



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

May/June 2022



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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Warwickshire POLICE



We are really pleased to welcome Sergeant Andrew Rawson to our team. Born and raised in Warwickshire, son of a farmer, Sergeant Rawson joined Warwickshire Police in 1993 having graduated from Newcastle upon Tyne with a BSc (Hons) in Agricultural Food Marketing. He worked in Bedworth for five years on response before moving to our Rugby traffic department in 1998. In 2002 he was promoted to Sergeant and over the last twenty years has run a number of teams in our force including traffic, firearms operations and for the last seven years the dog section.

Sergeant Rawson said “ I am really pleased to have this opportunity to use my policing skills and knowledge of farming to build trust and confidence within our rural communities and continue with the good work already being achieved by the Rural Crime Team. I look forward to targeting those who cause the most harm to these communities and making a difference to the victims of rural crime.”

VEHICLES



Stolen Caravan Recovered

Our Officers located this stolen caravan whilst conducting general patrols around rural areas near Stratford Upon Avon.

Our systems showed the caravan had been stolen from North Somerset on the 23rd December 2017.

Upon close inspection the Officers found that the VIN (vehicle identity number) of the caravan had been altered with digits changed or removed.

Fortunately our Rural Crime Team Officers are skilled in using several methods to correctly identify the true VIN number.

The National Caravan Club CRiS VIN registration scheme assisted in identifying the legal owner and highlighted how important it is to register your purchase with them, keep the details up to date and do checks before buying a caravan.

OVER £100,000 OF VEHICLES RECOVERED BY RURAL CRIME TEAM



Whilst attending a location in the South of the county on an unrelated matter, Rural Crime Team Officers noticed a Toyota Hilux parked next to two Ifor Williams horse boxes. The Toyotas registration had been previously reported to the Police for acting suspiciously near horse trailers at a farm in Gloucestershire so they took a closer look. They soon discovered the Hilux was displaying false plates and it had been stolen from Gloucestershire. Further checks with relevant agencies showed both horse boxes were also stolen so the officers continued to check other vehicles at the location. Investigations by our officers resulted in a further four caravans, a flat bed trailer and three vehicles – that’s eleven vehicles in total identified as stolen and subsequently recovered by the team.

This was also Sergeant Rawson’s first week with us so a great start and one of many more positive results to come.

The vehicles had been stolen from a number of different areas around the county and it was great to get them back to their rightful owners.

This would not have been possible if it wasn’t for the member of the public who reported the suspicious vehicle to Gloucestershire Police and the relationship we have with all our bordering forces and beyond where we share this information.



EQUINE



Round Pens Recovered

Working with Northamptonshire Police, a location was identified in the Rugby area where two horse round pens were seen in a field that seemed out of place. We had received a report of two horse pens being stolen in Warwickshire in April so our team went to investigate. Following enquiries the round pens were identified and recovered. If you own property like these items please mark it so it is easily identifiable and it will also act as a deterrent to thieves.

WILDLIFE

Our team receive reports on wildlife incidents on a regular basis and each one is looked into by a member of our team.

BADGERS

Recently a landowner in North Warwickshire was interviewed after a report by a local rambler was received regarding manure seen tipped down an active badger sett. The person admitted their part in what was determined as a reckless act and as well as ensuring the sett and badgers were not affected any further, a donation of £150 was made to The Badgers Trust.

BATS

After a lengthy investigation by the team, two householders in the south of the county have recently been summoned to court for disturbing a bat roost, whilst renovating their property. In the United Kingdom all bat species and their breeding/resting places are protected by law. More news on other wildlife crimes and updates on incidents will follow in further newsletters.



Image with thanks to Hugh Clark/www.bats.org.uk

TRAINING



Stolen Trailer Recovered

Student officers PC Dewar and PC Lucas recently spent time working with our Rural Crime Officers in the south of the county, experiencing how our team works, as well as seeing some of the unique incidents we attend. It is great for these Officers to gain experience in these areas for when they go back to our Response Units and attending the 999 calls. PC Dewar identified this trailer as stolen whilst out with our officers, seizing it and ensuring it was returned to the rightful owner.

It's great that our small team is able to pass on these useful skills to new officers joining the force, at the start of their policing career; the more trained eyes we have in our force the more items we can recover and disrupt any criminality.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Partnership working with other key agencies is really important to our team. It was great to be out working with the **Environment Agency** and **Angling Trust** recently. We visited a number of locations around the county ensuring everyone was complying with the current UK river close season (15/3/22 to 15/6/22) and also checking rod licences in other areas.

As well as addressing some fishing related offences and engaging with lots of anglers enjoying the local Warwickshire waters, it also gave us the opportunity to address other issues in these rural areas.

A very positive and proactive few days as we continue to work with these important agencies.



LOOK OUT FOR THE TEAM AT EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTY

Saturday 4th June

We will be at Kenilworth Show with many of our partners, come along and say hello.
www.kenilworthshow.co.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 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-horsewatch.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