

Transcript – Video 2 (13/08/20)

Speakers:

Chairman: Lord Mancroft
Alice Bowden
Mark Hankinson
Richard Tyacke
Will Day
Paul Jelley
Richard Gurney

0:24

Chairman: Oh, well done. Thank you Alice very much. Good evening everybody, welcome to this our fourth webinar. It's not as much fun as seeing you all face to face but I'm delighted to welcome you all. My screen tells me there are 125 people come to learn all about the delights of trail laying. I hope you're all well today and had a reasonable day. I've had a lovely morning... [inaudible]... beautiful young hounds, nothing can beat that except following them.

So we are going to kick on straight away, we'll take questions at the end, please. For those of you who haven't done this before there's a Q & A button on the bottom right hand side of your screen, so if you could write your questions there, we will try to answer them during the course, at the end of the seminar. If we fail to be able to do that, I promise we'll get back to you, or Alice or Mark or somebody will get back to you on email or by telephone afterwards.

Ok, I will like to start off please by asking Mark Hankinson, the Director, to talk to us about the law. Mark, over to you please.

0:30

Mark: Chairman, thank you very much and good evening and welcome to everyone. Forgive me if I go over some of the things that we've already spoken about at the New Masters course and other things on the other webinars, but this is such an important part of our lives now that we do need to hammer home this message. So I've got two things to talk to you... [the law]... and then about overt trail laying.

So to start with, the law... [inaudible]... 2004 which I'm sure you all know about and I would suggest, in fact we just read it in detail, it's on our website. It's quite important that everyone fully understands it.

As you know it was by that ghastly man, Tony Blair, who introduced it to try and get the back-benchers off his back and it's widely perceived as one of the worst bits of legislation ever written. I was quite interested to know that my cousin's daughter, who's just got her law degree and had to study it as part of her course, as a bit of absolute rubbish that shouldn't have been done. That doesn't help us particularly other than that we need to understand it and its exemptions and how to manage it.

So effectively it's illegal to intentionally hunt a wild mammal with more than two dogs. But as you see as we go down there's quite a few exemptions, **so obviously trail hunting which is our main card**, is the critical one there but as we'll discuss later on that trail hunting needs to be highly visible, it needs to be credible and those involved need to be robust when questioned. **Obviously hound exercise, that goes without saying**. It's legal to hunt rabbits and rats and many of you may remember Nick Valentine and his pack of hoody Bassets who used to travel the land, partly causing chaos, but having a lot of fun legally hunting rabbits wherever he went. Flushing to a bird of prey, two dogs to a gun, the beaglers

have the wounded hare exemption and then obviously terriermen. So, just to run over those in a little more depth.

Bird of prey: the law states you can use a pack of dogs to flush a wild mammal to be hunted by a bird of prey. **Now, that's a terribly good wheeze for holding up, and I think that everyone during autumn hunting ought to be considering that.** However, it lacks viability if you're having a 5 mile hunt. So really at that stage once the quarry is gone you very much need your trail laying exemption because a bird of prey one starts to... [inaudible].

Hound exercise: obviously that really is your default setting and when things start to go wrong you really need to revert to that and just go on hound exercise. Let the Field Master take the ladies and gentlemen for a jolly and that really is one that you need to always have up your sleeve and don't be shy coming back to that if all else fails. That is your default setting.

Two dogs flushing to a gun: obviously in Scotland they can use a whole pack and then they can hunt a wounded fox. Here, obviously the stag hounds will use two hounds to flush to a gun, because the harbourer then dispatches the stag when it's brought to bay. Not an awful lot of help to us at the end of the day. I did try it once and it was a bit of a waste of time and again we did try getting the law changed but that nice woman in Scotland pulled the plug on us when we tried to get that tweaked accordingly.

Beaglers obviously have got the **wounded hare exemption**, and of course they can all hunt rabbits. **I gather from the Director of the AMHB it's pretty handy if you can get something in writing from the landowner concerned before you go out, to cover your backs**, but obviously there is slight concerns over that so that's worth bearing in mind.

Terrier work, this is our soft underbelly. A lot of people would say that if you're going trail hunting why do you need terriermen following you around? Yes, it is totally legal for them to be out doing everything if they follow the correct exemptions **but it does flag up a bit of a marker to everyone, you know why do you as trail hunting, do you need them there?** Just do bear that one on mind.

If you have terriermen operating it is absolutely important that, imperative, that they have written permission from the land owner and it must be on them so they must have it with them at the quad bike, or on the quad bike or in a back pack next to them, it's no good leaving it back at either a kennels or in the landrover back at the meet. The law is quite clear on this and we have had a couple of incidents where terriermen have been prosecuted, they'd have to have that written permission on them there. Remember that that permission is for the preservation of game birds, it's not for protection of lambs or livestock or poultry so - which is absolutely insane - so it's of no use to perhaps hill farmers or anyone up there, it does need to be for the preservation of game birds.

The law does state that one dog may be used to ground to flush to a gun. In theory I suppose that's someone standing there with a shotgun, standing over the hole but use of nets and a humane killer has been proved acceptable, so that's fine.

One last key thing with the terrier work exemption is that the actually digging process is not to get to the fox, it is to rescue the terrier if it is in danger, so it's worth remembering that and also as far as our legal fees scheme, only terriermen who are licenced with us are covered by that.

So, coming on to our main theme here which is the trail hunting and I think it really speaks for itself what we're trying to achieve is to simulate traditional hunting as it was before the Hunting Act came to, came into force, whenever it was: 18th February 2005. And it would be quite interesting to know how many people who were actually in office or actually hunting prior to that date. I think it says a lot for how much we've achieved that in the time since then, in the whatever it is, 15 years or so nearly, that we've managed to maintain standards

and our sport simulating traditional hunting in such a way. Obviously it's important that the general conduct of the day remains as it was and we keep these things alive.

So, what are we looking for with the trails being laid? It's got to simulate how the quarry would run so there's no point having someone with a quad bike just zooming up and down tracks and roads, that's not achieving anything, and in the same vein we need it, obvious evidence of it being laid into woods and other places where someone galloping around on a horse may not be able to get to.

Obviously you can if you're in a moorland situation but you know having someone on foot I think is key to having proper trails laid in proper places to prove the correct evidence. And try and do that as best as you can.

And so at the end of the day we have the scenario where trails are being laid and the Huntsman sets off with the intention of finding these trails and certainly not looking for a live quarry. And then the Huntsman carries on the normal way using hound and... using voice and horn to control the hounds.

Some people say well, what's the point in laying trails, well I think it's fairly self explanatory, if you haven't laid a trail on a daily basis you're not going to be covered by the insurance.

You know, we've been there before with the sort of no evidence and it just doesn't work, we've got to have the evidence if we're going to take it forward, these, into these, court cases extremely expensive and every time it goes badly wrong for us we take quite a financial hit, so we need those trails laid properly, we need that evidence and it needs to be credible and it needs to be robust. Very important that whoever is laying those trails is prepared to stand up and be counted, and that will mean going to court so your trail layers need to be of a calibre that they will stand up and face cross examination in a court room.

Obviously we also need it if we're going to get any support from the police, particularly when they are dealing with saboteurs and the like. If you haven't got any viable trail laying evidence how on earth are we going to refute these allegations? **And this is increasingly come to light with this now that the police are not prepared to support us when we have problems with saboteurs, if we can't prove quite conclusively that we're not taking the mickey and just using this as a shield.**

Moving on from that obviously as we've discussed at previous opportunities that to win the support not just of the police but of the politicians and the general public, which is going to be so important for us going forward, that we have that obvious visible evidence of trail layers. All right?

So coming back to the sort of modus operandi of the day. **The trail layers in my view you need to have at least one trail layer out there, particularly if you've got a presence of undesirables, they need to be clearly visible,** if nothing else you can sort of just point to the distance if you've got the police there or some member of the public causing a fuss you can say, 'look there's our trail layer over there on the distance on the skyline' or 'he's just down there in the wood, you can see he's got a tabard on' or something like that. I don't necessarily think you need to have a tabard or armbands, I think to have a trail layer who is clearly visible is a great help. And you want several trail layers if at all possible and you certainly want someone who is trail laying all day out in front there doing his bit.

In my time at Wilton we had two people who used to ride on point and they were always out in advance and they would certainly going from cover to cover, drag something behind them just so those open downlands it was clearly obvious that something was being laid and going on.

I also feel it's quite important that you have almost a primary trail layer who puts some scent on a trail and lays it. Don't forget at the end of the day it's a far more serious offence to commit perjury in court than it is to be prosecuted under the Hunting Act. **And if**

you're going to be under cross examination in a court room and if someone says 'well, Mr Jones, what were you using as a scent?' and you say 'well I don't really know', 'well didn't you see the scent being out on or did you not put the scent on the trail yourself?' 'Not sure', you're going to find yourself in an awkward position, so I think that is a key point.

What do we need in the way of evidence? Obviously we've discussed credible video evidence on a daily basis. A lot of people say, 'oh well we've only got one person to lay trails and no one to take a film of it' and that's not a good enough excuse. Everyone has a mobile phone with a camera on it, do a selfie and just pan around with you on your horse, on foot, on a quad bike, just pan around behind you and film whatever the drag you're dragging and then just give us a panoramic of where you are. If there's a sign post or something handy that's good or even if you can just see a Church spire in the distance or a line of hills, there's always something that you can find just to give us an idea of where it is.

A lot of these modern cameras and phones have some form of GPS tracking and I think that we'll come on to that later on. There's obviously several different ways you can do, I said Smartphones, GoPros are incredibly cheap, you can strap them on your chest, strap them on your head, put them on the back of the quad bike, I think that everyone should really, certainly those who are in some form of office, ought to carry one on them not just for the videoing of trails where necessary but if you have a situation either with saboteurs or members of the public you can just pop it out your pocket and clip it onto your chest or whatever so you've got a record of what's going on and you can get these ones that sort of pop into your pocket almost sort of pen sized things, the quality isn't brilliant or the battery life but you've got it there as a back up.

I always worry when I see someone holding a mobile phone in one hand and trying to hang on to a rather anxious horse's reigns with the other while they're having a contre-temps with the antis and the fact that they may drop the phone and then the antis would grab it, so it's always something bearing in mind.

So we've discussed that also very important that we've got videos of hounds hunting trails. I think this is increasingly important, we have to have that evidence, **what your hounds are capable of, hunting a trail and we need to, at least once a season, have a video of that so you've got it on record and it all helps to have this information.**

Now, what do you do with all this at the end of the day? So often when I was going around doing my rounds a few years ago, I'd ask people to see the previous videos from the previous ... what they'd filmed of a day's hunting and they'd say, 'well the camera doesn't work' or 'Fred's got it and he's gone on holiday to the Bahamas' or 'it's on his laptop and we can't get into his house', well that's probably just an excuse that he hasn't done it.

It's far better that you had some sort of hunch, cloud or Dropbox that you can put all the information on a secure account, the vital people can access it as and when they need to and then you can, anyone can, Whatsapp the relevant video clips, or whatever they've taken, up onto that and you've got it in one place; you haven't got the worry.. a camera or all the important footage in the river or going on holiday with their camera or laptop crashing.

We've already discussed the credibility of the trail layers, I think they also need to know the country well, the key point is no hollering or pointing by anyone. We've had several people who've successfully, huntsman who've successfully been prosecuted, I can think in particular one near me in the West Country and one right up in the north so that is a key one ... [cuts out at 17:01]...

17:08

Mark: ...Your drag hanging down below you with ... [cuts out]... the hounds. Radios obviously it's very important... [cuts out]... secure encrypted ... [cuts out]... perhaps for other things secure radios are not so important but it is important, it is... [inaudible]... vital it is used on radios or on phones and very careful of what you say because the opposition are doing ...

[cuts out] ... positioning of the terrierman on the quad bike who turns the radio up full force so he can hear it as he's bombing around and of course when he ... [cuts out]... and of course those ones in mind.

Language and PR: all hunts should consistently and clearly promote that their activities within the hunting field are within the law. I'd be hugely in favour of seeing more things on people's, not just on their sort of social, but when you write out your hound list or whatever it is or print your sort of hard copy, that you send out in a nice sort of format, that you send out to all your subscribers where it says the master is so and so and so and the huntsman is so and so and the whipper is so and so, the stud groom is that, you know please put in it your trail layer, rather than just having at the bottom your countrymen.

We need to very promote the fact that we're trail hunting and the more that people say that the trail laying appointments, rather than hunting appointments and things like that, helps to promote what we're trying to achieve in the long term. And I think that also goes with the social media and I know that Polly and Alice will be talking more about that at the social media webinar that we're having next week.

Planning ahead again and this is the time of year that it should be happening. I know that we're all rather distracted with the wretched pandemic at the moment but you ought to be thinking of having a meeting – Masters, hunt staff, whoever's in charge of coordinating your trail laying, trail laying team, anyone else involved, filmers and people, to discuss your protocols, how you're going to operate, discuss potential pitfalls, what could happen if things go wrong, you know, who's going to be in place if someone's sick or if they are self isolating and can't be there, if it's a key person, person... [cuts out]... does the trailing laying... [cuts out]... or if both those trail layers have got flu.. [cuts out].. and you will get that knock on the door or phone call from the police... [cuts out]... so again, who is responsible for video... [cuts out]... then they are there to help you. I'm sure you can remember exactly what you did yesterday but come the end of the.. [cuts out]... season... [cuts out]... terrier work, who was doing trail laying, where did you go?

All important stuff to have. And again we're talking the paper trail which is so important so sending an email to the trail layers, it all might be straightforward, they may know like the back of their hand what they've got to do but just telling them where they can go and where they can't go, preferably a map to give them a rough idea, not a precise map saying you must follow this exact route, but just a rough sort of idea, you can go on such a such a farm but avoid that wood and so and so and all that sort of thing. It all helps to build up the bigger picture that we're trying to achieve. I think that pretty covers everything I have to say. I know that Richard and Will are going to go into, give you, greater depth so Chairman, thank you very much.

21:36

Chairman: Thank you Mark very much for that. That was excellent stuff. We have got some questions but as we said earlier we will take them at the end. I would now like to ask Richard Gurney, former Master of the Old Surrey and Burstow if he would talk to us about his case study. Richard, over to you please.

21:55

Richard: Thank you, good evening. I've been asked to give you an example of a case study as to how trail laying and collating evidence of such trail laying helps us. As the Chairman just said, **I was Master of Old Surrey and Burstow for twelve seasons** and hunts of the hounds for the last three and during that time we were sabbed by Brighton Guildford and Croydon on a regular basis and it was very clear early on after the Hunting Act came in that we had to cover our hunt staff, we had to cover ourselves and we had to protect both whilst at the same time - and this is the point I want to get across before I start talking about the case study - by doing that properly, **by collating evidence and having a good trail**

laying team it was vital that we had that, which would enable us then to be able to go and do what we all want to go and do.

So this wasn't about turning the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent into a trail laying pack, it was about giving us the support and protection that we needed.

We were very fortunate at the time to have a huntsman of... [cuts out]... seasons, Stanley Mark Bycroft, who not only embraced it but created a team around him that quite simply without them we wouldn't have been able to function and I can't stress enough how important that team is, how time consuming it can be but how vital it is in order for you to go out and operate and hunt within the law.

Approximately now two seasons ago we were hunting at a very popular meet, we had sort of 100 mounted and it was a good day everyone was looking forward to. It became clear at 12 o'clock midday that we had been infiltrated by some 40-50 hunt saboteurs from both Gulidford and Brighton and it was at that point that we decided, **the Master of the day decided, that we should revert to Plan B, Plan B being obviously using our team to lay trails for the rest of the day because it became clear that the antis that had arrived** were only there for one thing. They wanted a fight and they wanted a big fight. So the team was set in motion and off we went.

Now what ensued was in fact the death of a fox at the end of a trail and I was asked to go to Clinton Police Station and explain myself and as I walked into the police station two days after the incident, the policeman whom I knew, said to me 'I'm afraid it looks like you're banged to rights on this one'. And what he meant was that he had a video given to him by five different saboteurs who had basically filmed that fox being caught by our pack of hounds, in a gill and dispatched in front of them.

There was nowhere for us to turn, except for the fact that that is exactly the opposite of what had happened and we then showed him film from our trail layers video cameras from the other side of the vale whereby we could prove that the trail had been laid, hounds had hunted the trail, they'd hunted it successfully and we had video footage of the trail being laid and where it went, we had video footage of hounds hunting the trail, obviously all times on the video cameras and we had video evidence of where that trail concluded and when hounds stopped speaking and stopped hunting it, you could clearly see and hear that the saboteurs in the gill below us were blowing hunting horns and calling hounds into that gill. Now when we showed him the evidence it became clear throughout the meeting that he changed his opinion very swiftly and we were able to do that because we had a brilliant team in place who had set that up.

So the huntsman Mark Bycroft had actually been walking the country, as he would have done, with the Master of the day, two days before, but he'd also been walking it with his head trail layer. **And so when the Master of the day said, you know, I have got to peel off now, we know what Plan A is, it's for you to now go and sort Plan B, off they went and they discussed where, if there was a problem, they would lay trails, coordinates, things that would stand out if they were filmed and they spent another hour and a half walking around the country deciding where they would lay trails if they needed to.** Without that reconnaissance we wouldn't have been able to look so professional, we wouldn't have been able to gather so much information, and we produced to the police on that day a complete package whereby they concluded that in actual fact in his instance it was our opponents who had got that fox killed that day and not ourselves. So we actually walked into the police station with them thinking that we were banged to rights and we left, free to go, with them apologising for having wasted our time but were hugely impressed by what we delivered.

Now all of that, as I've already alluded to, takes time and effort and it also takes a decent team. And a couple of things I would say, and add to that, is that we also say 'get one in the can'. It's absolutely vital that if where you can, it's not always possible, depending on where

you're meeting, but if you can get one in the can, you are doing what Mr Hankinson's already explained is important and you are proving your intent was to go and hunt within the law.

So if you have a filmed video at quarter past or twenty past eleven or half past eleven and you have it in the can and you have a trail laid and video evidence of hounds hunting that trail, albeit for two or three minutes, you'll have one in the can which demonstrates that you clearly were going hunting to hunt within the law. And simulate a day's hunting as it used to be.

Another obvious one that we learned very early on was don't get your trail layers to lay your scent, please, over seven fields of grassland and twenty hedges in the first half an hour because quite simply we'll get through your country, to say nothing of getting through your horses, so at the meet whoever was master of the day would basically say a very important sentence: 'We are here to lay trails and hunt within the law so our hounds and huntsmen can go and find them. We will be laying trails across land in which we've been asked to cross, invited to cross, and we will be laying trails in hedge lines and ditches and woodland and across grassland.' It's very important because there is no law about doing that. And your opponents will tell you from time to time why on earth are you laying a trail through that wood? Well, why on earth not? There is no law against you doing that. And it's very important that, as I say if you can, to get one in the can.

The most important thing that we found was getting the scent right but I know Will's going to be talking about that in a second so I won't bang on about that. I hope I've demonstrated to you just one small example, I could give you twenty, thirty, forty even, **but I hope I've identified a loop.. shown you, one small day where without it we would have been in a lot of bother.**

30:04

Chairman: Richard, thank you very much indeed. That was extremely interesting. I hope everybody's learned from that. I must admit that I learned from that as well, so it's always a good start I suppose. But anyway, thank you Richard very much indeed. And I'd now like to move on to the laying of trails and trail layers and ask Will Day to cover this for us. Will, over to you.

30:38

Alice: Will, we can't hear you.

30:46

Will: Can you hear me now?

30:57

Chairman: Yes, we can hear you, Will. Off you go.

30:58

Will: Brilliant, thank you very much. Sorry about that. Yeah, so, Mr Hankinson mentioned I think a pre-season trail laying meeting that Hunts should probably call and that's probably where I'll start if I may. Because that, we do that, we do it every year and the Masters invite the team of trail layers along to sit down and go through a few things, all the issues that might come up, and that's really important because we air all the problems, all the issues, something that might happen and we go through it as a team together so we all know what we're going to try and do and what do we do if certain things come up. We keep a record of that meeting so that if anyone ever asks, you know, when did it happen, where did it happen, there's a record of who was in attendance, what was talked about and that sort of thing. So that's probably the place to start.

The team of trail layers: when we started out 15 years ago we had all sorts of different people, we though probably an idea to get everybody to try and do it and that would be a

good thing. Over the years we've refined that down because some people are better at it than others to be honest, some people enjoy it more and you probably can't ask everybody all the time, so my opinion is a small team of dedicated people who know what they are doing is what you're looking for and I agree with Mr Hankinson more than one trail layer a day, definitely.

What we do is we have a couple operations in place so one is a Whatsapp between the trail layers for planning, coming to a day and to a day and you can use that. Whatsapp sends a lot better than texts and it stays as a record, you can always look back at it, you can always produce it if you're ever asked to. And it discusses a little bit around the trail laying. Another document that's important is the rota.

So basically I take the meet card the Master gives me and I rota on who is laying trails next to which meet. That gets sent back to our Master and he produces a, and this might or might not work, but a day planning guidance sheet. It will be hard to see [shows camera] but I'll describe it, it's what Mr Hankinson referred to and it has on it what you would expect - date, meet, people involved in different ways, but importantly two things: trail laying pause points because we stop a trail and carry on and lay a new one, and it covers the area we're going to hunt in over the whole day, and vitally trail layers named so we know who's out trail laying that day, you've got a record before you've got there and that's emailed out the night before, maybe two days before.

Also, emailed with that and this is just a quick thing, is a sector sheet which is a map of the country with numbers on it and we would use radios and phones to discuss where we are in the country. We don't use names of places on the radio, we're 100% public land, anyone can go anywhere so we need to be aware of that and we do have antis now and again, so we speak on the radio, we use a map like that.

After the day, I fill in the day record sheet which you may have all seen, that's a copy from last season and that was emailed out by the Hunting Office I think some time ago. And what that does is record a list of where we've been, what we've done, who was involved, so again really important. And one of the documents, and I'll come to why I'm talking about documents, one of the documents is the trail record from a phone, that's an example of my colleague's trail and you can, might see, at the top eighteen miles, so a decent long day of who's running on that day.

That brings me to credible trail layers. Obviously we have here a number of different documents that confirm what happened on any one day, before and after, and that's important to go along with your video evidence, so if you're ever asked how was planned, where did you go, why, you've got these documents there to produce and we do that for every day. It doesn't take as long as you think it does once you get in the swing of that.

Credible trail layers: yeah, they've got to be trustworthy, they've got to turn up, they've got to be on time and they have to be able to take an order because they might get one from me or from the Master and that's important. Ours will hack on horse to the meet with us in front or just behind hounds so that the people on foot, members of the public, can see them and the runners, myself and another, we run down with the hounds to the meet. Then we would leave and carry on laying trails before the hunt leaves so it's very visual that we've gone and spent five minutes there, left then carried on laying trails. Often we've gone out beforehand, before hacking to the meet to put a line down.

Public face of hunting: yeah, you're out the front, you're going to come across to members of the public, antis, police, car drivers, so its important to pick the right people who can talk, communicate and listen and record what's happening, so you need people selected quite carefully.

Robust when questioned: well, I suppose there's two important ways of being questioned. One is probably the antis shoving a camera in your face. I've set myself a number of different sentences really when that happens: 'sorry, it's none of your business, can't discuss this for

operational reasons I'm afraid', just something like that, it shuts them down, they won't like it but you keep your cool and carry on and that's robust under questions from them. They're not entitled to ask you anything and you don't have to talk to them, so a quick sentence and leave or say nothing and leave.

Robust when questioned by the police: explain your documents, explain the scent bottle you've got with you and go from there. If you are ever invited into a police station, always take a solicitor, they are free are free of charge. You can fund it privately and probably the MFHA with insurance but you can get one free as well. Never go anywhere, police station-wise, without a solicitor.

Steady under fire: that's the next line, and really that's talking about no hot heads, no one who's going to get involved in an incident, that would be unattractive and obviously you need somebody who's fit and able to do the job and so you might be looking at young people for running or on foot so you've got to pick them carefully and give them some training about what to do.

Storage and organisation of trail laying footage and other videos: so, obviously there is different ways of recording the footage. Footage in any court case is vital, the documents are really important but the footage is also vital, so trail laying footage and trail hunting footage must be taken and recorded.

I have just a standard camera, pretty straight forward, it goes in a water-proof bag, comes out 4-5 times a day to film trails being laid by myself and the mounted teams and then it's downloaded to my laptop and sent on to the Master so he keeps a second copy as well, in one place. Now, cameras like that are very good because they have anti-wobble so it picks up decent information, including the time, the date and a good clear picture of what's going on. The next thing then, moving on to the next slide.

Replicate movement of quarry in the country: yeah, you don't want to be just running around in open fields, you've got to try and do what quarry might have done before. What I tend to do and what my team seems to do, start in a thick area and we do that so that we have a chance to get all hounds away together on to the trail, it gives the trail runners a chance to get going.

Obviously one of the problems on foot is hounds are going to be much quicker than us and so we have to do what can to get away quickly. We tend to start in a hack place, run probably sort of a semi-circle and then leave and importantly we, at our hunt, have mounted teams and on foot.

On a Saturday we have two different mounted teams and two runners. On a Tuesday I normally am able to arrange one mounted team, maybe two, and one runner. Now, the trick there is to work as a team, because the runner is sometimes going to get caught up with, so swapping on and passing on to the horse to put in a decent gap is useful and can be arranged, and the other point about having a number of different mounted teams and runner teams is that you can go in different directions so we're linked by phones and radios. We can meet up if needed to pass it on to someone faster, such as a mounted rider, or we can go our own direction.

Obviously it needs to be exciting and interesting for hounds, for the field, for the huntsmen, so just running straight down paths is boring, pretty obvious, we have to put in the effort and go cross-country really but if you do that it will pay off. People won't be able to tell the difference after a while.

We've been working on it fifteen years and everybody's got something to learn. We're not doing it perfectly, I've learned something listening tonight but it's certainly something you need to plan and do. Obviously I speak from being on foot and running for the hounds and that's where I come at it from and so my rules about that, it says in coverts, along ditches, through hedges and fence-lines. Yeah, don't stop moving and figure out what's going to

waste your time and try and avoid that because obviously the pack are going to be catching you up, move as fast as you can and do not delay. This is what we say to our whole team, all day we're all moving, we don't stop.

There are obviously things you can do to try and slow hounds down going through streams or rivers, zig-zagging is a good technique and in fact we did a zig-zag trail almost by accident once running back to box up with a leaky bottle and they hunted it. The huntsmen got a radio message through to me: 'just do some zig-zags and we'll really check they're hunting you' and we had some big zig-zags across a moor and it was one of the nicest slow hunts back to a box as the hounds worked it out, so you can have fun in doing it and you need to be able to use techniques that slow them down because they will be coming to catch you up. One final point, sounds obvious, do not get it in your mouth. I accidentally did that once and regretted it greatly.

Method, then, all the ways of doing it I suppose. What's not on there, which I will say, if I may, spray bottle and this is just a standard normal spray bottle, used last season it had a life as something else before it was a trail laying kit, but we cleaned it out properly, it's got scent in it now and that, I think, works really well for and on-foot runner because it sprays it out slowly across, onto the ground, and we've found that hounds hunt that better sometimes than they do a dragged rag or dobber and our huntsman, he would know, he's asked us, 'can you use that spray bottle because that thing's working?' so I think sometimes a spray bottle very, very easy to create, you cannot see what's inside it but it's sprayed as the runner goes.

It's probably not possible to do that from a horse and that of course brings me on to rag because that would be on the end of a dobber and what we say about that it's basically the whip but on the end of the whip; you might have a rag and tied into a bottle. I've got a version of it here, this is the foot version but basically these bottles would be held on the horse, inside is our scent with a rag that's tied up nice and tight, with these bottles. We've got a bidet clip and a line and it goes through a stick you can hold. Undo the bottle, drop the dobber and of you go.

You need a spare bottle top to go on to keep the scent from splashing around all over the place. This is my kit from last season, it hasn't been mended yet so it's in a bit of a state but that takes you back to you need scent with you and need to be able to put that down. Sock is the next one down. I've done that, we're a pretty thick country, brambles, woodland, heather that will rip a sock up as soon as it sees it but on grass, yeah, a fine way of doing it and a sponge on a stick, again, like the idea fine if that's how you want to lay it, fine. Horse boot, tried it a couple of times. It didn't go so well for us in our fairly high level of undergrowth and we prefer hanging a line off of the side of the horse and going that way. Terrier? No. That's pretty obvious to me.

Don't try and use a terrier, you won't be able to control it. What happens if someone gets hold of it? It's not going to be able to help you particularly.

Credible and achievable. What I've put there, basically, four different teams, all sorts of different directions, all videoed and so you have a record of what's there. Next slide is of course:

Scent and Purchased Scent from Amazon. We bought some previously, we were told it was really good, now I think it depends, as it says before, it depends on what country you're in, your hounds, how the scent is, where you got it, how fresh it is, how do you know? We were told some was really good, bought it and it didn't really work for us. We tried a different type and they went really well on it, so I think everybody has to just try it out themselves and figure out what they can with it for their hunt.

The other thing to say is if a court, police or antis ever say to you, 'well, you weren't very good, it wasn't very perfect' take them back to the old rules, nobody who understands scent completely who could say how the weather would affect things, so you can do what you can

to lay it, you can try your very best, sometimes they won't hunt it well, nothing you can do about that.

Homemade scent: yeah, this one's particularly smelly and yucky but it does work. We have previously used fox carcass, mulched down, that's from shooting and from road kill. Pretty messy business, add in some oil, water and I think the huntsman put in some paraffin on one occasion, to make it sticky. Leave it a good period of time and then the water that comes off the bottom obviously is very smelly. A fox you can use. That's an animal based scent, if you want to go down that route. And what I would say about that is your waste, whatever you've left, put in the incinerator, get rid of it and you need to make sure you're responsible about that.

Home made scent non-animal based: tried aniseed, too strong for them really, could water it down I suppose, some hounds will probably hunt it well, ours weren't particularly happy with that but you may have noticed just briefly nipping back, the bottle, there's two of them, one is what I call a hot scent, one is a colder scent, so they are different strengths because on a day I might say, 'this isn't going too well, let's go for the stronger scents', so for you to decide with your hunt but the key is you've got to have it out there with you, with your trail layers, and be putting it down.

Record of Purchase and Production: well, pretty simple, keep the receipt, keep the email, if you've bought it. If you're producing it video yourselves doing that, putting carcasses into a barrel or making up non-animal based scent, just video it, doesn't take long and it's a clip that goes with... [cuts out] ... and there you go.

The last bit on this slide I've already covered really, depending on country and there you go. There's a slide of some options for you. Pretty easy to purchase online and have them delivered, there will be a record of all of that which will be of assistance to you if you're ever asked what were you laying and how were you laying it.

So, produce own scent ideally, yes, I agree with that because it probably comes from your country, you'll know what your hounds will be able to deal with and you can keep a record of it, a video of you making it, very good.

Fox urine, yeah, you can get that online and again our hounds have hunted it. I think sometimes they prefer not to, but it is down to individual packs.

Broth and juice, evidence of production: that's really what I said about videoing and taking the time to do it and explaining on the video what you're doing, why and any ingredients you're putting in. Thank you, I think this is the last slide.

So, video camera, yeah, remember to charge it, to have it on, you don't need in my opinion hours of footage, you need good clips and you need clips of each of the trail layers on each day and you want to film them laying the trail and hounds hunting the trail. Now, that bit's the harder bit because if you're laying the trail and filming yourself doing it, how are you going to film them hunt it? It's doable, it takes timing, you might not get that clip every time and you've got to do your best to collect it. What we do here is I have the video camera and I film everybody.

Other ways of filming of course – headcam, although there's dangers with that because of helmets and riders are trying to ride and concentrate on that, so what we've done here is mainly me filming them lay a trail and hounds going on to hunt it and me filming myself and our other runner as we lay a line, hopefully filming them coming in behind us when we can. Like I said cameras are good for anti-wobble.

What is also good is the phone because as long as it's as waterproof as you can get it and got a hard case on it, it will be robust and the cameras nowadays are really good so you'll get the footage you need. Revert to that if there's a problem.

Scent, equipment, well, you saw my two bottles. The first main important one is this one because it is, they are, aluminium bottles, buy them in an outdoor store, I won't name them, probably not allowed, but outdoor stores, you go there, they're aluminium water bottles and they don't rot, they don't get broken, they're pretty hard going, you can bang them around out there and they'll maintain the scent, it's usually the lid that goes but you just have to buy another one.

Spray bottles, great, but the scent tends to eke through the bottom because it's plastic and it cracks along the bottom, but so cheap to replace if that happens. You just get another one but you need the container to carry that and aluminium cheap water bottles are the best.

Moving on to maps quickly then because I'm probably taking up too much time. Maps, we have our sector maps in a plastic wallet so that it doesn't get damaged by water, however you want to carry a map, I tend to have a small one like that wrapped up in my pocket that I can check and communicate from if need be. GPS cameras and GPS trackers, yeah, really good because it covers where you've been. It's a downloaded record of it, it's not just you saying it, but it's a downloaded record and this downloaded record matches our earlier in intentions sheet where we are going to lay trails. Again it shows we were in the bits of country where we were planning to go to on our draw list.

GPS trackers, similar thing really, and very easy to organise and have. Videoing yourself if trail laying alone, I do it all the time. You don't see me in the clip, you just see, you hear my voice and see me undoing the bottle, laying the line, running away and you will hopefully hear hounds in the background starting to pick it up. And so, yeah, there's no excuse really, get a clip and try and film other trail layers out with you if at all possible. A couple of other quick things to finish off that weren't on the list, if I may. For runners, trainers are really important.

The better the trainer, the better you'll run. Taking care of your feet and good socks, again sounds silly, but it's vital stuff. If you have a receipt for expensive trainers because you're a trail layer you can always show someone that and if they need to see it. Water for on-foot trail layers, vital, you will dry up trying to run a long way. Have water with you or in a car as support, maybe some food and sugar, that will keep you going.

Wayne and I have managed to run 18 miles twice a week for 15 years and we're both getting on now so if we can do that, we've done it with all of this - planning, water, food, good trainers, good kit, taking care of yourself and that's what you're looking for; trail layers that can work with you in that way. That's probably everything I'll say about that and I suppose if there is any questions about that I may take them at the end if I'm allowed. Mr. Chairman thank you very much for inviting me to present my information.

53:41

Chairman: Will, thank you very much for doing that, that was incredibly interesting. I've never heard all that before but I learned a lot, I'm sure everyone else did too. Yes, we will try and take questions at the end, I see we have got 13 in the box and we'll get through those at the end but before we get there, I'm going to ask Alice to talk to us about record keeping.

54:03

Alice: Good evening, everyone, I'm going to try and rattle through just some tips on record keeping and how you can keep your trail laying records effectively.

The first thing I'll say is there is no one way that works for everyone, you should choose a way of doing things that suits your team, your country and, most importantly, the people you've got to help you. The first point is that you need to produce what I'll refer to as a package of data. What I mean by that is a sort of bundle of information where all the data is kept. It needs to be a complete full day's record which is clear and the most importantly it needs to be accessible so that you're able to produce it confidently and quickly, that really does make a difference.

It doesn't matter how the data is stored as long as it is stored effectively and in one place so it can be accessed easily. Some people prefer to have everything stored on a computer, other people will prefer to have paper files or it can be a mixture of the two.

So this package, or bundle of information, for each day, needs to contain three things. The first thing it needs to contain is your plans for the day exactly as Will was saying, what you intend to do that day. It can be in the form of an email to your trail laying team explaining the areas where you want them to lay trails. It can be a map with lines drawn on it. It can be a photograph of a map with lines drawn or it can be a video of you pointing at a map saying where you're going to lay trails. There are loads of ways of doing it but it needs to be, what, it needs to state what your intentions are going to be.

The second thing that you need in your bundle of information is the evidence itself so the videos, the photographs, the GPS tracking, exactly what Mark and Will have been saying, you need that evidence itself, the videos of the trails being laid.

The third thing you need in your little package of information is a summary, a conclusion, a summary of what actually happened on the day, the daily record sheet is a great way of doing it. Will showed you an example of that but it's essentially what actually happened on the day, where you might have diverged from what you intended to do, if you had any incidents, if you had the police out, if you had any antis out, who your trail layers were etc. etc. As Will said, there is a daily record sheet that is available from the Hunting Office, which is a very easy way of doing it, it's got all the right boxes for you to fill in to do a summary.

Just a quick point of note here, emails are incredibly helpful, they're an incredibly efficient way of recording your intentions or your summaries. Every email that you send is saved, it's recorded as a sent item or it's received into an inbox, so it's a permanent record, it has a date stamp and a time stamp so just sending an email to your trail layers or sending a daily summary to your joint masters, for example, is a paper trail in itself. So emails are very helpful.

Just a couple of examples here, very similar to what Will was showing you but these are examples are how you can very simply put evidence of a plan or what you intend to do, so the daily record sheet is there on the right hand side and then the two pictures: one is a map that was printed out and someone just drew with a pen their plan for the day, where they were going to draw, first, second and third, and the second one is just an iPhone screenshot with the pen, the edit pen, and my finger drawing a circle on it. So it's very easy to do and then you can store that as what you intended to do on the day.

Digital records, ideally you need one person responsible for collating and storing the data; if you have loads of different people it just becomes stupidly complicated and it's and ... yeah, you just need one person, probably not a master because masters have got enough to do, so someone who's organised and probably computer proficient would be good. This person needs to receive all the data, download it and then store it accordingly. If it's being filed on the computer or in the cloud just split the files into logical intuitive sub divisions so that you can easily find what you need six months later.

You know, split it into season, month, and then the meet with the date on so you can refer back to it very easily. Another thing just to keep things simple is to always label your files in the same consistent way, so either label them with date and then meet or meet and then date or however you decide to do it, do it consistently because then all your files will be organised and easy to find. It is possible to do it with paper files as Will was demonstrating. You can very easily have a lever arch file with, split into months, with your day's hunting in, you know, single plastic wallets or something equivalent.

So it is... [cuts out] ... with paper as well, you don't have to do everything on the computer. Having said that, exactly... [cuts out]... the videos are crucial, they are really really important and if at all... [cuts out]... to have videos of trail laying and hunting trails. They're so much more robust, they're so much more, you know, they're not questionable, they are what they

are, the video evidence is there. So videos are really important. Transferring videos from one place to the next, it's often one of the bigger jobs of this person who has to collate all the information. Is to gather all the videos from different people. Long videos are often too big to email, short clips can easily be transferred via Whatsapp, everyone has a Smartphone now, most people have Whatsapp now so it's really easy for small video clips, that's perfect. Larger files can be sent via Dropbox or there's something called We Transfer or use any secure software that transfers, there's lots on the Internet but Dropbox is very good and We Transfer is very good.

A few hunts have very successfully had a central Dropbox account that different people can feed into and that has proved to be really, really useful. Some hunts use it, not only for their trail laying evidence and trail laying videos but they also use it for, to feed in all the videos they take when they're gathering evidence of watching antis to it does work very, very well, just one central hunt Dropbox account works really well.

One last thing that I noted is don't start transferring videos whilst you're out in the countryside, it'll waste all your mobile data. Wait until you get home, it's a lot quicker to use home Wi-Fi and it won't waste all your mobile data that's quite costly.

Lastly, mapping apps, mobile apps that you can use in order to track your route. There are loads of them, you don't have to pay for them, Ski Tracks is free, Map My Run I think is free, the one I would highly recommend is called Topo GPS. It's.. the app is free to download and then you can buy segments of an Ordnance Survey map and I think one hunt country would be two or three segments and they're I think about £1.99 each so it's not, they won't break the bank, and Topo GPS is a really, really good app. It's an Ordnance Survey map, it shows all the footpaths, it shows a lot of covert names, and it's a really, really accurate one to use and you can map your route if necessary. Or you can just use it to work out where you are and the best route to get to a road, etc. So Topo GPS is a very good one.

One thing about tracking apps and actually it's been brought up in... I noticed a question has already been brought up about tracking apps is that, one caveat is, and I think you do have to just think about it, is that if you're using a GPS tracking app, it is very easy, you just turn it on, and it tracks exactly where you've been, you don't really have to think about it. However, it will track exactly where you've been and exactly where the trail has been laid so there's no way you can have any artistic licence about where you may or may not have been, so that's just a point to bear in mind as to whether you think it's appropriate to use that or not. They can be very, very useful but just bear that in mind.

I think that's it. I just want to reiterate the three points: you need to produce a clear, accessible, that's the key – accessible – quick, quickly accessible package of information which contains what you plan to do, the evidence of you doing what you did and then the summary of the day's events. Don't let the filing get on top of you, it's really difficult trudging through loads and loads of files trying to remember what you did, from a particular day, you know, a month before, so update, upload the files... [cuts out]... labelling. And label them clearly, that's really, really important, you don't and you won't, remember what it was and when it was taken. And it really does make a difference.

The key of accessing files quickly and efficiently.. if PC Plod come knocking on your door or wants to talk to you, it really makes a difference if you can clearly and confidently and quickly produce the data and supporting evidence to quash any allegations straight away.

I know you've all got a lot to do during the season, everyone hates paperwork, it's boring, but it really, really is, it's really important to keep it organised. That's it, thank you very much.

1.05:54

Chairman: Thank you very much indeed, Alice, that was very comprehensive. I hope everybody has taken full note of what Alice said. I'd now like to ask Paul Jelley, who's been

sitting very patiently listening to us, very importantly to tell us all about the quality we require. Paul, over to you, please.

1.06:12

Paul: Thank you Mr Chairman. A couple of things just before I start: people are going to ask why am I talking about quality of evidence and who am I. **I was Master of the Clifton Foot and the Chilmark and Clifton Foot Beagles for 23 years, part of which was pre-ban and for eight years after the ban. But also I was, throughout that period I spent 30 years as a serving police officer in Avon and Somerset before I retired.**

I'm going to talk about quality of evidence but I'm also going to give some brief pointers around the police perspective and how they deal with Hunting Act offences, in particular trail laying. Quality of evidence – what is good quality evidence? Mainly it's got to have integrity, accuracy, dated, timed, consistent and as full as possible.

Good quality evidence will, and has been proved, to prevent prosecutions before they even start. If you can produce evidence of what you've been doing... [cuts out]... Richard's talk from earlier on, to the police, they will take that into account, you will not end up in court. However, conversely, poor quality evidence can actually lead to some difficulties for you. It makes life very difficult when you're being questioned if not only are they talking about the offence but they're also talking about the evidence you're presenting as well. Keep records throughout, we've already talked about that, and I think it's important to say at this time, a Hunting Act offence is a summary offence.

Police deal with offences depending on the type of offence. If they're dealing with assaults... [cuts out]... those are what they call either indictable or triable either way offences, they come with a completely different set of powers.

Hunting Act offences are summary offences, they come with very limited powers, unless it's built into the Act and I'll come on to that in a minute as to what exactly the powers [distorted] the police are and how they could use them.

The thing is for the police, for any criminal offence, they have to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that you were committing an offence and what you were doing was wrong. **All you have to do is produce a small element of doubt into their case for you to get off.**

For civil proceedings it's completely different, it's just on the balance of probabilities, for criminal proceedings [distorted] Act offences, it is beyond all reasonable doubt. **So you're aiming to produce something that throws some doubt into the matter.** We could have the next slide, Alice.

Records that you're keeping: digital or manual. Really up to you, doesn't make a vast amount of difference. Ideally, if it's manual make sure you've got dates on it, times, if there's any possibility that you've got independent verification for any of your evidence, make sure you've got that.

And also consider, if you are taking manual evidence, if you're hand-writing your daily record sheets, scan it into your computer, it date stamps it then. It can save all sorts of questions later to say surely you just wrote it just before we came round to interview you.. put the date on it from 6 months ago. So you can get round the manual side of things.

How can you stop questions? If you start thinking about what are the sorts of things you could be asked if you were taken in for an interview.

Hunt staff, trail layers, they're going to be taken in... allegations are made, they're going to say, 'Why did you lay trails in certain places?' Make sure, as we've said before, you've got instructions to trail layers set out right at the start of the season, have meetings with them, get them to sign for a piece of paper that's got all the rules on it. That they're meant to be laying trails, through coverts, across roads – safely – across open fields, and if you lay that

out, they can then refer to that if ever they are interviewed. Similarly if your hunt staff, questions they might be asked, 'why did you not know where the trail is?'

Hunt policy is, and the instructions to your hunt staff at the start of the season are, trails will be laid, you won't be told where they are, it's your skill and expertise and that of the hounds to go and find it and hunt it. So, again, if you think about it, you can stop some of the problems later on.

Again, consider sending emails to the trail layers at the end of the day as well as before, thanking them for where they've been and also daily record sheet, be honest. It will look highly suspicious if a pack of hounds is hunting two or three days a week throughout the season, going out across country and not having some sort of accidents. You will find live quarry and you will hunt it, be honest about it.

If you have a ten mile point it's very difficult to say that your trail layer did, especially if you run out of the country that they were to told to go in. So, yeah, write in your daily record sheet 'hunting a trail, hound seemed to hit off a different line in a different direction, they went 10 miles, we finally stopped them, took them back in to the original draw for the day, no idea what we were hunting'. Nobody can then query it, you've got a record of it. Again, as we've already mentioned, the emails are date and everything.

Videoring hounds hunting a trail. Great, yes, you can do it. Ideally, it would be nice if the trail layers take the video of them laying trails but it'd be nice to have a video of at least two or three times a seasons where you see the trail being laid. Keep the video running. It might be 10 minutes before hounds appear, then video the hounds running the trail. That will stop any allegation that live quarry ran through the gap, down the line where the trail was laid in the intervening bit when the video was turned off and also, as far as videos are concerned, do remember, almost all of them will have an audio camera, audio recording facility on there.

Think of what is being said not only by the person laying the trail, who'll be doing the video, but also the people in the background. They do record quite well and you can get inadvertent conversations in the background that you really don't want on there.

The other thing I'd say, again, about the trail laying, something we used to do with the Beagles when I was in charge, hold a trail laying session right at the start of the season. No other reason, do it as part of a fund raiser, a social event or something, lay a trail around a couple of fields, let your hounds go, hunt it, record it but ideally have a few independent people, not necessarily hunting folk. Invite the local policemen along, you know, local farmers who aren't hunting folk.

You can use them in evidence if you happen to go to court later on in the year, they will have seen your hounds hunting it, no pre-conceived bias or anything like that as to the hunting folk. If you've done it as part of a social event it makes it all the better and you can make some money out of it.

So, that is quality of evidence. Make sure it's good quality, as I say, dated, timed, recorded and not tampered with; keep the integrity of it. If you're taking video footage you're recording stuff, do not edit it afterwards, it ruins it as far as your use of it is concerned.

Again, there's no slide to the next bit, I'm going to talk about the police perspective, but there are some notes that will be available from the Hunting Office if anybody wants them.

Fair to say, 95% of police officers that you're going to come into contact with out hunting have no knowledge of hunting offences, they won't be overly interested, they've generally been out on patrol, they've either fallen across you or they've had a report that there's some hunting, could they go along and have a look.

They're probably going to turn up, ask you what you're doing - if you can show them the bit of trail or hunting, people laying trails, they'll disappear and go away again.

The other 5%, you're going to get pretty much a split down the middle, half of them are going to be keen hunting folk, there are police officers who are keen hunting folk, the other half are going to be raving antis.

The problems for the hunt are most of the raving antis are the ones that have gone on to become Wildlife Liaison Officers and they're the ones, if you get a retrospective inquiry or report from the antis, monitors, they send the videos in, it gets referred to the wildlife liaison officers, they're the ones that are going to be investigating it.

So, you can, if you find someone knocking on your door, a lot of the time, they're not going to be not very pro-hunting at the best of times. Illegal hunting, as we said, read the act, it's a summary offence, six months limitational proceedings, they have to have charged you or summonsed you to court within six months of your offence.

There is a power of arrest with the Hunting Act, it's written in - with summary offences it's only a power of arrest if it's written into the act - it is written into the act and the power of arrest is for found committing and for retrospective.

So if you're out hunting, cheering on hounds in front of a police officer and fox in front of hounds, hare in front of hounds, with beagles, he can arrest the huntsmen.

The likelihood of that happening is extremely remote, for the simple reason the police officer there is not going to want the responsibility of turning back up at the police station, going to see the Superintendent saying 'I've nicked a bloke for hunting and by the way we've got 30 couple of big dogs in the back yard that we've got to look after'.

They will almost always come back to you afterwards and ask you to come down to the police station. There is also a power of search in the act, there's generally not a search power for summary offences but it's been written into this.

The power of search is for evidence of the offence and the power of search is for persons arrested, any vehicle with them at the time when they're arrested, or any other thing. So if they're on horse you can search the horse, if they're in a building you can search the building. The only thing they cannot search is a dwelling. There's no power of entry into a dwelling to come and arrest you.

So, if you're in kennels and the police turn up, they can come in and deal with you for the offence, they can search the kennels and if there's a computer there that they think there's evidence on, they will seize it. Similarly, they will seize mobile phones and things like that again, looking for evidence.

So something for you hunt staff and terriermen, trail layers and everybody to consider, if you're recording evidence for the Hunting Act, trail laying, whatever, don't use the same phones or anything you've been using for social media and bragging about what you've been doing out hunting because if the police get hold of it, you'll get both sides of it.

Again, police will, as I've said, come knocking on your door, or phone you up, saying, 'Come down the police station, we've got evidence of a Hunting Act offence, we want to interview you'. Be polite to them because if you don't and say, 'I'm not coming', they'll come and arrest you and they've got the powers to do it. It's always good to keep on the right side of them.

The first thing you do is contact the Hunting Office, and it's been said before with Richard and the others, make sure you get legal advice. You're entitled to free, independent legal advice before you're interviewed by the police. It's free if you get arrested but we want our specialist lawyers there, they're good at this, if you get the duty solicitor they almost certainly will not know much about Hunting Act offences, so make sure you get panel lawyers that come through the insurance through the Hunting Office.

Police actually like you to have a solicitor with you at the police station, it gives them somebody to talk to who actually knows the law and knows the procedure, it makes it a lot

easier than trying to explain to somebody who doesn't. So again, they'll be happier if you have someone there.

Police are required by law to disclose evidence to the defence and also any evidence they may have that supports the defence case, so if there's something they've got that would actually help you, they're meant to disclose that as well. They will lose the case if they don't, but what that means if you go to an interview, they say, 'we've got a video of you trail, or not trail hunting, hunting live quarry, killing something', don't make a comment, ask to see the video, they say, 'we can't show it to you', ask to come back because you have a right to see it.

The other thing, there's no such thing as a friendly chat with the police. Everything is on the record, if you make a voluntary statement they will use it. They will caution you before they question you so they tell you, 'you don't have to answer any questions but they will use anything you say in court' but if you voluntarily tell them something tell them something they will use that as well.

If you are at interview and you choose to answer the questions, talk in English, not in hunting speak. Police officers won't understand hunting speak. Use words that they will understand, terms that they will understand so it's very clear what you're trying to get across to them. What else have we got? What do you say? Well, again, you don't have to say anything at all to the police. If you've got something to say in your defence, fine, talk to the solicitor, you can say it.

Police would like you to say 'hands up, Guv, you've got me banged to rights' every time. Not always the best answer to their questions, however, if you've got no mitigating evidence, they do have evidence that proves what you were doing was against the law.

First off, it's highly unlikely Hunting Act, the Hunting Office, will allow a case to go to court, they won't certainly be paying for the defence if there's no defence and if you admit the offence early you get a discount on any sentence; they might even just caution you. So that's something to consider and your legal advisor will be able to help you there. At interview, it's already been said, confident, robust, police look to probe further and will need detail if you appear unsure or keep changing your story. So, again, you're helping yourself out if you behave in that manner.

Police will also try and get you to do their job for them. They may well show you a video, they say, 'Who are those people on those horses running across the field there?'. You do not have, you are not obliged to tell them anything. You shouldn't be helping them to do their job, it's up to them to try and identify people, it won't be held against you if you don't, you're there to answer for what you've been doing and your actions, not for somebody else's and so let them get on and deal with it. And again, if you've got evidence that counters anything that the police have been presenting to you, it's probably best to present that at the police station, you know, your legal advisor will tell you the best course of action but if the police have got your side of the story and any evidence that've got at that stage, CPS will probably not take you to court.

The decision will probably be down to the CPS as to whether you're going to be taken to court, they have to look at all the evidence, both sides, and again, as I've said, the charge or summons to court must be done within six months or the case will fold. Again, all of that, only applies to Hunting Act offences.

If the police are investigating you for assaults on antis or other matters, public order, there are a whole different set of rules, so don't think that the same rules apply across the board. The other offences, as I say, are indictable and triable either way and far more stringent police powers there. So I think that's everything I need to say. Thank you very much everybody and I'll pass you back over to our Chairman.

1:22:48

Chairman: Paul thank you very much indeed, that was very comprehensive, it's always good to have a copper on your side or an ex cop, retired copper, on your side. Anyway, that was very helpful and very comprehensive, thank you very much indeed.

I rather thought we were going to have a very long Q&A session because we had 14 questions but the last three speakers must have done a brilliant job because the 14 questions have now gone back to two, we've only got two questions.

So we'll just have a quick look at them. The first question is about apps. What apps do people use for planning the trails to be laid to provide to the trail layers to prove the planning of trail laying? Alice, you look confused, I'm very confused. Can you have a go at that one?

1:23:28

Alice: Yes, I can try, I think there isn't any specific app that will specifically for planning, laying trails. I think the key is to either write down what you're intending to do or if you're wanting specifically to use a map to show where you're intending to go like the slide I had with the circles on, that was purely just a screenshot that I then drew with my finger that the area where I just drew a circle to demonstrate that, so I don't think, don't think an app exists and I don't think probably that you need an app specifically to be doing that on the map. You can either zoom in on your phone and draw or you can print out a map on a piece of paper and draw it with a pen and take a photograph of it. I think then sending that particular photograph to your trail layers is evidence in itself and the trail layers receiving it and opening it is evidence in itself that they have that they have done that. You can set some email systems and it might be useful, again just for continuity of evidence, you can set emails to do read receipts so it could be that you ask your trail layers to confirm that they have read an email and again that's just another bit of helpful evidence that means that you've not only sent your information to your trail layers but they also have confirmed that they have read which again can be helpful, but there isn't an app as such, I think it's just drawing on a photograph and you can do that with your phone or with a pen.

1:25:26

Chairman: Thank you very much for that. The next question, rather, is: Is there any risk of something like a GoPro that it could be confiscated by police and they accidentally have footage that is incriminating? Well the answer is yes, there might be and Paul was talking about that a couple of minutes ago so please, those of you who are filming and recording, don't stand there recording the opposition blowing their, firing their gizmos, blowing horns and saying, 'Isn't it marvellous that they haven't seen us because we've just caught a fox behind them' or something like that.

I mean, you've got to be very careful about who's saying what, even if you're not recording that person, that person may be talking behind your back and you must be very careful that you've got your camera on the whole time, bearing I mind that it's not a good thing to edit your videos. What you don't want to be doing is filming them after you've finished laying your trail and filming something that you then don't want to be shown to anybody so the answer is yes, everybody with cameras and videos and recording has got to be very careful about what they're recording. Make sure that we only record all the legal things that we do because of course we only do legal things. So that's all we can really record so yes the answer is to be very careful everybody.

Anyway, that's I don't think there's any more questions left, I've dealt with all of them. I'm amazed, I'm delighted, that all the others, the questions were answered by our brilliant panellists who've done really well today so thank you to Richard, to Will, to Paul, to Alice and to Mark, who seems to have vanished off my screen but I'm sure he's there somewhere.

Thank you all very much for coming, you're obviously all getting hungry because there were 155 people here 10 minutes ago and it's sneaked down to 138, so you're all in the feed yard which is a very sensible idea and I think the panellists and I are going to join there, virtually

of course, as soon as we can. Can I remind you, please, of the very important PR and Social Media seminar on Tuesday the 18th of August at the same time, six o'clock. I look forward to you all seeing me, I won't be able to see you unfortunately. Thank you all very much for joining in, thank you panellists, have a very good evening and we will meet soon. Good night.