



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

January 2021



Please note: all incidents must be reported through official channels and not directly to the officers.

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

For non-emergencies, report online at warwickshire.pnn.police.uk or call 101.

Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts



COUNTYWIDE

Sergeant 0542 Bob Shaw
07890 511873

robert.shaw@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk



COUNTYWIDE

5911 Carol Cotterill
07787 151848

carol.cotterill@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

SOUTH WEST WARWICKSHIRE



PC 1418 Andy King
07971 050997
andrew.king@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk



PC 1442 Andy Steventon
07557033186
andrew.steventon@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

PC 2111 Andy Timmins
07790 951230
andrew.timmins@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk



PC 609 Andy Hoey
07870514842
andrew.hoey@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk



SOUTH EAST WARWICKSHIRE



PC 1248 Kate Taylor
07814 046730
kate.taylor@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk



PC 1205 Matt Simms
07814 048543
matthew.simms@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

RUGBY, NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH

PC 1681 Craig Purcell
07790 597820
craig.purcell@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk



PC 2239 Jennifer May-Royle
07890390715
jennifer.may-royle@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk



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Stolen Quad and KTM Bike Seized Near Barnacle

The Rural Crime Team Officers for the Rugby/Nuneaton & Bedworth area, PC May-Royle and PC Purcell, in partnership with the local policing team, borough council and other agencies continue to target issues of anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, criminal damage to farmland and other issues in the Barnacle and Bulkington area.

The pictured quad and KTM bike were located by the Rural Crime Team and examined as part of that work. Both were found to be listed as stolen from areas outside Warwickshire. Suspects have been identified and we are now working with the force areas that each vehicle was stolen from to compile evidence, along with our partner agencies.

Stolen Caravan and Tractor Found and Recovered



PC Hoey, from the Rural Crime Team in the North of the county joined colleagues from the Atherstone & Coleshill local policing team when visiting a rural location in the area. Whilst on the property a caravan and tractor was located and when checked was found to be stolen and subsequently seized.

The caravan had been stolen from the Avon and Somerset force area and the tractor had been taken from a school in the Leicestershire Police area.



Stolen Caravans Seized

The team also followed up on some information and recovered three caravans from a location in the same area. PC Purcell was really pleased to let the owners know that he was standing in front of their caravan. One owner had tears of joy over the telephone as they had no insurance, with the theft leaving them almost £10,000 out of pocket. Another owner had also not been able to secure an insurance pay out and was still having to make finance payments each month for a caravan worth a considerable sum for a vehicle that they no longer had. A great result by the team with investigations ongoing.



As our officers came on duty in the south for an early morning shift they were made aware of a farm burglary in Tysoe, South Warwickshire, which had happened a couple of hours beforehand. A VW Amorok, Kubota ATV, a horse trailer and a large quantity of tack had been stolen. PC King noticed that we were still awaiting tracker data from the vehicle stolen from the location, so immediately followed this up with the contacts the Rural Crime Team have in the many organisations we deal with, including tracking companies. It was found that the vehicle was still giving out a signal and was identified as being in a residential street in Evesham, Worcestershire. Officers attended and found it secure and undamaged, arrangements were made for its recovery and forensic analysis.

Work was then done by PC King on the tracker information, including viewing the maps showing the route the tracker had taken and it was noticed that it stopped for a few minutes on the edge of a secluded field near to South Littleton.

The team searched the area and found hidden in a barn, along an off road track, the horse trailer with the ATV in the back and most of the horse tack.

The team are working on the investigation of these thefts and identification of the offenders.

This incident is another example of how trackers can assist the police and help recover vehicles and property, including tools and equipment. Data can be used to both recover property and also if the information is given live, intercepting the offenders.



Wildlife Crime



Our Officers investigate a number of wildlife crimes that are called into the Police. One of these incidents relates to a juvenile mute swan that was found by a member of public when she was walking her dog along the Coventry Canal towpath, near to the Donnithorne Avenue Bridge at Nuneaton. The local wildlife sanctuary was called to rescue the distressed young bird who was found to have been shot. The swan has undergone treatment and the crime is being investigated by PC Timmins from our team.

Rural Specials

Our Rural Specials cover all of the county and work in partnership with the Rural Crime Officers, supporting them in each area, including nights, early mornings and weekends. The Officers have been patrolling rural beat areas, especially where there are incidents of reported crime, providing a visual presence and reassurance to the local communities. All of the Specials are warranted officers and have the same powers of arrest as their full time colleagues. Their work recently has included an operation regarding vehicle crime, response to a call of suspicious behaviour near to a fuel storage area where an arrest was made and a vehicle seized, arrest of a female wanted on warrant for vehicle and drug related offences, plus checking on livestock and patrolling areas where poaching has been reported.



Environment

Whilst patrolling in the North Warwickshire area, around the villages, PC Hoey and PC Timmins came across a van in poor condition that was found to be full of scrap metal. The vehicle was seized and the occupants reported for a number of offences.



Advice for Owners of Landrover Defenders



In the past few months there has been 5 Landrover Defender thefts around the county, 4 have been recovered and an arrest made.

The theft of Defenders is due to their popularity and the ease of breaking down the vehicles, as well as the possibility of them being shipped abroad or sold as spare parts.

There are a number of things that can be done to help protect your vehicle:

- Trackers – 3 of the 5 vehicles stolen were recovered thanks to a tracker
- Vehicle alarm
- Always lock when not in the vehicle
- Park in a secure area when not in use, consider CCTV and activation alarms
- Steering wheel and pedal locks
- Immobilise/kill switch
- Tamperproof nuts on spare wheel
- Mark all parts with a forensic solution or identification kit, including headlights
- Consider hinge and cable guards to protect the doors and bonnet, plus security bolts.

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 efforts 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



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/WorksHorseWatch



Warwickshire Rural Watch
closing the gate on rural crime

FREE scheme to help combat rural crime in Warwickshire.

Receive incident alerts and news for your area. Crime prevention advice and information.

Search for Warwickshire Rural Watch on Facebook and Twitter



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



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