



STATEMENT

Warwickshire Trail Hunt

The College investigated with the tenants of the land concerned and have been informed that representatives of Warwickshire Hunt met at Little Hill Farm (not on land owned by the College) on the morning of 1 September 2026 to undertake trail hunting activities. The hunt subsequently crossed and travelled over land owned by the College at Heathcote Farm, with the express consent of the tenants and remained on the land for approximately two hours.

The tenants have confirmed that members of their family accompanied the hunt and observed the activities taking place. They have advised that no illegal hunting occurred, no foxes were seen, and that the purpose of the event was to exercise young hounds on a pre-laid trail. Accordingly, the College has received no evidence to support the allegation that illegal hunting took place on its land.

We understand that individuals opposed to hunting were present during the morning. The tenants have confirmed that those individuals remained on public footpaths, observed proceedings from a distance and, to their knowledge, did not interfere with the activities taking place. The tenants did not observe the use of any drones.

In relation to the College's position as landowner, the College sought guidance from the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) regarding the operation of the Hunting Act 2004. The advice received was that any consent for hunts to enter or cross agricultural land is a matter between the hunt and the occupying tenant. In this instance, the tenants have confirmed that permission was requested by the hunt and granted by them. Consequently, the hunt was not trespassing on the land.

The College takes its legal obligations seriously and would not knowingly permit unlawful activity to take place on its property. On the basis of the information available to us, however, we have found no evidence that an offence under the Hunting Act 2004 was committed on this occasion.

3 September 2026

ENDS

Notes to Editors

All enquiries should be directed to Iris Burke (01865 277321; bursary.manager@sjc.ox.ac.uk).

St John's College

Established in 1555 as a constituent college of the University of Oxford, St John's College is one of the largest among Oxford Colleges and offers tuition in nearly every subject studied at the University. Today, St John's is home to approximately 390 undergraduates, 250 graduate students, 100 fellows and 25 College lecturers. A vibrant international community, it fosters intellectual rigour, creativity, and independence in its students, teachers, and researchers. The College supports a range of research activities including discussions, seminars, workshops, public lectures and visiting scholar schemes. While scholarly publication is naturally at the heart of the College's research endeavours, the Fellowship is also committed to informing policy and public debate, and to teaching that is informed by research findings. St John's fosters excellence in education and research, is committed to equality and diversity, and supports student welfare and wellbeing.