



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

NOVEMBER /DECEMBER 2021

Report non-emergency crime
Get advice & guidance

www.warwickshire.police.uk

Non-emergency
number
101

In an emergency
always call
999

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.police.uk or call 101.

Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts



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Sergeant Shaw Retires From Force



Sergeant Bob Shaw, who has been with the Rural Crime Team since we started in October, 2019, retires this month after nearly 30 years working for Warwickshire Police.

Bob began his career with the force in 1992 where he spent 6 years on Response at Stratford. He then transferred to Henley in Arden where he worked as a Community Beat Officer and was then promoted to a Sergeant on Response at Leamington. After working in this busy role he moved to become Sergeant of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team at Alcester.

Bob worked with his team there serving the community until the vacancy for a Sergeant for the Rural Crime Team came up. He applied and successfully got the job and has been a major part of the team ever since, seeing it evolve and grow covering the whole of the county and making a difference to our rural communities.

We wish Bob and his family all the very best and a very happy retirement.

We are pleased to welcome Sergeant Greg Wheeldon in the New Year to the team and continue updating you on the work that we are doing to serve our rural areas.

Events



The team have attended national events in Staffordshire and Leamington increasing their knowledge on dealing with vehicle crime and wildlife crime, as well as networking with other forces sharing intelligence and best practice.

At the National Wildlife Conference the Rural Crime Team were asked to do a short presentation on the successful results of the team in this area showing the breadth of the different types of crime and investigations that we deal with. PC Andy Steventon gave the short presentation to a packed hall of 200 officers and partner agencies.



Training Day

As well as training our own specialist officers in the Rural Crime Team it is important that we also provide advice and guidance to officers in other departments in our force that may be the first point of contact with a victim of rural crime. The hands on training provided at a farm on agricultural vehicles of all types, livestock, equine, wildlife and heritage crime is a packed day that is really popular and we now have another 24 officers who will become ambassadors on rural crime on their shifts and beat areas.

Caravans Recovered



The caravan at the top was confirmed stolen after officers were concerned at the lack of serial numbers and made further enquiries. The caravan in the bottom picture was recovered by our colleagues in Northern Ireland who intercepted it and after doing checks found it had been stolen in Warwickshire back in September

Trailer Recovered

This stolen Ifor Williams trailer was recovered after RCT officers conducted routine checks on it whilst in attendance at an unrelated incident near Barnacle.

The trailer was reported stolen back in 2008 from Warwickshire. Although this was 13 years ago the owner was still pleased to have it returned as sadly it was not insured when taken.



Partnership Working



The team with colleagues from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams at Wellesbourne, Southam and Stratford, plus partners at Datatag and TER (The Equipment Register) did an operation checking plant, trailers and caravans. It was a great opportunity to give crime prevention advice and engage with owners of these potentially vulnerable vehicles. A good proactive day with positive feedback from the public.

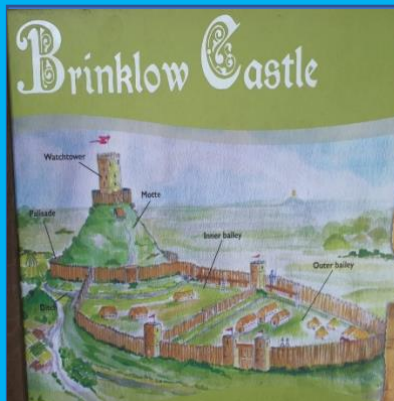
Rural Crime Specialists Tackle Off Road Bike Issues in North Warwickshire

The Rural Crime Team Specialists have been busy out and about in North Warwickshire where there have been issues regarding off road bikes. Whilst patrolling at the weekend a call came in of concerns re off road bikes at a disused mining site in North Warwickshire. The location covers a number of acres so the officers utilised the rural drone and identified the spot the bikes were in. This led to 2 being seized and section 59 notices being issued.

At a separate location in North Warwickshire a call came in of an off road bike causing issues in the area. The Rural Specialists responded stopping the rider and seizing his pit bike.



Following an in depth investigation led by our team, a male was found guilty of illegal metal detecting (also known as night hawking) at a protected listed site, Brinklow Castle. The Police are grateful for the member of the public who reported the incident and Historic England who assisted with our enquiries. Further details to follow.



EQUINE



Officers received a concerned call from a member of the public regarding a pony loose on a main road. It was taken to a nearby location for safety and checking to find the owner. The Rural Crime Team carry microchip scanners in their vehicles and were able to check the pony that was chipped and ensure it got back with the owner. Horses and ponies by law have to be microchipped.

WILDLIFE

Following a number of hare coursing incidents around the county the Rural Crime Team have been patrolling the main areas where reports have come in. Warwickshire is part of Operation Galileo where 28 forces from around the country are working together to tackle this offence. This week our team have been working with Leicestershire Police doing cross border patrols together to deal with hare coursing and other offences affecting our rural communities.



NEWS

AVIAN INFLUENZA PREVENTION ZONE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL POULTRY AND CAPTIVE BIRD KEEPERS

- ✓ Keep free-ranging birds in fenced areas to minimise contact with wild birds, neighbouring poultry or captive birds.
- ✓ Inspect outdoor areas, removing wild bird contaminants like faeces, feathers and wild bird carcasses.
- ✓ Fence off or put netting over areas of standing water or ponds.
- ✓ Provide feed and water undercover, so wild birds can't access it.
- ✓ Make your premises unattractive to wild birds. Use bird scarers, foils or streamers.
- ✓ Keep ducks and geese separate from other poultry.
- ✓ Store bedding under cover to reduce the risk of contamination.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect footwear before and after tending to your birds. If you own more than 50 birds, place foot dips containing Government approved disinfectant at all entry and exit points.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect hard surfaces regularly.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect equipment and vehicles to avoid disease spread between premises.
- ✓ Minimise the movement of people, vehicles and equipment to and from bird areas and keep records of movements.
- ✓ Keep records of poultry, captive bird and egg movements.
- ✓ Maintain buildings that house birds to prevent water ingress.
- ✓ Ensure pest control is effective.

Animal & Plant Health Agency

Non-compliance with these biosecurity measures may be an offence.

OPERATION GALILEO

ILLEGAL HARE COURSEING



AVIAN FLU

Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Animal Health Team are alerting Warwickshire poultry and captive bird keepers across the county to new bird housing measures that came into force on Monday 29th November, 2021. From this date it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers across the UK to keep their birds indoors and follow strict biosecurity measures. For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-flu-latest-situation-avian-influenza-prevention-zone-declared-across-great-britain#history>

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/WarksHorseWatch



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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