

Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2020



www.warwickshire.police.uk
Report non-emergency crime
Get advice & guidance

101
Non-emergency
number

In an emergency
always call
999



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COUNTY

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Rural Crime Team Expands

Our Rural Crime Team, which was launched in October 2019, has now almost doubled in size, thanks to increased investment by the county's Police and Crime Commissioner, funded through the Council Tax precept.

Three additional officers have been recruited into the team, PC Jen May-Royle, PC Andy Hoey and PC Andy Steventon, with a further vacancy due to be filled shortly. This will take the total number of dedicated Rural Crime experts within the force to ten, with a further fifteen trained Wildlife Crime Officers around the county and six Special Constables.

The new officers will be based in Stratford, Atherstone and Rugby, allowing for an additional shift to be implemented and for the team to increase their presence across the whole of the county.



Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe, made boosting the Rural Crime Team one of the priorities for the additional funding raised through local Council Tax contributions this year. He said: "Crime in our rural areas is a major concern for people across Warwickshire and I have been keen to ensure that there is additional resource and expertise within Warwickshire Police to help boost the focus that is placed on both preventing and detecting offences outside of our urban populations.

"With dedicated teams now established for both the north and the south of the county and a comprehensive strategy to tackle offences in place, I want to reinforce the message that rural crime will not be tolerated anywhere in Warwickshire. We know there is much work to be done, but I hope this sends a signal to everyone about the determination to make a real difference in our rural communities."

Chief Constable for Warwickshire Police, Martin Jelley, said: "Rural crime is an extremely important issue which can cause huge distress and financial hardship to victims and communities, and we are determined to address this.

"The team has had a significant impact in its first 10 months, and I am extremely pleased to see the addition of these new officers, which will help to strengthen the team and enable us to make our rural communities even safer.

"While we recognise there is still more work to be done, we have made significant investments to tackle rural issues over the past ten months and we remain committed to this.

"I'd like to thank the public for their support to enable this increase to take place, and am confident our rural communities will really see the benefits from these additions."

Work of the Rural Crime Team Around the County



Quad Thefts

Over the last week, the south of our county has been hit with the theft of several ATV's, quad bikes, off road motorcycles and power tools. The team have been out at all times targeting those responsible and searching to recover the stolen items.

During late evening patrols, PC King acted on some intelligence and with assistance from officers in West Mercia, searched a location just over our border and recovered a stolen Honda quad. Other quads and equipment

have since been recovered and ongoing investigations are being carried out to identify the offenders and bring them to justice.

The Rural Crime Team understand how important this equipment is to our farmers and rural businesses and the effect it has when stolen, which is why everything will be done to tackle this crime.

Suspect Van Stopped



As PC Purcell and PC Stevenson were working together in separate RCT vehicles to disrupt some of our key rural targets, the pictured van came past PC Purcell on false number plates. He was able to pursue it towards Long Itchington and through surrounding villages whilst passing details through to our control room who linked in with our OPU/traffic colleagues. Working together, officers went ahead and stopped the vehicle. The female driver was reported to court for a number of offences and the two passengers were found to be suspects wanted by Staffordshire Police.

Stolen Caravans and Van Recovered

PC Kate Taylor, PC Jennifer May-Royle and SC Harry Smith received information that there were a number of stolen vehicles at an address in the Rugby area.

Acting on this information they immediately made straight to the location and identified two stolen caravans, one from Leicestershire and the other from West Mercia's Police area, plus a Ford Transit van which had been stolen the day before. All three vehicles were recovered and their owners informed. Investigations are ongoing with both cross border Police forces.



Stolen Roller and Mini Digger Recovered



Working with the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (NAVVIS), PC Andy Hoey from the Rural Crime Team recovered a stolen JCB roller that was located in the Grendon area of North Warwickshire.

Datatag markings were examined and the owners notified of the recovery.

The roller had been stolen from Nuneaton a number of days earlier.

A mini digger seized at the same time has now also been confirmed as stolen.

The digger had been stolen from the Dordon area of Warwickshire last year, the serial numbers had been altered and fake ID vin plates added.



RURAL SPECIALS BUSY AROUND THE COUNTY TACKLING RURAL CRIME

We now have three Rural Crime Special Officers in the North of the County and three in the South.

Working different shifts, including through the night and into the early hours and weekends, these brilliant proactive officers give their time voluntarily to make a difference to the rural communities that they help us serve and are a valued part of our team.



KEY MESSAGES

FIRE SAFETY



Partnership working is key to what we do and this helps us to get information out to help our rural communities.

Our RCC, Carol Cotterill has been working with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Services and the National Farmers Union to help promote the importance of Farm Fire Safety.

With harvest well underway it is really important to be aware of the potential risks, and what information the fire service will need if farmers have to call them, especially to an incident in a field.

WHAT3WORDS - FREE APP

Available to download from both the Apple Store and Google Play, this free app is recognised by all of the emergency services. It works by breaking the entire world down into 3m squares and each square has its own unique 3 words allocated to it, making it easy to establish a set location, wherever it is.

This is especially useful in rural locations such as woods, fields, outbuildings, farms, riverbanks, etc, where there are no other landmarks or signs to specify the exact location.

If you don't already have it on your mobile, it is worth considering and assists us enormously on rural incidents.

NEW EQUINE LAW



For further details go to : <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/com-pulsory-microchipping-to-improve-horse-welfare>.

DRONES



We have recently received reports of offenders using drones to scout farm land and their outbuildings and barns.

Although drones are not new pieces of technology, they are now beginning to be used more and more by criminals to target isolated properties.

The Police have powers to seize drones if we believe they are being flown illegally so if you see one flying over farm land, hovering near to barns or even worrying livestock please report it to the police immediately. Use What3Words to give us the precise location and let us know the direction it went in to help locate the pilot.

For further information on drones go to www.dronesafe.uk.

HARE COURSING

Hare coursing is the illegal pursuit of hares using dogs to chase, catch and kill them. The dogs used are sighthounds (for example greyhounds or lurchers).

After the harvest has taken place is when we usually see a peak in incidents of coursing as the hares have no place to hide.

Often this is a competitive activity and involves organised criminal groups and substantial sums of money placed on bets.

If you see anyone you believe may be coursing please call us immediately.



Ongoing Rural Crime Information

**ALWAYS REPORT CRIMES BY DIALLING 101 OR 999.
YOU CAN NOW ALSO REPORT ONLINE at
www.warwickshire.police.uk**

Our Rural Crime Team Newsletter only provides a snapshot of some of the work we are involved with. If you want to keep up to date with our arrests, property recovery / seizures, crime prevention advice and be alerted to crime trends across Warwickshire then make use of the following options.



Currently with over 11,000 followers our Facebook Page is the main output for our working week.

You do not need to be a Facebook user to view the page. Just visit www.facebook.com/WarwickshireRuralCrimeTeam



Warwickshire Rural Watch
Closing the gate on rural crime

A group set up to help combat & prevent the theft of equines, tack, trailers & boxes.

Please try to pass this onto as many horsey friends, businesses & establishments as you can - you do not have to be in Warwickshire to join.

Visit:

www.warwickshire-horsetwath.co.uk

or

www.facebook.com/WarksHorseWath

FREE scheme to help combat rural crime in Warwickshire.

Receive incident alerts and news for your area.

Lots of crime prevention advice and information.

Visit:

www.warwickshireruralwath.co.uk

or

[search for Warwickshire Rural Watch on Facebook and Twitter](#)

For advice, information and alerts visit our websites at
www.warwickshireruralwath.co.uk
www.warwickshire.police.uk/ruralcrime