



# Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

SEPT/OCT 2023



Report non-emergency crime  
Get advice & guidance  
[www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://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](http://warwickshire.police.uk) or call 101.

## Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts



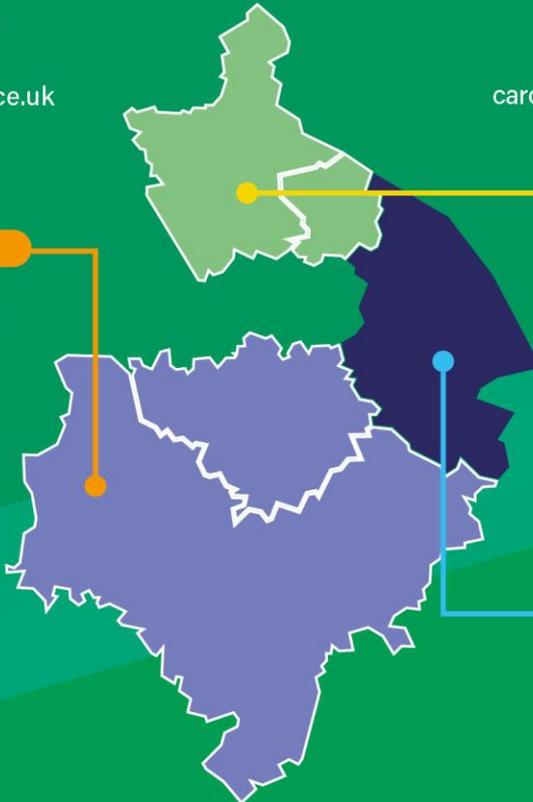
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Warwickshire  
**POLICE**

# VEHICLES

## Rural Crime Team Break the £3 Million Mark in Recovered Vehicles, Plant & Equipment



The Rural Crime Team have recovered to date, since it was formed in October, 2019, over £3 million pounds worth of vehicles, plant, equipment and tools. Although only a small team, the flexibility of officers and their specialised skills has enabled the RCT to be adaptive and innovative in tackling the types of crime that affect our rural areas, especially farms. As well as trailers, quads, tractors, 4 x 4s and other vehicles recovered, the team have become specialists re caravan crime, that they originally got involved with as farms that offered caravan storage facilities started to be targeted. From horse tack to generators and farm implements, the team continues to strive to help prevent theft, deter and disrupt offenders, recover stolen property and bring criminals to justice, doing all that we can working with other forces and our partners to make Warwickshire a 'No Go Area' for people that commit crime.

### £500k Recovered in One Day

Following a call to the Rural Crime Team, officers attended a location in South Warwickshire where it was believed some items of equipment may be. When the officers arrived at the very remote location they found a number of vehicles that when they checked them out were found to have been stolen or of suspicion. With the help from our partners at the National Rural Crime Unit (NRCU) NCATT, who assisted at the premises, eleven vehicles were seized for investigation. During this incident a second call came in of another tractor with attachments concealed at a property in North Warwickshire, an officer from NRCU attended, with Warwickshire officers, who recovered a third tractor with attachments.



## VEHICLES

### Co-ordinated Operation Results in Arrests



Coordinated by Cheshire Police Rural Crime Team, three simultaneous warrants were issued for addresses in Durham, Warwickshire and the West Midlands in relation to stolen caravans. Three suspects, two males and one female were arrested, a number of exhibits were recovered and a suspect vehicle was seized. It is a relatively complex investigation led by Cheshire Police and we are pleased to support them with other forces and specialist partners.

## EQUINE

### Operation Close Pass Raises Awareness



Working with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team from Rugby and one of the Police Support Mounted Volunteers, our team did a 'Close Pass Operation' raising the awareness of horses, riders and carriage drivers on the roads. Around 45 motorists passed the horse and rider, accompanied by a police cyclist during the 2 hour operation. 4 drivers were pulled over by officers and given words of advice due to passing too close or too fast. The operation, held in Brinklow, was well received by the riders that use the lane and more are planned.



## LIVESTOCK

### Sheep Worriying Incident Results in Over 30 Ewes Killed

Two dogs escaped from a garden in Stretton upon Dunsmore and entered a field with a flock of sheep in. Throughout the night the dogs chased and attacked the sheep resulting in over 30 found dead the next day. Two neighbouring farmers and a shepherd were able to catch one of the dogs the next morning preventing it from attacking more of the flock. The other dog made its way back home where it was identified and a dog control order was immediately issued to the owner to protect the public and other animals. Following the farmers wishes a Community Resolution was agreed (out of court procedure) and the owner of the dogs agreed to pay costs of £3,300, voluntarily euthanise one of the dogs and the other dog to wear a muzzle in public, not to be left outside unattended and be in the control of an adult at all times. The perimeter of the property was also to be made secure. We sadly receive numerous reports of livestock being worried, including death and serious injury. PLEASE keep your dog(s) secure at all times and if walking near to livestock keep on a lead.

## WILDLIFE

### Operation Galileo Cross Border Patrols



Hare coursing, sadly as well as being a national concern, is also an issue in Warwickshire and we are receiving a number of reports from around the county of coursing and poaching. Under Operation Galileo, forces around the country share intelligence and take action against the offenders who not only participate in this illegal sport but also cause damage to crops, land and fencing, worry livestock, trespass on land and on occasion threaten and intimidate members of the rural community. Warwickshire with our neighbouring forces work together to address this crime. Recently, during the 'National Week of Action' we met up with Leicestershire Police and did joint patrols in hot spot areas.

# NATIONAL RURAL & WILDLIFE CRIME WEEK OF ACTION

During The National Rural & Wildlife Crime Week of Action our team came together to address the main types of thematic crime that we specialise in, plus work with other police forces both nationally and locally. All forces around the UK highlighted during the week the work that we all do in addressing rural and wildlife crime, supported by the NWCU (National Wildlife Crime Unit) and NRCU (National Rural Crime Unit). In the week we did a vehicle check operation with Northamptonshire Police, followed up on a number of wildlife crimes reported and did an Operation Galileo with Leicestershire Police. Working with our colleagues in the local authorities around the county we patrolled hot spot areas for fly tipping, dealing with one suspicious vehicle and made a number of farm visits. As well as Operation Close Pass we promoted Operation Snap at livery and stable yards, patrolled rural areas in the North of the County with the off road bike team and did a joint fishing operation with the Environment Agency and Angling Trust. Just a snap shot of some of the work we do on a daily basis to support our rural communities.



## TRAINING



As we have featured before, training is really important to the team, both to improve on our knowledge and specialisms and to also increase the awareness of other officers and staff in our force on rural and wildlife crime, plus the impact it has on our communities. This month we held our annual training days in force on rural and wildlife crime supported by the relevant experts in their field, who came from around the country to pass on key skills to our officers. Arranged by our Coordinator, the training was held on two days, with rural covered on one and wildlife on the other. As well as being trained on livestock, identifying potentially stolen plant, equipment and vehicles, heritage crime, equine and waste crime, the officers had the opportunity to put into practice what they had learnt on a farm. The wildlife day encompassed all types of wildlife crime. Both days proved really successful with excellent feedback from all that attended. Huge thanks to our partners who supported us including NRCU NCATT, Datatag, Trading Standards Livestock Team, British Horse Society, Blue Cross Horse Charity, NWCU, EA and the Angling Trust; plus Emma Daniell, our Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner who joined us on one of the days.

## ENGAGEMENT

The team have been at a number of events around the county including Morton Morrell Agricultural College, Stratford Livestock Market and the North Warks & Sheepy Ploughing Match.



Warwickshire  
**POLICE**

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](http://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](http://www.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk)  
or [www.facebook.com/WarksHorseWatch](http://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](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk)  
[www.warwickshire.police.uk/ruralcrime](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ruralcrime)