

# MPs REVIEW BAD LAW REGAIN RURAL VOTES 200 RURAL SEATS



"HOW MANY STEPS  
DO YOU RECKON WE'VE  
DONE TODAY FERDIE?"

"YOUR NEW  
VIRTUE SIGNALLER  
WILL TELL US ARTHUR"



"foxhunting...  
one of the  
domestic legislative  
measures I most  
regret.."

Tony Blair.

## REVIEW BAD LAW

- ➔ For our wildlife
- ➔ For our rural communities
- ➔ For British Cultural Heritage

# REPLACE BAD LAW TO PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE

From an animal welfare perspective, this legislation has been an unmitigated disaster. The UK fox population has plummeted by up to 50% and there is no evidence that it has improved animal welfare in any respect.

As veterinarians specialising in wildlife management have shown, the use of hounds replicates the way in which disease, injury and weakness in a prey species has been determined through the chase by wild predators. The result of hunting with a full pack of dogs is that either the selected animal is quickly killed or escapes unscathed, with no chance of wounding.

The Veterinary Association for Wildlife Management state: *"Hunting by hounds is the natural and most humane method of controlling the population of all four quarry species, fox, deer, hare and mink in the countryside."*

VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATION  
for  
WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT



"Naturally, people ask whether we were implying that hunting is cruel. The short answer to that question is no."



"Another mammal suffering from large scale declines is the Red Fox, with populations in central-southern England and eastern Wales declining by between 20% and 50%"

Study on wild mammal populations, post the ban on hunting. British Trust for Ornithology study

Lord Burns, responding after the Burns Inquiry on Hunting with Dogs





When this disastrous legislation was passed, anti-hunting groups claimed that animal welfare would be improved. They spent millions of pounds to bring about a ban. Not one penny has been spent by those groups on investigating whether this law has had any beneficial effect at all - for the simple reason they recognise it has not.

**"I left the League Against Cruel Sports when I saw – quite clearly – that animal welfare was not the reason for the Hunting Act. It is not credible to ban a method of lethal control without putting forward an alternative, and without even trying to find out what effect a Ban has had."**

Jim Barrington, former Campaigns Director, the League Against Cruel Sports



## What's this really about?

£30M



Amount it is estimated the Animal Rights Lobby spent on forcing through the Hunting Act 2004.



£0



Amount they have spent subsequently, on seeing if it actually did.

# REPLACE BAD LAW...

## TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES

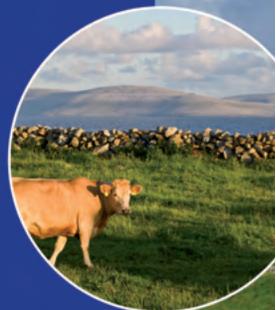
As legislators, we should be protecting our ancient traditions, not persecuting the rural minorities who depend on them. Hunting with dogs has been an historic way of life and a pivotal part of the rural culture of Britain for millenia. Our rural communities should be seen as a force for good and the people who live there, their customs and traditions, worth supporting and preserving for future generations. We should not seek to criminalise law abiding people.

**We are proud that we respect the rights of minorities - whoever they are.**

## In isolated rural communities, hunting with dogs means stronger mental health

You cannot overstate the community importance that wildlife management methods such as hunting with dogs, holds in the social fabric of rural life. The Hunting Act completely ignores the devastating impact of removing all the social interaction it brings:

- Farmers suppers
- The regular visit of the masters and hunt staff to clear country
- Gamekeepers dinners
- Weekly hunt skittles leagues in rural pubs
- Hunt Balls
- Race meetings
- Bi-weekly shoots
- Lawn meets
- Whist drives
- Sheep schemes



# Celebrate Diversity - Don't persecute it!

The economic benefits of Hunting to the rural economy are significant - from veterinary practices, to farriers, to saddlers, to tailors, to sporting outfitters, to hotels, to livery yards, forage and animal feed merchants.



Hunting with dogs in England is a genuinely “cross community” activity, where people of all ages, sex, social, religious and cultural backgrounds engage unselfconsciously and without prejudice. As a result, hunting with dogs of all disciplines (hounds, lurchers, terriers, longdogs, gundogs) is a central part of many rural people’s lives. It provides social cohesion in rural areas and this community enrichment extends far beyond the hunting season, with hunts organising social events throughout the year to which anyone is welcome.

The equestrian sector is particularly valuable to England and breeding hunters is a lucrative part of many farming incomes. Hunting is the driving force behind this sector, from the Pony Club, horse shows, cross-country, point-to-point and National Hunt racing.

# REPLACE BAD LAW...

## TO PROTECT OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

In Great Britain we are proud that we respect the rights of minorities - whoever they are. Our rural hunting community is no different. This bad law has outlawed cherished traditions. It has stamped out a much loved part of Britain's rural heritage and it will continue to persecute a small rural minority.

Review bad law too, because it flies directly against the direction of travel across the world and continues to make Great Britain a laughing stock. UNESCO have defined cultural heritage as "the living expressions of traditions inherited from our ancestors and passed onto our descendants". The sound of hounds in full cry after a fox in our countryside, is as much a part of our heritage as the landscape itself".



Six months ago, the blowing of the French hunting horn was recognised by UNESCO as a cultural activity requiring protection. Further afield in 2017, the New Zealand legislature recognised the Maori custom of pig hunting on the Whanganui River. And in 2016 Falconry received protections.

The truth is that the most divisive example of legislation affecting rural communities without due consideration, was the Hunting Act 2004.

Daniel Greenberg, the Parliamentary Counsel who drafted The Hunting Act, recently said

**“What’s actually happening here, is that we are legislating against a minority on a moral issue, and I thought we didn’t do that?”**

His moral unease led him to state:

**“Instead of an effective measure, therefore, the Act and the Bills for it were largely an exercise in what it has now become fashionable to describe as “virtue signalling.”**

## It’s unworkable

Hunting with dogs is a central thread in the tapestry of rural life. Criminalising ordinary decent people does not work in principle with a law that will do nothing to benefit wildlife and is based on virtually no evidence. After 20 years of the previous Act being law, there has been no animal welfare benefit to the wildlife concerned.



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