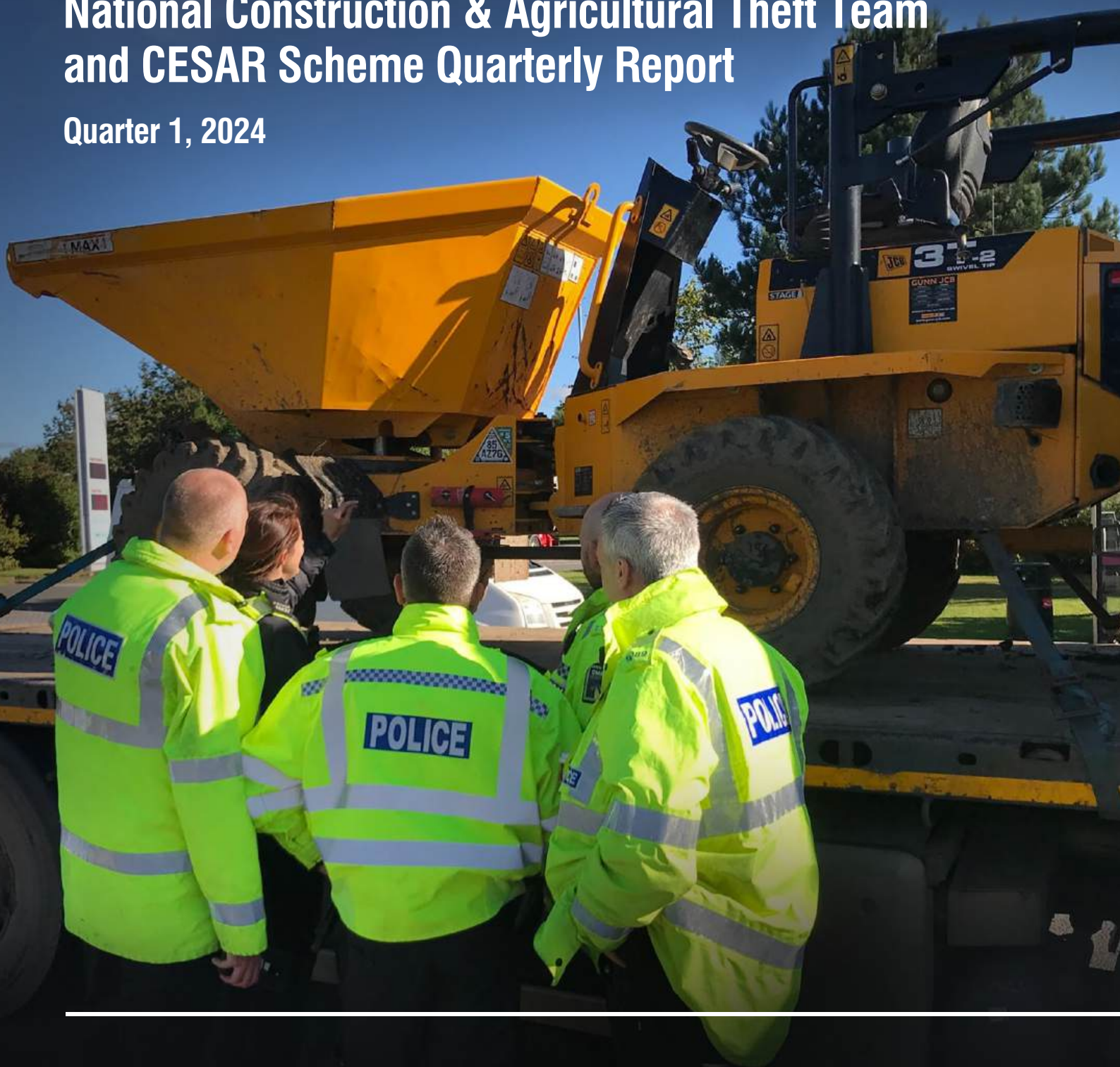




# National Construction & Agricultural Theft Team and CESAR Scheme Quarterly Report

Quarter 1, 2024



**CESAR** - The Official Construction and Agricultural  
Equipment Security & Registration Scheme

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**CEA**  
Construction Equipment Association  
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[datatag.co.uk](http://datatag.co.uk)

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# Welcome

## Paul Ross - Chair of the CEA

As Chair of the CESAR Scheme and the CEA Board, I am delighted to introduce this report which details the current activities and progress of the Scheme.

I have been associated with the CESAR Scheme since it's beginning well over ten years ago. We have seen industry dynamics continuously change since then.

The Scheme has evolved over time to combat the increasing threat from both domestic regional crime to that of international organised crime. Technological advancements are being more widely adopted by organised and professional criminals, and as such we need to combat this with our own technology. I am pleased to report that the level of sophistication within the Scheme has increased significantly along with the support activities that are rendered to recover and prevent theft.

Recently we have witnessed a rise in the level of activities of equipment theft. This is not only linked to regional activity but the demand for construction and agricultural equipment in Eastern Europe. Some of this has been driven by the current conflict in Ukraine, the sanctions imposed on Russia, and the lack of availability of equipment locally. Throughout all our activities it should be remembered that the cost of equipment theft. It goes far beyond that of the equipment itself as it also extends to lost productivity, loss of opportunity and loss of revenue generation.

I am proud to be part of our achievements to date and to be part of a wider organisation involving the support of insurance companies, the UK and international police forces and the specialist units that are driving the specific and individual initiatives. I would like to thank all concerned for their hard work and dedication to the Scheme and for making it the success that it is.



*Paul Ross*

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# Foreword

**Andy Huddleston** - Head of NCATT



The significant rise in the theft of construction and agricultural machinery over the last two years and the drivers behind this are worrying. I personally do not see the scale of the issues changing whilst there is such value and demand for used equipment across the world.

Alongside increasing demand on front line policing, the last 12 months has shown the real value in the industry and policing working together to tackle machinery theft. I thank everyone who has been committed to this but especially the CEA and funding donor group, in particular, for their unwavering support. The results and successes highlighted undoubtedly would not have happened without this combined commitment.

These thefts are being committed by well organised crime groups with international links and offending across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. Despite the limitations of being a small team, NCATT has brought improved co-ordination, better information sharing and crucially operational support as well as training for forces. NCATT have also been fundamental in writing the Equipment Theft Prevention Act 2023, mandating immobilisation and forensic marking which we know does reduce thefts and increase recoveries.



Lastly, my sincere thanks to the large number of officers and police staff across the UK that are committed to being part of a UK wide Police team tackling machinery theft.

Police Superintendent:  
Head of the National Rural Crime Unit / NCATT.



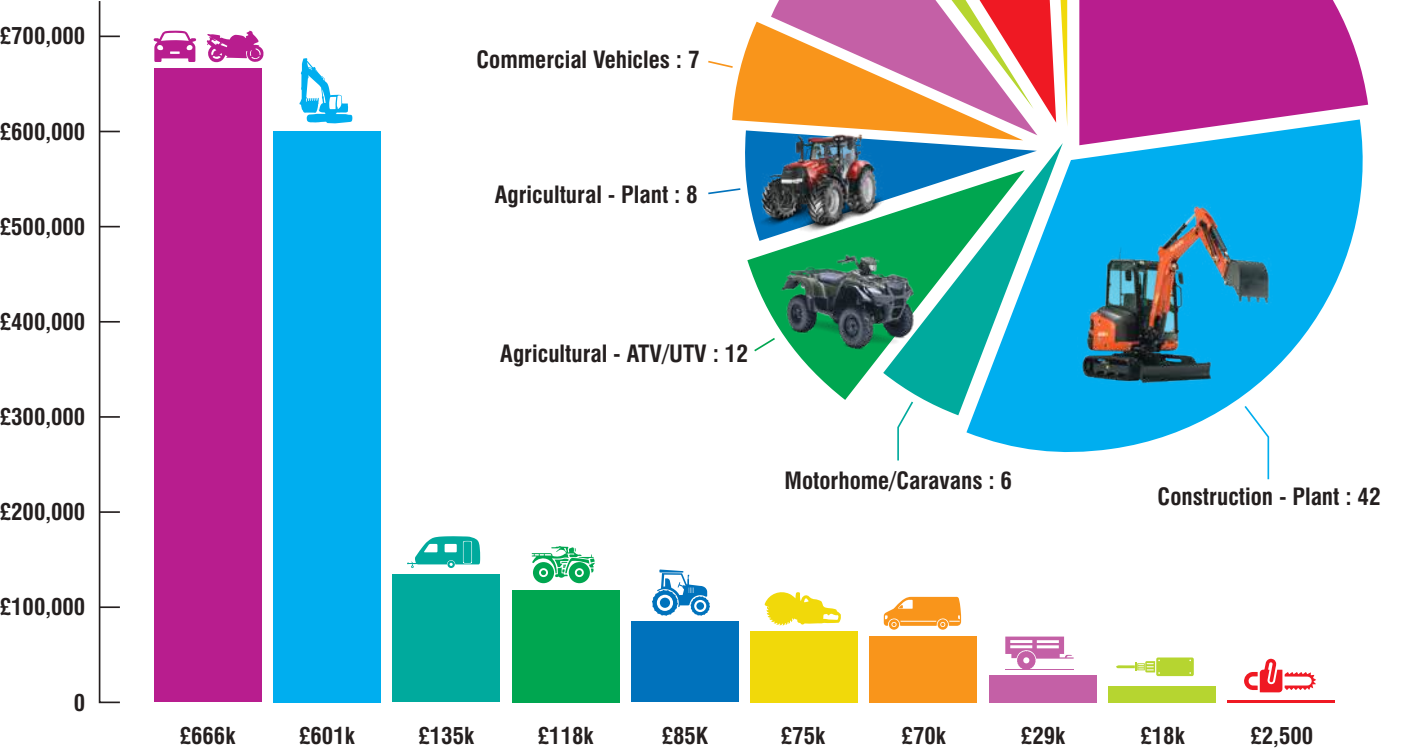
# Recoveries & Arrests

Qtr 1, 2024

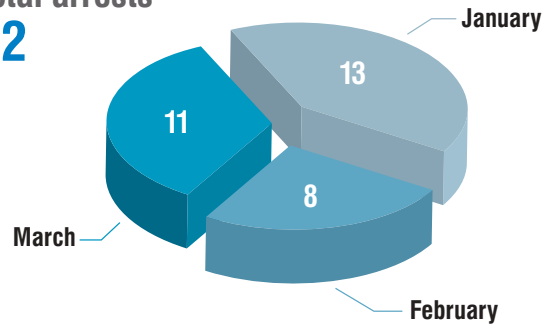


Total recoveries across all sectors **127**

Total value across all sectors  
**£1,724k**



Total arrests  
**32**



## International Recoveries



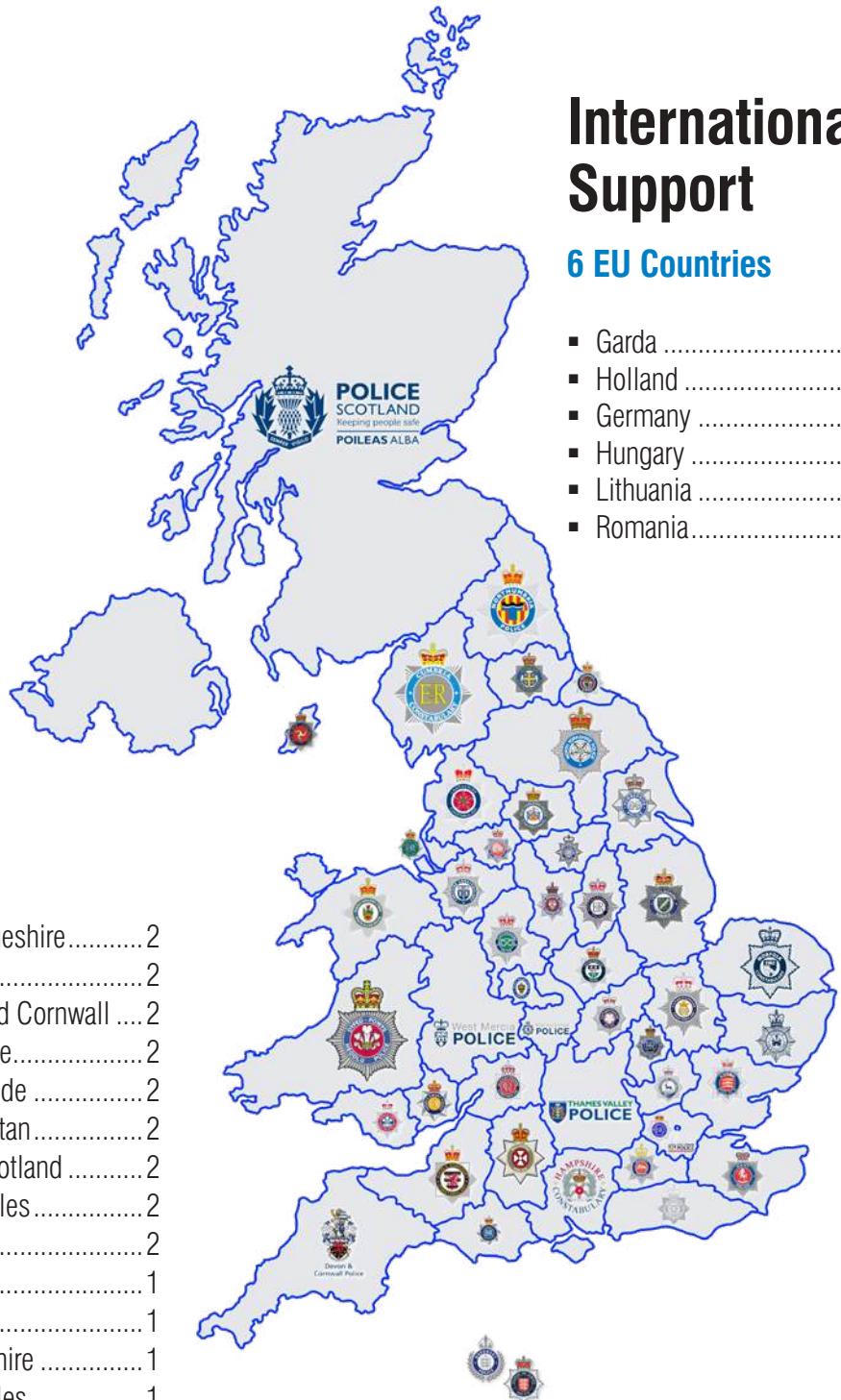
# UK Regional Forces Supported

Across 44 territorial police forces

## Occasions

Essex.....	12
Kent.....	8
Lancashire .....	6
Leicestershire .....	6
Northamptonshire.....	6
South Yorkshire .....	6
Derbyshire .....	5
Nottinghamshire .....	5
West Mercia .....	5
Dorset .....	4
Greater Manchester .....	4
North Yorkshire .....	4
Surrey .....	4
Thames Valley .....	4

Avon and Somerset .....	3	Cambridgeshire.....	2
Bedfordshire.....	3	Cheshire.....	2
Lincolnshire .....	3	Devon and Cornwall .....	2
Merseyside .....	3	Hampshire.....	2
Norfolk .....	3	Humberside .....	2
Staffordshire .....	3	Metropolitan .....	2
Warwickshire .....	3	Police Scotland .....	2
West Midlands .....	3	South Wales .....	2
West Yorkshire.....	3	Sussex .....	2
		Cumbria .....	1
		Gwent.....	1
		Hertfordshire .....	1
		North Wales .....	1
		Northumbria.....	1
		PSNI.....	1
		Suffolk.....	1



## International Support

### 6 EU Countries

Garda .....	2
Holland .....	2
Germany .....	1
Hungary .....	1
Lithuania .....	1
Romania.....	1



# Headline Stats - Arrests

January 2024



- **04/01/24** – NCATT attended Tracker activation that West Midlands had failed to locate. Local police were called to assist, and the stolen Mercedes Sprinter was located heavily stripped along with parts of a stolen Nissan. Five males arrested for Handling Stolen Goods.
- **05/01/24** – NCATT attends site in Northumbria. One male arrested for involvement in plant theft. Seized cloned stolen Ford Transit, stolen Wacker plate, stolen *Terex TA1EH Dumper*, stolen *Bomag BW80 Roller*, cloned stolen Ford Ranger and stolen *Thwaites Mach 2001 Dumper*.
- **09/01/24** – NCATT investigation in relation to stolen farm quad from previous evening, vehicle identified and suspects identified. Two males arrested. Stolen power tools seized, and two vehicles seized as used in crime from suspects.
- **10/01/24** – NCATT co-ordinated deployment of officers in West Mercia to recover stolen Yamaha 450 Kodiak ATV based on information provided by ATVtrac. One male arrested.
- **31/01/24** – NCATT co-ordinated deployment of officers in Yorkshire to recover stolen motorhome. Vehicle seized and four persons arrested.



*Bomag BW80 / Terex TA1EH Dumper / Thwaites Dumper*



*Yamaha 450 Kodiak ATV*

# Headline Stats - Arrests

February 2024



- **02/02/24** – NCATT Ports Operation with NAVCIS at Birkenhead identified a vehicle at the port was a cloned stolen vehicle. Ferry held, boarded and one male arrested (male is OCG nominal). The *Toyota Hilux* was identified as stolen from Sussex two days earlier.
- **05/02/24** – NCATT assisted with warrant alongside Cheshire and Derbyshire regarding stolen Range Rover. Two persons arrested.
- **05/02/24** – NCATT following enquiries on eBay in relation to stolen Leica equipment for sale, co-ordinated deployment of officers in Surrey. One male arrested and *300+ power tools* seized at suspect's address.
- **06/02/24** – NCATT investigation of vehicle involved in plant thefts resulted in vehicle being intercepted and one male arrested. Stolen trailer and stolen excavator recovered.
- **06/02/24** – NCATT deployed following request from Leicestershire Police. Property identified selling stolen Honda 90 ATV, location attended, and ATV found under tarpaulin. One suspect arrested.
- **19/02/24** – NCATT deployed to South Wales following ram raid/burglary at rural car dealership. All four vehicles recovered, and two suspects arrested.
- **24/02/24** – NCATT co-ordinated officers in Essex to assist CanTrack to recover a stolen Avant telehandler in yard. One male arrested. Machine and a stolen Land Rover Discovery seized.



*Toyota Hilux*



*300+ Power Tools*

# Headline Stats - Arrests

March 2024



- **11/03/24** – NCATT works on tracking unit heading south from Doncaster in conjunction with OPAL, vehicle heads to Harwich and is stopped by NAVCIS. Vehicle contains eight machines, six *JCB 16C* stolen from Euro Auctions, one *Wacker Neuson*, and one *Bomag roller* stolen from two sites in South Yorkshire. One arrested and lorry seized, vehicle bound for Poland.
- **13/03/24** – NCATT attended address in Essex in relation to the theft of 53 pieces of plant. Two suspects arrested. One for money laundering and one for theft and money laundering. Over £100k in cash seized from the address along with 100 *VIN plates from plant machinery*, luxury items and financial documentation.
- **20/03/24** – NCATT supported West Mercia with seven males arrests and searches for OCG involved in Agri and plant thefts, illegal firearm located. Six have been charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to steal. All Six were remanded. The seventh was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit burglary and was released on police bail pending further enquiries.
- **26/03/24** – NCATT attended warrant with Dorset Police and in conjunction Hampshire Police regarding a suspected handler of stolen vehicles and plant. One male arrested at home address, warrant executed at three properties, over 100 vehicles and five items of plant machinery checked. Parts found from two stolen vehicles Ford Transit and a Jaguar F Pace. A cloned stolen Volkswagen Passat was also seized.



6x JCB 16C / Wacker Neuson Roller / Bomag Roller



100 Plant Machinery VIN Plates



# In The Press

## Latest Industry News



### CESAR SCHEME NEWS

## CESAR Scheme Marks Milestone at LAMMA Show with Kawasaki's Adoption and 625,000th Machine Protected

At the recent LAMMA agricultural show, significant advancements in agricultural equipment security were highlighted. Central to these developments was the CESAR security scheme, owned by the CEA (Construction Equipment Association), a valuable tool in combatting the rising issue of equipment theft in rural areas.

Kawasaki, a leading manufacturer, announced the integration of the CESAR System, powered by Datatag, into its ATV models starting 2024. This move, in response to the Equipment Theft (Prevention) Act 2023, represents a significant step in enhancing customer security. The CESAR system, endorsed by the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) and developed by Datatag ID Ltd, offers advanced security marking and registration, crucial in reducing theft and aiding in the recovery of stolen vehicles.

Craig Watson, Kawasaki's Sales and Marketing Director, emphasised the importance of customer trust and security, stating that integrating the CESAR system with Datatag technologies reinforces Kawasaki's commitment to providing secure products for its customers.

Kevin Howells, CEO of Datatag, expressed pride in partnering with Kawasaki to protect their customers. The CESAR scheme, as the official industry security marking system, has shown success in theft reduction and aids law enforcement in recovering stolen vehicles. It features

unique tamper-evident identification, including visible and concealed identifiers and a distinctive DNA solution, making it difficult for thieves to operate covertly.

Ruth Bailey, CEO of the Agricultural Engineers Association, highlighted the disruption caused by ATV theft to farm businesses and welcomed the industry-wide adoption of the CESAR scheme. Similarly, Suneta Jhal, CEO of the Construction Equipment Association and owner of the CESAR Scheme, praised Kawasaki's decision as a testament to the industry's united front against equipment theft.

A landmark achievement for CESAR was celebrated at LAMMA with the protection of their 625,000th machine. This milestone highlights the industry's trust in CESAR's security provisions. Ian Roberts, Sales Manager at Ernest Doe, representing CNH (Case New Holland), received a symbolic CESAR Identification plate, numbered 625,000, from Kevin Howells, MD of Datatag ID Ltd.

CESAR's latest innovations, including the CESAR ECV for verifying a machine's emissions status and the integration of Ultra-High-Frequency RFID transponders, were showcased. The new RAPID machine check system, allowing police officers to swiftly verify a machine's status via smartphone, further cements the CESAR Scheme's industry leadership.

The show also spotlighted a Triorax X Range self-propelled feed mixer, now equipped with the CESAR security scheme. Manufactured by Dutch company, Triorax, this machine stands out for its large capacity, capable of handling up to 32 cubic meters and extracting silage up to 8 meters high. This is the largest machine that has been protected with CESAR. Fitted with unique identification features, including tamper-proof ID plates and hidden RFID transponders, the Triorax gains an added layer of protection, underlining supplier's, Pontesbury Tractors Ltd's commitment to safeguarding essential farming equipment.

The CESAR scheme offers numerous benefits, including no annual fees, lifetime registration on a secure database, and support from a 24/7 UK Secure Contact Centre. Its widespread adoption, evidenced by over 625,000 protected machines, not only deters theft but can also lead to lower insurance premiums and quick police access for stolen equipment identification.

For more information about the CESAR Scheme and its impact on reducing equipment theft, interested parties are encouraged to visit CESAR Scheme website.

Craig Watson, Kawasaki's Sales and Marketing Director, Adam Henson BBC Presenter and Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm, Stephen Howarth Agricultural Economist at the AEA (Agricultural Engineers Association), Andy Huddleston Police Superintendent: Head of the National Rural Crime Unit / National Construction Agriculture Theft Team and Kevin Howells, CEO of Datatag celebrates the integration of the industry-leading CESAR Security System, powered by Datatag, into all its Kawasaki utility models beginning in 2024.



Kevin Howells, CEO of Datatag, Burt Koecksk Product Manager Triorax and Paul 'Tex' Hamer Pontesbury Tractors, fitting the CESAR Triangle to the largest machine that the Scheme has protected. Heading to a working farm.



WINTER 2024 29



### Combating plant theft and fraud at the CPA Conference – Kevin Howells MD Datatag to represent CESAR

BY LOUISE CARNEY ON NOVEMBER 9, 2023

INDUSTRY NEWS

At the forthcoming CPA – Construction Plant Hire Association Conference (9th November Heart of England Conference & Events Centre, near Coventry) organised by the Construction Plant Hire Association, industry professionals will meet to tackle the critical issue of 'Combating Plant Theft and Fraud'. Joining this vital conversation will be Kevin Howells, Managing Director of Datatag ID Ltd, who is the driving force behind the CESAR Scheme. Joining him on the panel will be Superintendent Andy Huddleston from the National Rural Crime Unit, and Ian Elliott, Group Head of Security at Clancy, among others, offering their expert perspectives on the new challenges and innovative tactics criminals are using to target the industry.

The CESAR Scheme, the leading asset protection programme, is owned by the Construction Equipment Association (CEA) and effectively implemented using Datatag's cutting-edge technology.



Threat Alerts Conference Events

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HOME / NEWS

February 2024

### POLICE AND INDUSTRY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO COMBAT CRIME

The Combined Industry Theft Solutions (CITS) group, in partnership with police and partners, held a successful police training event at Kent police College in Maidstone.

On February 26th, the first CITS police training event of 2024, took place in conjunction with the National Construction and Agricultural theft team (NCATT), Police liaison officers of the official CESAR Scheme, representatives of Secure By Design (SBD), NFU Mutual, Leica, Clancy's, Hitachi and support from Leica and FM Conway.

The special police training event hosted at Kent Police College in Maidstone, hosted over 50 police officers from regional forces, including from Kent Rural Task Force, Kent Road Safety unit, Surrey Police, Sussex Police, Port of Dover and Essex Police.





# Social Media

## Latest Industry Feeds



National Construction & Agriculture Theft Team

@NCATT\_UKPolice

This month @NCATT\_UKPolice have been supporting forces with a number of warrants, investigations & port operations, as well as delivering training alongside #CITS partners to police on #PlantTheft in the Southeast, and facilitating stolen vehicle recoveries in Europe & Africa



0:03

NCATT SUPPORTING

9:40 PM · Feb 28, 2024 · 187 Views



National Construction & Agriculture Theft Team

@NCATT\_UKPolice

Over the past 2 weeks a lot of effort has gone into preparing to arrest two suspects in #Essex on suspicion of #MoneyLaundering & one of the suspects on suspicion of #PlantTheft. A search resulted in the seizure of luxury goods, ~£100,000 in cash & 100 VIN plates from machines 🚚



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



EssexPFCC and 9 others

8:38 PM · Mar 15, 2024 · 341 Views




CESARscheme

@CESARscheme

The Police Liaison Team at @DatatagID has been very busy recently. We remind you that CESAR Datatag's protection extends beyond construction plant & farm machinery. Our comprehensive coverage includes boats, trailers, ATVs, & tools. #marso #rhpt @WMPolice [linkedin.com/feed/update/ur...](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7154848484848484848)




2:14 PM · Mar 28, 2024 from Fareham, England · 39 Views



Essex Police Rural Engagement Team

@EPRural

Today we recovered £80,000 of construction equipment from a #Nazeing industrial estate. Happily, we've already reunited most of it with the owners. Investigations are ongoing. Do mark expensive equipment to make it harder to sell and easier to return. #ProtectingAndServingEssex



ALT

4:27 PM · Mar 5, 2024 · 11.4K Views



National Construction & Agriculture Theft Team

@NCATT\_UKPolice

Yesterday thanks to coordinated efforts of @NCATT\_UKPolice, @ASPRuralCrime, & @ATVTrac, this stolen @PolarisBritain Ranger #ATV was located & recovered for its owner.



ATVTrac and 7 others

1

2

148

# Feature News

## Equipment Theft (Prevention) Bill

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Research Briefing

# Equipment Theft (Prevention) Bill: HL Bill 112 of 2022–23

Published Thursday, 20 April, 2023

Research Briefing

Agriculture & Farming

Crime

[Nicole Winchester](#)

The Equipment Theft (Prevention) Bill would allow the secretary of state to make regulations to deter the theft of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). This government-supported private member's bill has passed its stages in the House of Commons and is awaiting second reading in the House of Lords.

The purpose of the [Equipment Theft \(Prevention\) Bill](#) is to prevent the theft of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) such as quad bikes. The bill would allow the secretary of state to make regulations requiring immobilisers and forensic marking to be fitted as standard to all new ATVs. It would also provide for the secretary of state to make regulations on recording ATV sales. This could include a requirement to register ATV sales on a specific database. In addition, the bill would enable the extension of these powers to other equipment designed or adapted primarily for use in agricultural or commercial settings, such as the construction sector. The bill would extend to England and Wales.

The theft of ATVs is a problem for the agricultural sector, with the government estimating that 900 to 1,200 quad bikes and ATVs are stolen in England and Wales each year. The lack of security features that many manufacturers install in ATVs, as well as recent supply issues, have been making them increasingly desirable for thieves. The insurer NFU Mutual has labelled ATVs “hot ticket items”. The theft of tools and other equipment has also been highlighted as an issue for sectors such as construction.

Equipment theft can affect victims in various ways, including through financial loss and emotional and mental health costs. For example, NFU Mutual estimated that thefts of quad bikes and ATVs cost their customers £2.2mn in 2021. In addition, Direct Line reported that more than £46mn worth of tools were reported as stolen from vehicles in the UK in the six months to April 2021.

There is currently no legal requirement for manufacturers to fit immobilisers or add forensic marking to the machinery and equipment which would be covered by the bill. Some manufacturers and owners do fit security





## NCATT Enquiries

Email: [ncatt@northumbria.police.uk](mailto:ncatt@northumbria.police.uk)

### Supt Andy Huddleston – Head of Unit

Tel: +44 (0)7736 461533

Email: [7037@northumbria.police.uk](mailto:7037@northumbria.police.uk)

### D/Sgt Chris Piggott – Team Supervisor

Tel: +44 (0)7880 165526

Email: [2292@northumbria.police.uk](mailto:2292@northumbria.police.uk)

## CESAR Helpline

**Tel: +44 (0)3 450 700 440**

### For all CESAR Enquiries

Datag ID Ltd, Waterman's House, Waterman's Court, Lotus Park,  
The Causeway, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 3AG

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Email: [enquiries@cesarscheme.org](mailto:enquiries@cesarscheme.org)

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**cesarscheme.org**



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- NCATT (National Construction & Agricultural Theft Team)
- Construction Equipment Association
- Agricultural Engineers Association
- CPA (Construction Plant Hirers Association)
- HAE (Hire Association Europe)
- CITS (Combined Industry Theft Solutions)
- Datag ID
- Crime Stoppers
- Tracker
- CanTrack
- Leading Insurers
  - NFU Mutual
  - Aviva
  - HSB
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