

Wicklow People:

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Fined €150 for hare coursing at wildfowl reserve

A SOUTH Wicklow resident has been fined €150 for hare coursing at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve.

John Connors, of Croneyhorn, Carnew, was fined €150 by Judge William Earley at Wexford District Court last week.

The prosecution was brought by Castlebridge Gardai who witnessed the greyhounds being set on hares at the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve last May.

Speaking after the case, Dominic Berridge of Wexford Wildfowl Reserve said that coursing is a serious problem.

'We have been having a problem with people coursing hares for a while now, so much so that it may even be responsible for a local decline in hares over the past few years,' said Mr Berridge.

'The Gardai were very supportive and we are grateful to them for coming out so quickly and dealing with the problem. This is the first success for our new security plan and the Gardai have promised to continue their support,' he said.

Mr Berridge pointed out that hare coursing on the North Slob, The Raven and the former islands of Begerin and Middle Island is illegal under the Wildlife Act as the areas concerned are excluded from all coursing licences and Open Season Orders. 'As this case clearly shows those who break the laws will be pursued in the court of law,' said Mr Berridge.

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