the Tiverton Staghounds, and the Quantock Staghounds – continue to hunt with impunity. The 31 chases and 18 kills came from reports of 34 different meets throughout the season, and proportionately spread across the three hunts. Staghound meets that neither chase nor kill deer are few and far between, with reports for the Quantock Staghounds on 5 September 2022 and again on 26 September 2022 the only two examples Protect the Wild could find for that season. The 5 September report brings up other concerns over wildlife welfare, though, with a quad bike appearing to worry the stag and people on foot attempting to spook him.



In addition to the scale of hunting, the hunt itself is prolonged compared with other types of hunting. The intention behind hunting stags is to exhaust them before killing them, meaning some pursuits can last hours. On 11 October 2022, for example, North Dorset Hunt Saboteurs

reported that the Quantock Staghounds had chased a single stag for more than six hours. In that instance, the stag escaped. However, the physiological damage caused by chasing itself is huge. The National Trust banned deer hunting on its land in 1997 after the Bateson

Report revealed the high levels of stress, pain and muscle damage a three-hour chase caused to the animal. Despite this, and despite the Hunting Act attempting to outlaw deer hunting, the three registered staghound packs continue these hours-long pursuits on a weekly basis.

They do this by exploiting a gap in the Hunting Act known as the 'research and observation' loophole. The DSSH in particular says that its activities contribute to scientific research into deer on Exmoor. However, there is no legal obligation for the hunt to make this research public.

According to Wildlife Guardian the DSSH meet three times a week while the Tiverton Staghounds and Quantock Staghounds meet twice a week. Deer hound packs also have a longer season than foxhound or hare hound packs, with the earliest reported meet during the 2022/23 season taking place on 22 August 2022 and the

last one taking place on 29 April 2023. That's 36 weeks, giving an approximate total of 252 staghound meets through the season. However, the staghound season actually begins much earlier in August (as this report on a 10 August 2023 meet revealed) so the total number of meets was likely much higher.

The conclusion drawn from this is that hundreds of deer are chased and killed every year in an activity that legislation should have ended in 2005.



Dig Outs

There were only 13 reported instances of dig outs throughout the season, most of which were discovered after the act itself had taken place. The low numbers reflect how cautious hunts are around digging out.

Dig outs occur when a fox has hidden – or ‘gone to ground’ – inside an underground hole. This could be anything from a hollow under tree roots to a man-made drainage ditch. However, dig outs during hunting most commonly take place on fox earths or badger setts. Hunt terriermen will prevent the fox from leaving the hole by putting terriers into the hole, by putting nets across the holes, or a combination of the two. The terriermen will then use spades to dig down to the fox.

Not all ‘terrier work’ is illegal. However, Schedule 1.2 of the Hunting Act only makes it legal when used to protect livestock, and wild birds or birds exploited by the shooting industry. Terrierwork is therefore illegal when carried out in conjunction with any sort of hunting with hounds. Badgers and their setts are also subject to the Protection of Badgers Act, so dig outs of setts also contravene further legislation.

As a result, it is rare for activists or members of the public to catch dig outs in process. Often, they will find the results of a dig out. One example of this happened on 27 February 2023, when North Wales Hunt Saboteurs attended a meet of the Flint and Denbigh Hunt at Coed Coch estate. The

saboteur group said that four terriermen quickly left an area where hounds had been circling when it turned up. On returning later in the day, the group found:

“what at first appeared to be a freshly filled in badger sett

however on further inspection not only had it been freshly filled in but had been dug out first”

It also shared an image of the site.

However, in four cases, sab groups found terriermen in the process of digging out:

- Somerset Sabs found two men digging a badger set out during a meet of the Weston and Banwell Harriers at Over Stowey on 3 September 2022
- West Kent Hunt Sabs captured on film at least three men digging out during a meet of the East Kent with West Street Hunt at Etchinghill on 19 November 2022
- Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch found two men digging out a badger sett during a meet of the Cotswold Hunt near Calmsden on 4 January 2023
- Three Counties Hunt Saboteurs found two men associated with the Croome and West Warwickshire Hunt digging out a land drain near Abbots Salford on 16 February 2023

It was also during the 2022/23 season when the now-infamous footage of the Avon Vale Hunt digging out two foxes was filmed. The video, captured by someone within the hunt and subsequently leaked to ITV News, was filmed on 20 December 2022. The activity, leak and subsequent fallout were controversial enough to lead the British Hound Sports Association (BHSA) to expel the hunt from its books. However, given that other cases of dig outs were documented above and didn't lead to expulsion, it seems likely the move was in response to public backlash than any contravention of the BHSA's rules.

Dig outs are contentious enough that hunts and terriermen go to great lengths to hide or protect the activity. Nonetheless, it appears to still be a regular part of hunting across the country.

Given that any form of legal hunting (e.g. trail hunting) should not involve digging out, activists and campaigners have frequently questioned the presence of terriermen at any hunt. This factor is not covered by existing legislation.



Impact on humans

One of the starkest figures Protect the Wild found through its research on hunting during the 2022/23 season is the widespread use of harmful actions and physical violence by hunts and their followers. These are best represented in the minor and major attack numbers. There were 198 minor attacks and 13 major attacks reported throughout the season, totalling 211 instances where hunts and hunt supporters have engaged in notable violence against anti-hunt activists and even – in some cases – unassociated members of the public.

Two of the most high profile major attacks both occurred in conjunction with the same hunt: the Cottesmore Hunt. The first happened on 25 October 2022, when a follower of the hunt intentionally hit a sab with her car before speeding off. Angela Jarrom, who drove the car, plead guilty to actual bodily harm in June 2023 and was handed a suspended sentence and community service. The second incident occurred on 11 February 2023 when huntsman Sam Jones jumped his horse over a fence and into a sab. Magistrates found Jones not guilty of grievous bodily harm in November 2023.

Another particularly vicious attack took place during a meet of the South Dorset Hunt on 20 December 2022. Hunt saboteur group Weymouth Animal Rights reported that one of their monitors was:

“jumped by two masked up men from behind who repeatedly beat him with a metal bar over his head and body. They also ripped off his body cam and stole it.”

73% of observed hunts were reportedly involved with some sort of harmful behaviour.

The 77-year-old man was rushed to hospital by the sab group, where he required stitches and glue. The attack also left him with bruises across his face and body. While the attackers were never identified, the circumstance of his attack plus a history of physical violence by people connected with

the South Dorset Hunt led Weymouth Animal Rights to believe the attack was “premeditated” and directly connected to the hunt.

A similar attack took place during a meet of the Worcestershire Hunt on 1 February 2023. Three Counties Hunt

Saboteurs said the man was attacked by people he identified as terriermen of the Worcestershire Hunt. Local news later reported he’d been observing the hunt at the time of the attack, which left him with head injuries and damage to his retina. The attackers, who he said were on a

quad bike, a common mode of transport for terriermen, also stole his walking stick.

From just these cases alone, it's clear that every layer of a hunt might escalate into serious physical violence against people they view as opponents. This is even more pronounced when looking at the range of minor attacks.

A majority of reported minor attacks involved pushing, shoving and attempts by hunt-related people to grab at or steal activist equipment. This low-level violence appeared commonplace and widespread, with reports of it taking place at meets of 57 different hunts. The data gathered for this report related to 78 hunts in total, meaning 73% of observed hunts were reportedly involved with some sort of harmful behaviour. There was also a handful of hunts that were repeatedly associated with minor attacks. All of the following hunts were connected with more than five reports:

Puckeridge Hunt: 15 minor attacks*

Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt: 11 minor attacks

Cottesmore Hunt: 11 minor attacks

South Dorset Hunt: 11 minor attacks

Warwickshire Hunt: 11 minor attacks

Grove and Rufford Hunt: 9 minor attacks

Isle of Wight Foxhounds: 8 minor attacks

Weston and Banwell Harriers: 8 minor attacks

Essex with Farmers and Union Hunt: 7 minor attacks*

Mendip Farmers Hunt: 6 minor attacks

West Norfolk Foxhounds: 6 minor attacks

Wynnstay Hunt: 6 minor attacks

* - Five of these attacks occurred during two joint meets of the Puckeridge Hunt and with Essex with Farmers and Union Hunt. These two hunts amalgamated following the end of the 2022/23 season and now hunt as the Puckeridge and Essex Union Hunt.

It is perhaps unsurprising that those hunts connected with the most instances of serious attacks also show up in figures for less harmful attacks, particularly the Cottesmore Hunt and South Dorset Hunt.

It's not possible to explicitly evidence the motivations behind their actions, but some of the actions have an implicit message behind them. On Boxing Day 2022, for example, members of Weymouth Animal Rights and North Dorset hunt Saboteurs woke up to find tyres on several of their personal and sab vehicles slashed. The unidentified assailants slashed a total of 17 tyres. The incident came just days after the previously mentioned attack on a 77-year-old monitor. As a result, Weymouth Animal Rights publicly stated that it believed the culprit(s) were associated with the South Dorset Hunt.

17 tyres slashed on Boxing Day 2022 by the South Dorset Hunt

Finally, the unwillingness of any local hunt or the hunting industry's oversight body, the BHSA, to condemn the attacks showed that this behaviour is not seen as detrimental to hunting at any level. Moreover, the BHSA even went so far as to effectively victim blame by saying that sabs 'provoke' such attacks.

Individual low-level attacks don't necessarily have a detrimental effect on the victim(s).

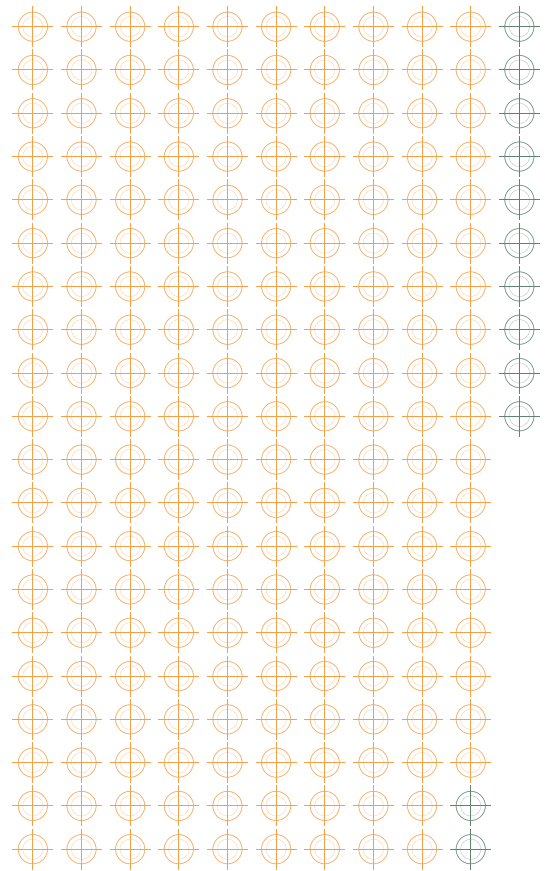
However, ongoing low-level attacks create a hostile environment, making it more difficult for sabs and monitors to hold hunts accountable to the law. Furthermore, such an environment appears more likely to give rise to serious violence. The Boxing Day incident wasn't the only case of tyre slashing during the season, and it seems to be a common form of attack used by hunts or their followers, but this specific incident best illustrates the

the problems with such widespread low-level violence.

As with other numbers in this report, the figures depend on self-reporting. That means these figures are affected by a variety of factors that include the tolerance of individual groups for violence, the willingness to share such information publicly, and what is considered most relevant for any given hit report. The true figure is likely much higher.

There is also the problem of collecting such data as a third party. Without having been on site at the time, the context for the attack – such as how it was instigated and escalated, if at all – is unavailable.

Nonetheless, such low-level attacks will have had an impact on activists who are, by and large, present out of compassion and a desire to prevent unethical, criminal activity. These incidents are unlikely to have happened if hunts were not still hunting wildlife. It's therefore worth noting and reflecting on the figures.



Hunt havoc

Hunt havoc is a miscellaneous category that incorporates everything that's not chasing wildlife or direct attacks on people. It includes road problems caused by hunts, the chasing or worrying of farmed animals, interfering with badger setts, trespassing on private property, and other unique actions. Broadly, the actions marked as hunt havoc affect the local community and not just activists. It is therefore a measure of hunting's impact on the general public

reported traffic offences, trespasses, road
havoc and non-quarry based incidents

599

Road and rail

The total number of reported traffic offences, trespasses, road havoc and non-quarry based incidents is 599, which shows just how prevalent these issues are.

Road havoc is by far the most commonly reported on by sabs, monitors and members of the public. Primarily, this means hunts causing hold ups or blockages on the road. This could be caused by hounds, riders, quad bikes, or large amounts of people following the hunt. The most extreme version of this were instances of hounds running loose on roads, resulting in vehicles hitting and killing the animals.

This was seen, for example, on 29 November 2022 when a hound with the Grove and Rufford Hunt ran loose on the A614 near the National Trust's Clumber Park property in Nottinghamshire. Sheffield Hunt Saboteurs reported that huntsman Tom Higgins "lost control" of the pack in Elksley Wood, leading to some of the hounds straying into the A road. As a result, the sab group said that:

"A lorry had to swerve to miss the first hound, almost causing a crash before another unsuspecting member of public hit him."

The struck hound died at the scene.

While this was the only such case of road vehicles killing a hound during the 2022/23 season, there were further instances of cars non-fatally hitting hounds. They include a 12 September 2022 meet of the Warwickshire Hunt at Morton Morrell, where West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs captured footage of a car hitting a hound running loose on

the B4087 while followers of the hunt stood by. Weymouth Animal Rights reported a similar incident occurring during a meet of the South Dorset Hunt at Glanvilles Wootton on 22 November 2022, and then again a few days later on 26 November.

Staffordshire Hunt Saboteurs reported a car running over a hound's foot on the road at the New Year's Day meet of the now-disbanded Meynell and South Staffordshire Hunt. During this same meet, Manchester Hunt Sabs reported that parents "encouraged" children to run into the road to block the sab group's vehicle, illustrating a unique and no less dangerous form of road havoc.

Many of the 206 incidents of road havoc saw hounds running loose across or down roads, disrupting traffic.

Surrey Hunt Sabs captured drone footage of one such case on 4 February 2023 when hounds from the East Essex Hunt caused a van to break sharply as they ran along a bend in the road. On 26 November 2022, Kernow Sabs shared video of hounds left to run loose on narrow and winding country lanes during wet weather. It showed at least one vehicle apparently breaking and pulling over as a result of the animals. The sab group said that the Cury Hunt had "lost control of their pack for over an hour" at the time.

Another major incident of a vehicle killing hounds occurred on 31 October 2022. A commuter train hit hounds belonging to the Dunston Harriers near Diss, Norfolk, killing an unverified number of them. Local paper Eastern Daily Press (EDP) reporting on the incident at the time quoted the BHSA in saying that the hunt was exercising the hounds when "six hounds strayed away from the rest of the pack". South Norfolk Hunt Saboteurs speculated that the hounds picked up the scent of an animal and followed it across the tracks just as the train passed. Whatever the precise reason for it, the EDP quoted one passenger on the train as saying that:

"It's absolutely heart-breaking, it's beyond belief."

This might also speak for the driver that killed the Grove and Rufford Hunt hound a month later, and to some extent for the numerous drivers that have clipped or narrowly missed hounds loose in the middle of roads.

Sheffield Hunt Saboteurs also witnessed the Grove and Rufford Hunt taking its hounds on an active railway line.



On 12 January 2023, the sab group said that:

“the hunt then continued to hunt a fox along a railway line minutes before a train passed”

There have been a number of hound fatality incidents on railway lines in recent years, and many cases of both hounds and huntsmen on active railways. There would, of course, be no reason for this if hounds were following an artificial, non-animal scent.

It is notable that there are no known reports of bloodhounds or drag hounds, both of which follow non-animal derived trails, causing road or rail havoc.

The 2022/23 season saw Warwickshire Police handing the Warwickshire Hunt a Community Protection Notice (CPN) requiring the hunt to inform the police of every road crossing it planned to make. This was the result of the hunt causing dozens of incidents of road havoc. While the hunt appealed and the CPN was eventually rescinded in exchange for an undisclosed “protocol”, the notice was the first time that police explicitly acknowledged hunt havoc.

During the 2022/23 season, activists reported 24 incidents of road havoc caused by the Warwickshire Hunt.

The Warwickshire Hunt wasn't the only culprit during the 2022/23 season, though. Sab and monitor groups across the country presented evidence of hunt riders holding up or obstructing traffic.

Other hunts that were frequently reported causing road havoc included:

- Beaufort Hunt: 21 incidents
- Cottesmore Hunt: 16 incidents
- Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt: 11 incidents

77%

of observed hunts were reported as causing at least one incident of road havoc



In total, 60 hunts were reported as causing at least one incident of road havoc. These covered the length of England and Wales, from the Western Hunt in Cornwall (six incidents) to the Coniston Foxhounds in Cumbria (one incident) to the Flint and Denbigh Hunt in Wales (one incident). This represents 77% of the 78 total hunts that appeared in the database.

Beyond road havoc, there was also a significant number of traffic offences. These primarily centred on two types of offences: quad bikes with unreadable or non-existent licence plates when driving on the road, or with more than the permitted number of riders; and hunt-related vehicles that appear to lack valid MOT or tax.



The latter of these two alleged offences is more difficult to be certain about because the government's website for checking MOT and tax can sometimes take several days to update the status of a vehicle. However, the former category is more clear cut. Quad bikes are rarely permitted to carry more than one person

more than one person on a public road, but activists regularly reported this being contravened.

For example Dorset Against Blood Sports shared a photo of two quad bikes, one with two passengers and another with three, at a 28 January 2023 meet of the Blackmore and

Sparkford Vale Hunt. In another example, Three Counties Hunt Saboteurs shared a photo of two quads on a public road, both carrying two passengers, neither of which it said had licence plates. The image was from a meet of the Ledbury Hunt on 14 October 2022.

In one case, police took action on exactly this issue. Cheshire Animal Rights Campaign said Cheshire Police issued a warning to the driver of a quad bike that was out with the Cheshire Hunt after it was carrying a second passenger (a child) on a public road. This showed that such legal action is possible but, at present, goes underused. With 87 reported traffic offences across 40 different hunts, though, the issue is common and widespread. It is also the area which may have one of the most detrimental impacts on the general public; for example, if a non-road worthy quad bike was involved in a collision with another vehicle.

On 4 March 2023, photos were posted to X/Twitter of a gator-style quad bike overturned on a public road. The poster, Nicholas Lowton, a member of the clergy in Hereford, captioned it with “The hunt has left its mark in Craswall”. He followed up with further details in another post, explaining that:

“The police were here for 3 hours. Two recovery vehicles had to come out. The road was closed. The Council will have to come out to clean the spillages.”

While Lowton didn’t identify the hunt, based on the location Protect the Wild believes it was the Golden Valley Hunt.

Lowton suggested those involved were drunk at the time, although provided no further evidence for that. This incident is one example of the type of road danger hunts and their followers present to local communities. Protect the Wild couldn’t find any information on what action police took against the drivers or the hunt, if any.



Trespass and non-quarry

When looking at trespass during the 2022/23 season, incidents fell into two main categories: trespass on land held by organisations that have explicitly banned hunting such as the National Trust, and trespass into private residences. When considering the latter, Protect the Wild considers hounds entering private residences as a form of trespass. Whilst this isn't a legal definition of trespass, this report allocates it under such a heading because there is no reason for hunting hounds to be in a private residence, and their presence often brings with it worry and distress. Activists also cite such incidents as circumstantial evidence of illegal hunting.

Despite many public and major private landowners having banned hunting, activists have regularly found hunts using such land. The National Trust members voted to stop hunting on the organisation's land in November 2021 following many years of campaigning. The long-fought battle was

seen as a milestone win by anti-hunting campaigners. Nonetheless, sabs and monitors continue to find hunts using the Trust's land for hunting activities.

On 18 September 2022, for example, Lancashire Hunt Saboteurs said it called a Trust warden after it caught the

Melbreak Foxhounds trespassing. On 2 November 2022, campaign group National Dis-Trust shared footage by Shropshire Wildlife Monitors of what it said was the United Hunt trespassing on Trust land.

And the next day, North Dorset Hunt Saboteurs shared footage of what it said was the Quantock Staghounds acting similarly. This latter case is particularly notable because the National Trust had banned stag hunting from its land even before the Hunting Act came into force. It had banned the activity in 1997 following the Bateson Report which laid out the negative impact of hunting with hounds on deer. Further information on this can be read in the Impact on Wildlife – Deer section of this report.

61 different hunts had at least one report of sett interference made against them



It wasn't just National Trust land that was trespassed upon during the season, though. On 28 December 2022, campaign group Stop Hunting on the Nation's Land made allegations against three hunts of trespassing in the previous few days:

“Boxing Day – the North Lonsdale Foxhounds planned a whole day on Lake District National Park Authority land
The Blencathra Foxhounds spent yesterday on and off of Lake District National Park Authority land
Today the Melbreak Foxhounds were seen on National Trust and Forestry England land.”

The Lake District National Park Authority and Forestry England both had no-hunting policies – including trail hunting – in place throughout the 2022/23 season. Meanwhile, North Wales Hunt Saboteurs reported that the Flint and Denbigh Hunt trespassed onto National Resources Wales and county council land on 27 September 2022. The sab group said that council rangers were called and confirmed on site that the hunt did not have permission to use the land they were on.

The material impact of hunts trespassing on such land is relatively low. Often these areas are in open space and, although other members of the public may also be using the land, there is likely little threat to their wellbeing. However, this is seen as a problem by campaigners and activists for two reasons.

Firstly, it illustrates the attitude and outlook of the hunting industry. Similar to road havoc, campaigners question why rules which are supposed to apply to everybody don't apply to them. Second, it provides further circumstantial evidence that hunts are not following artificially-laid trails. Why would hunts lay a trail across land they're not permitted on? On the other hand, it is very possible a fox, hare or deer would cross such land – and, as a consequence, the hunts will pursue them across it.

This is particularly notable when hounds end up in precarious situations. On 7 February 2023, for example, hounds from the Four Burrow Hunt in Cornwall fell down a mineshaft near Porkellis. And on 18 October 2022, Three Counties Hunt Saboteurs filmed the Cotswold Hunt's hounds entering an active quarry. A video of the incident said the hounds had gone “all the way through” the quarry itself, while the group's report said it confirmed with the quarry owner that the hunt didn't have permission to put hounds through the site. Another quarry trespass occurred on 7 March 2023. Hertfordshire Hunt saboteurs said hounds from the Cottesmore Hunt ran through a working limestone quarry, forcing at least one lorry to break. And on 4 February 2023, East Herts Sabs reported that hounds from the Puckeridge Hunt had chased a fox across a golf course, resulting in a golf ball hitting one hound.

None of these locations make sense for trail hunting as they put hounds and riders at high risk. However, they make more sense when thinking of the hounds as pursuing an unpredictable live animal.

This logic also applies to hunts trespassing into private residences. On the same day that the Cotswold Hunt's hounds went through a quarry, the pack also ran through a paddock. Video shared by Three Counties Hunt Saboteurs showed the incident spooked about 10 horses while causing frustration and anger amongst horse owners. Meanwhile, one farmer was so incensed by the Cheshire Hounds' pack trespassing on his property that he reportedly fired a gun to scare them off. In video shared by Manchester Hunt Sabs, a male voice is heard screaming "get them fucking out now" with two shots following about 45 seconds later. The incident occurred on 13 February 2023.

These two cases highlight unusually acute examples of trespass. In many cases, hounds are running through residential gardens such as during a meet of the Avon Vale Hunt on 14 January 2023 and a joint meet of the Puckeridge Hunt and Essex with Farmers and Union Hunt on 1 March 2023.

The League Against Cruel Sports shared video of the Beaufort Hunt hounds on 4 February 2023 running through a garden and out onto a road, causing traffic to abruptly halt.

Concerns around this focus on the danger it poses to domestic animals and young

children. There have been numerous cases of hunts killing cats through the years, including the high-profile case of Mini, who was killed by the Western Hunt in March 2021.

This was notable because it occurred during hound exercise (much like the Dunston Harriers' train strike) and not during a hunt, showing that hounds present a threat even when not actively hunting. The Western Hunt returned to Mini's residential estate again during the 2022/23 season. Video shared on 28 January 2023 showed the hunt and hounds trespassing in fields behind the house where Mini lived as well as two riders on the street itself.

While the Western Hunt didn't attack or kill any animals that time, cats elsewhere in the country weren't so lucky during the season.

On 16 November 2022, the Brocklesby Hunt reportedly attacked a domestic cat named Matrix. The cat died two days later from the injuries, the Hunt Saboteurs Association said. In a public social media post, Matrix's companion Corin Alex said:

“It breaks me to say that Matrix sadly passed away today. He didn't deserve to lose his life to the Hunt.”

He didn't deserve to feel terrified or have to fight off several large Fox Hounds. He didn't deserve to spend the entire day alone, scared and in pain until we got home. He didn't deserve to leave his family. We don't deserve this pain.”

Meanwhile, another cat allegedly narrowly escaped injury by the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt in December 2022. Their companion owner wasn't so lucky. North Dorset Hunt Saboteurs said on 25 December 2022 that a member of the public was airlifted to hospital “after being seriously injured” while defending their cat from the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt's hounds.

There were also instances of livestock worrying. The Wight Hunt Sabs shared footage of hounds from the Isle of Wight Foxhounds chasing a sheep on 21 January 2023, while Bristol Hunt Saboteurs and South Wales Hunt Saboteurs made similar reports from Mendip Farmers Hunt and Llandelio Farmers Hunt meets on 5 October 2022 and 4 March 2023 respectively.

However, a vast majority of the 169 non-quarry incidents related to badger sett interference. This included activists finding sett entrances blocked in the vicinity of a hunt meet as well as observing hounds digging into the sett entrances. In some rare cases, as previously outlined in the section on dig outs, saboteurs watched terriermen in the process of sett interference.

In one extreme example, Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch found eight sett entrances “freshly blocked” with soil, stones and branches during a meet of the Cotswold Hunt on 18 March 2023.

169 non-quarry incidents

The majority of which related to badger sett interference



It was during this same meet on the Miserden Estate near Stroud in Gloucestershire that the sab group also found a living fox cub hidden inside an artificial earth by hunt terriermen. The incident was reported in national media.

The Cotswold Hunt was a repeat offender in this regard. Sab groups claimed the hunt also blocked setts on 10 December 2022, 28 December 2022 and 4 January 2023. During this latter meet, the sett was blocked a second time after sabs had already unblocked it. During a 13 March 2023 joint meet of the Cotswold Hunt with the Vale of White Horse Hunt, Three Counties Hunt Saboteurs said it found paw prints around a sett entrance, implying a fox may have escaped the hounds by going into the sett.

As well as being a crime in itself under the Protection of Badgers Act, sett interference is a sure sign of illegal hunting. This is because there is no reason for an artificially-laid trail to either go near or inside a sett. There is also, of course, no reason for a hunt to need to prevent a trail from going down a sett by blocking its entrances. Instead, as we see with the 18 March meet of the Cotswold Hunt, it is directly connected to the hunting of foxes.

Sett interference is limited to hunts that pursue foxes, as neither hares nor deer attempt to escape into setts. Nonetheless, 61 different hunts had at least one report of sett interference made against them. These covered the length and breadth of England and Wales. Badgers already face other threats including housing development, road traffic, the bovine tuberculosis cull and badger baiting. The hunting industry's endemic practice of sett interference is an entirely unnecessary additional pressure.

Overall, research for the report once again found a group of hunts that cropped up repeatedly in relation to trespass and non-quarry related incidents. They included the Beaufort Hunt, Cottesmore Hunt, Cheshire Hounds, Mendip Farmers Hunt, and Wynnstay Hunt.

Conclusion

It is absolutely clear from these examples that the impact of hunts extends far wider than just foxes, hares and deer. Hunting regularly harms other species as well as humans and local communities as well. In some cases, humans are severely injured while other animals lose their lives. In all cases, the incidents simply wouldn't happen if hunts weren't occurring in the first place.

Police

The figure of 343 police vehicles attended doesn't differentiate between why police turned up at a hunt or who is believed to have called them. In part this is because it's simply not possible to know the source or reason in many cases. However, it is also because the figure is more of an attempt to illustrate overall police activity in relation to an activity that should have stopped following the Hunting Act.]



Obtaining precise figures on policing costs related to hunting is nearly impossible. This is because in many cases the officers attending will do so as part of routine shifts. As a result, there is no practical way of separating out the cost of responding to a hunt-related call from other activities. In some cases, campaigners have obtained costs of specific hunt-related operations. These usually relate to the cost of policing Boxing Day hunts. West Kent Hunt Saboteurs, for example, said a freedom of information request revealed that policing two Boxing Day 2022 parades in Kent cost a total of £16,401.

The group said costs covered the East Kent Hunt in Elham and the Ashford Valley Hunt in Tenterden.

The 343 figure in this report does not account for police vehicles attending Boxing Day parades.

What it does show, though, is that some hunts were associated with a greater and more regular police presence than others. Below is a list of all the hunts that reportedly had 10 or more police vehicles attend throughout the season:

- East Kent with West Street Hunt: 29 vehicles
- West Norfolk Foxhounds: 28 vehicles
- Cheshire Hounds: 24 vehicles
- Wynnstay Hunt: 21 vehicles
- Cottesmore Hunt: 18 vehicles
- Flint and Denbigh Hunt 15 vehicles
- Puckeridge Hunt: 11 vehicles
- Grove and Rufford Hunt: 10 vehicles

Each police car will usually have two officers inside. In some cases police vans attended, which also hold two officers as standard. It's therefore fair to double the above numbers to account for how many individual officers were involved in a hunting-related incident.

Due to the ambiguity regarding who called police, what reason were given, why they attended, and how long they attended for, it's nearly impossible to draw any deep conclusions from these figures. This category is also the hardest one to draw any clear impacts from. There are, nonetheless, some points of interest.

During the 2022/23 season there were some instances of sab groups reporting that police had questioned and detained them on suspicion of various offensive weapons offences. On 15 September 2022, for example, Sheffield Hunt Saboteurs said that officers with South Yorkshire Police had searched members of its group "on suspicion" that they might have carried a Taser during a meet of the Grove and Rufford Hunt. Meanwhile, West Yorkshire Hunt Saboteurs reported that on 22 October 2022 five police vehicles turned up to search members of its group for "being in possession of weapons". This occurred during a meet of the Holcombe Harriers. And on 4 February 2023, officers turned up to the area of a Crawley and Horsham Hunt meet following allegations that sabs were "carrying weapons", according to Brighton Hunt Saboteurs.

The officers were with Sussex Police.

In all these instances, the sab groups said police found no such weapons. Each also said that the people making these allegations to the police are connected with the respective hunts. The accuracy of this is beyond the capacity of this report to verify. However, instances of police searching sabs for weapons have happened a number of times across several different hunts in recent years. Speculating charitably, a person may have called the police with a genuine but mistaken belief that activists were carrying some sort of weapon. A less charitable interpretation might suggest that these people knew there was no weapon and were instead attempting to weaponise the police against sabs.

In one unique case, the Cottesmore Hunt chased a fox in front of activists and a police officer. Video of the incident shared on Instagram showed the police officer telling the hunt to control the hounds because they were “chasing foxes”. Despite this, the hunt continued. Further investigation by Protect the Wild revealed that Leicestershire Police were unable to clarify whether its officer had the right to stop the Cottesmore Hunt or not following the incident.

Whatever the motivation, such instances likely degrade trust by both activists and the public in the potential of officers to effectively police criminal hunting. This negative impact is also seen in statements by some groups that police response to their own reports of criminal activity was insufficient.

The figures associated with the South Dorset Hunt illustrate this most starkly. Despite the South Dorset Hunt repeatedly appearing in multiple categories in this report including foxes chased and killed as well as minor and major attacks, only four vehicles reportedly turned up during any of its meets throughout the season. In one instance, on 12 January 2023, Weymouth Animal Rights said a firearms unit arrived following a report that someone had shot a monitor in the back with a catapult and ball bearing, but:

“unbelievably did not search the suspects or even pull them over”

This, of course, stands in contrast to the aforementioned instances of police searching sabs for alleged weapons.

The sab group then added: “What is it going to take for Dorset Police to take action against this hunt and the thugs that go and support them!!”

This comment comes after a serious attack on a 77-year-old monitor and a tyre-slashing spree, both previously discussed in this report,

and both of which had happened in the weeks preceding the catapult attack.

Another hunt that featured highly in several categories but not police presence was the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt. Only four vehicles were reported to have turned up at this hunt’s meets throughout the season.

Of course, it is difficult to make any firm statements about why there was a relative lack of police presence at these hunts despite their tendency towards harmful, dangerous and criminal actions. Ultimately what these numbers show is that there isn't a uniform approach to hunting across English and Welsh police forces. Factors contributing to this are likely to include resources, policing priorities, the willingness of anti-hunting activists to co-operate with police, the willingness of hunts and their supporters to co-operate with police, and a force's connection with rural issues and communities.

This is further illustrated by the pro-active actions of some officers and forces. In December 2022, as previously discussed, Warwickshire Police issued a Community Protection Notice to the Warwickshire Hunt (although this was later withdrawn). Norfolk Police reportedly launched a drone at least twice to observe the West Norfolk Foxhounds. Cheshire Police deployed five vehicles to observe the Wynnstay Hunt, including launching a drone, on 13 March 2023. Dorset Police officers appeared to witness the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt acting illegally and take action. And officers in Kent stopped terriermen with the East Kent with West Street Hunt during a January 2023 hunt meet in an action that later turned out to be a co-ordinated raid on several hunt-connected people and properties across England.

There was also a number of successful prosecutions against hunts and their supporters during the 2022/23 season, although many of these concerned incidents that had happened during previous seasons. Nonetheless, the general mood of sabs and monitors seemed to be that police action was gradually becoming more positive. However, pockets of serious concern about policing remained. Wiltshire, where a number of hunt supporters have been outed as part of Wiltshire Police, remained a contentious county. And in North Wales – where an academic review into the policing of hunts was published in January 2023 and was gently critical of North Wales Police – relationships between hunt saboteurs and police remains sour.

It would be remiss not to mention a hit report by Nottingham Hunt Saboteurs from 15 October 2022. It recounted the situation of a police helicopter searching for sabs out on foot following the end of a Blankney Hunt meet. Details of what led to the use of a police helicopter are unclear. However, it was the only report of a police helicopter during the 2022/23 season.



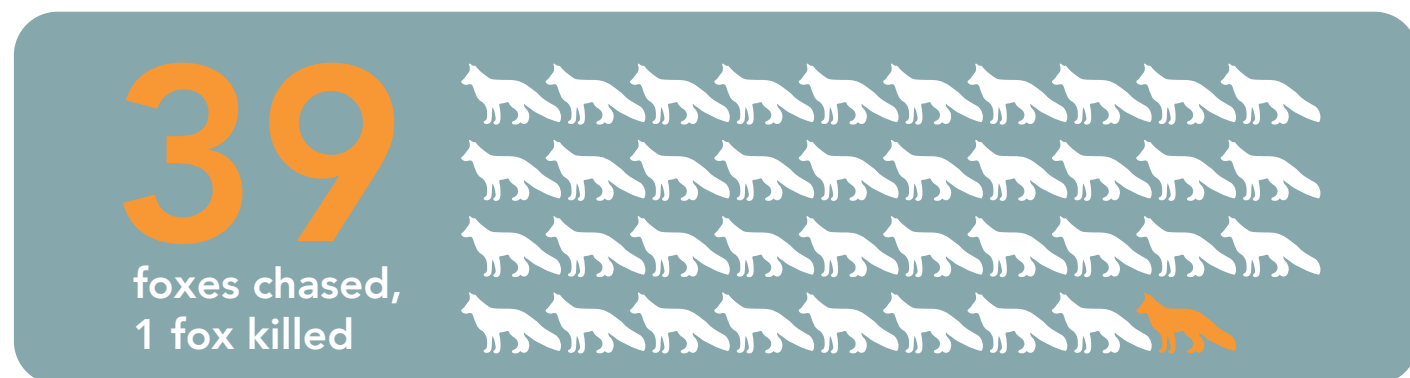
Analysis

Hunting Act 2004

This section will first look at the two hunts that returned the most prolific figures during research and break those down further. It will then go on to discuss what conclusions could be drawn from those figures and what they imply for the law.

Warwickshire Hunt

The Warwickshire Hunt meets four times a week during the main season according to West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs, which primarily targets the hunt. The opening meet took place on 29 October 2022 while the closing meet appears to have taken place on 18 March 2023 (the day of the report – 19 March – is a Sunday).



This means the Warwickshire Hunt met 81 times during the full season, though it may have missed one or two. The cubbing season was slightly different. West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs said on 8 September 2022 that the hunt would be out six times a week until the “end of October”. The earliest report by the group about the Warwickshire Hunt that season was from 26 August 2022, giving a total of 56 cubbing meets.

That means the Warwickshire Hunt would have had approximately 135 meets during the 2022/23 season. However, Warwickshire Police also issued Warwickshire Hunt with a Community Protection Notice (CPN) on 14 December 2022.

West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs said the hunt didn't hold another meet following the CPN until 24 December 2022, missing about five meets. This means the hunt were out an estimated 130 times throughout the season.

The Warwickshire Hunt chased multiple foxes during some meets. As a result, the figures above represent 29 meets throughout the season. That means 22.3% of the Warwickshire Hunt's meets resulted in some sort of chase or kill. Most if not all of these would have been under criminal circumstances.

Protect the Wild didn't keep a precise tally of how many times West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs attended the Warwickshire Hunt. However, the group appeared to attend or publicly report about attending roughly 80 of those meets. How many times the hunt chased or killed foxes outside of the sab group's public reports is a matter of speculation, but given how openly it does so in front of sabs, it's fair to speculate it was at least in 22% of those meets with the true figure probably being higher. That means we could speculatively add a further 11 foxes to the Warwickshire Hunt's known total, and that would bring the total figure up to 51.

Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt

According to anti-hunting database Wildlife Guardian, the BSV meet four times a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. That means between its opening meet on 29 October 2022 and its closing meet on 25 February 2023, it had approximately 68 meets. During the cubbing season, hunts may meet even more frequently. There is no clear indication how frequently the BSV meets during this early part of the hunting season, but for the sake of calculation we'll assume four times a week again. That means between the earliest reported cubbing meet on 30 August 2022 until the opening meet at the end of October, there was at least 32 meets. That means the BSV likely had at least 100 meets during its 2022/23 season.

1/3



of observed Blackford & Sparkford
Vale Hunt days saw a fox chased or killed



Protect the Wild didn't take account of how many times hunt saboteurs and monitors visited the BSV during the season. However, some meets that were visited led to reports of the hunt chasing at least two foxes during a single meet, so the above figures account for approximately 30 meets. That means nearly a third of the BSV's meets are known to have led to the pursuit and killing of a fox – most if not all of which would have been under criminal circumstances too. It's impossible to give a figure for how many foxes the hunt chased and killed when they weren't watched by third parties, but given its brazen attitude in front of the latter, it seems fair to speculate that at least as many foxes were hunted out of sight.

Nationwide figures

Figures for the Warwickshire Hunt and BSV are the best representation of how frequently foxhound packs chase and kill foxes due to the frequency with which sab or monitor groups attend their meets. The former provides a lower limit of 22% of meets that involve chasing or killing a fox, while the latter provides an upper limit of 33%.

This represents a drastic drop from pre-Hunting Act figures. The Burns Inquiry, published in June 2000 and which formed the evidential basis for the passing of the Hunting Act in 2004, included figures for the number of foxes that hunts killed. In paragraph 2.1.4 of that inquiry's final report, it stated that:

“Those hunts covered in a Produce Studies survey kill, on average, 79 foxes over 74 hunting days. This amounts to just over 1 fox per day's hunting, averaged over the year. The number of foxes killed per hunting day does not vary a great deal by region, the lowest being 0.8 per day in the North and the highest 1.3 per day in Wales.”

These figures include those killed by gun packs in Wales, which is outside the scope of Protect the Wild's report. Nonetheless, the figure is roughly similar to the figures provided by the hunting industry itself. In the preceding paragraph, 2.1.3, the report stated that evidence from the Master of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) claimed between 14,000 and 15,000 foxes were killed per season. Given there were 200 packs registered to the MFHA at the time, assuming an average of three days hunting per week, that returns a figure of 0.77 foxes killed per day.

An estimated

3478-5217

foxes were chased or killed by hunts registered to the Master of Foxhounds Association



This is for kills alone. If chases were included in the Burns Inquiry, that result would likely have been much higher. Nonetheless, all of these figures are significantly higher than the speculative 0.22 to 0.33 foxes chased or killed per meet based on data provided by anti-hunt activists at the Warwickshire Hunt and BSV. Assuming the industry provided accurate figures to the inquiry – as figures may have been inflated for political reasons in an attempt to portray hunting with hounds as essential for ‘controlling’ fox populations – then the difference is marked.

We can also try to extrapolate these figures out to the hunting industry as a whole for the 2022/23 season. According to the British Hound Sports Association (BHSA), the MFHA represented 170 foxhound packs across England and Wales during the 2022/23 season. Assuming an average of three days hunting per week across both the cub hunting and full hunting season, that's a total of 15,810 meets from beginning to end. Using the lower and upper limits above, that equates to between 3478 and 5217 incidents of foxes chased or killed by MFHA-registered packs.

Of course, given the complex subject, drawing such a conclusion isn't as straightforward as this. As previously discussed, some hunts may successfully pursue and kill foxes more than others. The Warwickshire Hunt and BSV may represent two hunts at the upper end of that scale during the season. The presence of activists may also act as a deterrent, making a huntsman more cautious about openly hunting – even in the more brazen hunts.

Furthermore, the direct action of saboteurs may prevent kills (by rating hounds away from the fox) or prevent chases altogether (by masking a scent with citronella or calling hounds away before they pick up the scent of a creature). There are also a number of hunts across England and Wales that aren't registered with one of the associations. The Fitzwilliam Hunt is likely the largest and most well known of these but it's not the only one.

Many hunts – in particular the unregistered packs – also went completely unobserved during the 2022/23 season. Protect the Wild's research showed that 78 hunts had some sort of public report made about them, which is less than a third of the total packs registered to one of the masters' associations. How hunts act when totally unaccounted for is unknown, but given the widespread nature of hunting amongst packs that are regularly observed, it would not be unfair to make an assumption they are at least as prolific as the averages suggest.

There is one recent case that exemplifies this.

In October 2019, the Canary reported on publicly released figures of hunting by the Blencathra Foxhounds. Freedom of Information requests by anti-hunting group Stop Hunting on the Nation's Land had led the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) to publish the 'daily record sheets' of the hunt covering seven seasons between 2012/13 and 2018/19 and a total of 120 meets. The Blencathra Foxhounds was required to fill in these sheets in order to use the park authority's land, which at the time permitted what it called 'trail hunting'.

The Canary found that 57% of those meets resulted in the hunt chasing foxes, and a further 9% involved the hounds killing a fox. These are the result of the hunt self-reporting its activity, but also with no expectation that a member of the public would ever see the reports. As such, for the purposes of this report, we will take these numbers at face value – although there may still have been an element of underreporting.

46%

of registered 'trail hunts' were caught chasing or killing foxes in the 2022/23 season

What they show is that the Blencathra Foxhounds, which went largely unobserved during the period of the daily record sheets, were chasing and killing foxes at a proportionately higher rate than even the Warwickshire Hunt and BSV during the 2022/23 season. Not as high as pre-Hunting Act activity, but approximately twice as frequently as what is publicly known for the period covered by this report.

What this suggests, then, is that the two-thirds of hunts that go completely unobserved may chase and kill foxes in greater numbers than any data for this report could conclusively show. As a result, that 3478 to 5217 window may in fact be much greater, though it is hard to imagine they are as high as pre-ban figures.

What this report can say conclusively, though, is that the Hunting Act was supposed to outlaw the pursuit of mammals with hounds in 2005. Yet more than 17 years later hunts are still chasing and killing thousands of foxes and deer every season.



Legal implications

What the data captured in this report shows is that there is a notably lower number of foxes killed during the 2022/23 season than in estimates provided by the Burns Inquiry for the 1990/2000 season. This broadly suggests a downward trend during the intervening 22 seasons. Without previous capture and analysis of such data, though, it's impossible to model exactly how that data has changed.

Something else that is difficult to quantify is the impact of the Hunting Act. On the face of it, the legislation appeared to be the catalyst for reducing the number of foxes chased. However, as this report has shown, there are numerous other factors in play. The persistent presence of activists appears to play an important role in the efficacy of the legislation by acting as a deterrent, though the effect of this varies from hunt to hunt.

The role that activists play was commented on in court by Mark Hankinson. The former director of the Master of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) was on trial in 2021 due to his role in Hunting Office webinars that were publicly leaked by the Hunt Saboteurs Association. In court, Hankinson claimed that the purpose of his presentation – which included the statement that laying trails was a “smokescreen” – was to educate hunts on how to deal with the presence of sabs. While the position of Protect the Wild is that Hankinson’s claim was untrue, it is nonetheless an illustration of the concern that the hunting industry has with activists holding its actions to account.

This is made possible by the Hunting Act.

However, while the legislation has had the effect of making hunts more cautious in the presence of activists, it’s less clear what impact it has had on the intentions and attitudes of the hunting industry. With hunts known to have chased or killed nearly 400 foxes during the 2022/23 season, it’s hard to say the Hunting Act is succeeding in its aim. This is even more pronounced when taking hunting deer with hounds into account, with staghound packs seemingly continuing to chase and kill deer with impunity.

44
proven charges

Furthermore, it may also be fair to suggest that the Hunting Act has emboldened the hunting industry. The legislation has a very low rate of convictions for illegal hunting. An updated list of prosecutions and convictions maintained by Protect Our Wild Animals (POWA) shows that, until August 2023, prosecutors had successfully proved charges against just 44 people across 28 trials for non-exempt hunting with hounds.

The oft-quoted figure of Hunting Act prosecutions ranging into the hundreds was mostly populated by convictions for hare coursing, a crime that courts are now pursuing under alternative legislation following a series of amendments in August 2022.

One call that campaigners including POWA have made to strengthen the Hunting Act is to introduce a so-called recklessness clause. To date, most convictions for illegal hunting have required the prosecutors to prove a hunt’s intention to chase and kill live quarry.

This is the result of case law established by DPP v Wright in 2009, when two separate appeals were heard together due to their common grievances over the definition of hunting. One finding of this appeal was that the expectation of a defendant to prove they are not hunting under exemption was an intrusion upon a presumption of innocence. Therefore, the burden shifted to prosecutors to prove a defendant was intentionally hunting in contravention of the Hunting Act. In practice, this meant huntsmen could use a lack of control over their pack of hounds as a defence in court.

The recklessness clause seeks to circumvent that defence and maintain the spirit of the Hunting Act. It aims to make hunt staff responsible for all actions taken by the hounds, including when they are allegedly beyond the control of the huntsman. Thus, 'recklessness' becomes criminal under the amended Hunting Act.

There is an obvious problem with this as a sole solution, though. As previously stated, there is little evidence suggesting that the Hunting Act has changed the intentions and attitudes of the hunting industry. Widespread evidence from the 2022/23 season – such as the videos of the Avon Vale Hunt digging two foxes out – shows hunts will continue chasing and killing wildlife so long as they're not being observed. A recklessness clause would only be effective in situations where sabs and monitors were present and filming at the time of a chase.

With something like only one-third of hunts attended to by activists, campaigners or members of the public, such a clause would still give most hunts the opportunity to act as they please. And with hunts pursuing or killing an estimated 3478 and 5217 foxes during the sixteenth season following the passage of the Hunting Act, it seems a recklessness clause couldn't have much of an impact.

There is also the issue of penalties under the Hunting Act. Offences under the law are summary and considered low priority. These were key reasons that Countryside Alliance lawyer Stephen Welford gave to a magistrate in March 2023 for dropping a trial involving people connected to the Vale of White Horse Hunt. In nearly all successful convictions under Section 1 of the Hunting Act, courts have only fined the offenders. While the maximum fine is £5000, most of these have been hundreds of pounds.

Combined, they dis-incentivise any need to change behaviour. Therefore, a new law needs to stop hunts from going out in the first place, as it's clear that hunts aren't interested in trying to change their behaviour if they're out in the field.

Legislation

The spirit of the Hunting Act was to better the welfare of foxes, hares, deer and mink. Where population control is deemed necessary the Burns Inquiry and Hunting Act recognised that there were more effective alternatives to hunting with hounds. However, the figures for the 2022/23 season reveal that hunts operate in a grey space that occasionally complies with the technicalities of the law but foregoes its spirit. As a result, wildlife continues facing persecution throughout England and Wales.

The hunting industry has had nearly 20 years to alter its behaviour but it is clear that very little on the ground has changed in this time. Moreover, it has continuously attempted to cover up its true intentions, suggesting a wilful and widespread commitment to illegal activity. Tackling this cannot rely on attempting to catch

individuals who are crossing a blurry legal threshold amidst an activity that has already successfully muddied the waters around what it does.

By its nature, hunting takes place away from public eyes. Furthermore, there is little impetus to encourage better practices by the hunting industry. It has shown that, whatever legislation says, it will try to follow the letter but not the spirit of the law. Therefore, the law needs to understand and respond to hunting holistically, taking onboard lessons learned from the past 20 years of campaigning and direct action.

In January 2023, within the time period covered by this report, the Scottish parliament passed the Hunting With Dogs Act. Previous legislation outlawing hunting with hounds in Scotland had its own set of loopholes, which were

different from those of the Hunting Act. The Hunting With Dogs Act took onboard the lessons learned from the previous 20 years of criminal hunting and drafted a law that prevented the hunting industry from continuing as normal. Moreover, it recognised English and Welsh trail hunting as a means of facilitating criminal hunting, so it outlawed that as well.

It is possible for England and Wales to affect the same change. We have seen – again within the time period covered by this report – legislation brought in that strengthens judicial response to hare coursing. Amendments contained within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act created new offences and handed police new powers to tackle coursing. Popular and police understanding of the response to coursing recognised it had both

a negative impact on local communities and is connected to other forms of criminality.

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What the figures in this report show is that hunting with hounds mirrors many of these same concerns. New legislation to strengthen the judicial response to hunting with hounds should therefore rise in line with those imposed on coursing, especially considering they were given the same concerns when the Hunting Act was first passed in 2004.

Legislation can challenge the hunting industry, but current legislation is insufficient. That is where Protect the Wild's Hunting of Mammals Bill comes in and you can read more about our proposals in 'Our case for a Proper Ban' section of this report.



Havoc and violence

One of the starkest findings of this report is how many anti-social and criminal actions are connected with hunts but don't fall under the remit of hunting.

During the 2022/23 season, police for the first time took action to try and tackle one of the most egregious examples of non-hunting related anti-social behaviour when Warwickshire Police issued the Warwickshire Hunt with a Community Protection Notice (CPN). Protect the Wild spoke to an anonymous source who had played a part in bringing the CPN to fruition. They said that the police's decision hinged on the hunt's registration as a business, thereby creating health and safety responsibilities to its staff and the public. The hunt's behaviour around roads contravened this, putting all parties at risk.

The Warwickshire Hunt isn't the only hunt registered as a business. Many others including the Beaufort Hunt and Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt (BSV), both of which feature regularly in this report, are registered as companies. This opens up possibilities for reducing the impact some hunts have on local communities and members of the public, particularly around road safety. The Beaufort Hunt was connected to 21 incidents of road havoc during the 2022/23 season while the BSV was connected with 12. The true figures are likely much higher.

On the other hand, the weakness of a CPN as a solution to road havoc was also illustrated in the Warwickshire Hunt case. Throughout the season, there were reports of 23 cases of road havoc committed by the hunt. However, 13 of these came after police issued the hunt with a CPN, and during a period when the hunt was appealing the notice. Despite this, Warwickshire Police ultimately dropped the CPN and came to an agreement with the

hunt, the terms of which aren't known at the time of publishing.

Widespread low-level aggression and outbreaks of serious violence connected with hunts is also a problem that isn't directly dealt with by anti-hunting legislation. More than 200 reported incidents during the season arising at hunts across England and Wales shows that it is an endemic part of the hunting process.

During the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill debates in parliament, MP Jonathon Djangoly said he was "pleased" with amendments to strengthen the judicial response to hare coursing:

"not least [because]... of the extreme violence shown by coursers in Cambridgeshire and many other rural parts of the country to those who try to stop them—farmers, local people and even

police. The coursers show disregard for property rights and cause huge amounts of damage to crops and hedges.”

As the figures in this report shows, hunting with hounds is associated with the same problems –

though it also entails the additional problems of road and rail havoc, neither of which are a significant feature of hare coursing. While the absolute figures may be far lower, in many cases this is simply down to the lack of exposure most hunts

have to the public eye. The case of the overturned Golden Valley Hunt quad bike was a rare insight into the dangerous behaviour of an unmonitored hunt.



Police appear to have responded adequately in many cases of assault and robbery, though the cases themselves are subject to the standard hold ups and perceived problems in the judicial system. The case of Angela Jarrom is pertinent here. Her hit-and-run on a member of Northants Hunt Saboteurs dropped from an initial charge of wounding with intent down to one of ABH, leaving victim Lisa dissatisfied with the outcome. Nonetheless, police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have successfully pursued numerous cases related to physical and verbal aggression through the courts.

All of this must be seen within the context of hunting, though. It is an industry and activity that the Hunting Act was meant to have outlawed in 2005. The fact that nearly 20 years on there are still hundreds of cases of antisocial, violent and dangerous actions connected with it in just one season points to the roots of the problem laying in the hunting industry itself.

Our Case for a 'Proper Ban' / Hunting of Mammals Bill

The data-driven findings presented in this report compellingly advocate for the formulation and implementation of the 'Hunting of Mammals Bill' as a means to address glaring inadequacies in existing legislation and enforcement mechanisms. The case for a 'proper ban' rests on empirical evidence indicating continued wildlife pursuits and killings despite the Hunting Act's establishment.

Central to this case is the identification of loopholes and ambiguities within current laws, enabling hunting groups to exploit legal grey areas and engage in activities that circumvent the spirit of the legislation.

The report's comprehensive analysis underlines the necessity of the Hunting of Mammals Bill emphasising its potential to bridge enforcement gaps, safeguard wildlife populations, and reinforce the ethical treatment of animals.

Conclusion

In summary, *Hunting: A Case for Change* stands as a testament to the urgent need for legislative reform and stringent enforcement measures to combat illicit wildlife pursuits in the UK. The report's exhaustive examination of hunting activities during the 2022/23 season underscores persistent violations and the far-reaching implications on wildlife populations, local communities, and the wider general public.

The culmination of meticulous research and data-driven analysis propels the report's key assertion: that the current ban on hunting (Hunting Act 2004) inadequately curtails hunting practices and necessitates the enactment of the Hunting of Mammals Bill. By advocating for a 'proper ban' on hunting wildlife with dogs and advocating for stringent legislative reforms, the report aims to finally give wildlife the protection it needs.

Data in this report was gathered from public reports made by the following groups: Bath Hunt Saboteurs, Beds & Bucks Hunt Saboteurs, Berkshire Hunt Saboteurs, Brighton Hunt Saboteurs, Bristol Hunt Saboteurs, Calder Valley Hunt Saboteurs, Cheshire Against Blood Sports, Cheshire Animal Rights Campaign, Cheshire Borderlands Monitors, Cheshire Hunt Saboteurs, Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch, Cotswold Hunt Saboteurs, Cumbria Hunt Saboteurs, Derby Hunt Saboteurs, Devon County Hunt Saboteurs, Dorset Against Blood Sports, East Herts Sabs, East Northants Hunt Saboteurs, East Surrey Hunt Saboteurs, East Yorkshire Coast Hunt Saboteurs, Grafton Hunt Watch, Guildford Hunt Saboteurs, Herefordshire Hunt Saboteurs, Herts Wildlife Monitors, Hull Wildlife Protectors, Isle of Wight Hunt Saboteurs, Jorvik Hunt Saboteurs, Kernow Hunt Saboteurs, Lincoln Hunt Saboteurs, Liverpool Hunt Saboteurs, Manchester Hunt Saboteurs, Mendip Hunt Saboteurs, Norfolk/Suffolk Hunt Saboteurs, Norfolk and Suffolk Against Live Quarry Hunting, Northants Hunt Saboteurs, North Dorset Hunt Saboteurs, North East Hunt Monitors, North London Hunt Saboteurs, Northumberland Hunt Watch, North Wales Hunt Saboteurs, North Yorkshire Hunt Saboteurs, Norwich Hunt Saboteurs, Nottingham Hunt Saboteurs, Peak District Hunt Saboteurs, Peterborough Hunt Saboteurs, Plymouth and West Devon Hunt Saboteurs, Reading Hunt Saboteurs, Salisbury Plain Hunt Saboteurs, Severn Vale Hunt Saboteurs, Sheffield Hunt Saboteurs, Somerset Sabs, South Cambs Hunt Saboteurs, South Coast Hunt Saboteurs, South Hampshire Hunt Saboteurs, South Norfolk Hunt Saboteurs, South Wales Hunt Saboteurs, Staffordshire Hunt Saboteurs, Suffolk and Essex Hunt Saboteurs, Surrey Hunt Monitors, Surrey Hunt Sabs, Teesside Anti Blood Sports, Three Counties Hunt Saboteurs, Welsh Border Hunt Saboteurs, Welsh Border Hunt Saboteurs South, West Cornwall Hunt Saboteurs, West Kent Hunt Saboteurs, West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs, West Sussex Hunt Saboteurs, West Yorkshire Hunt Saboteurs, Weymouth Animal Rights, Wildlife Crime Action, Wildlife Guardian, Wiltshire Hunt Saboteurs, York Anti-Hunt League.

