



# Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

May 2021

Report non-emergency crime  
Get advice & guidance

[www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk)

Non-emergency number <b>101</b>	In an emergency always call <b>999</b>
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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



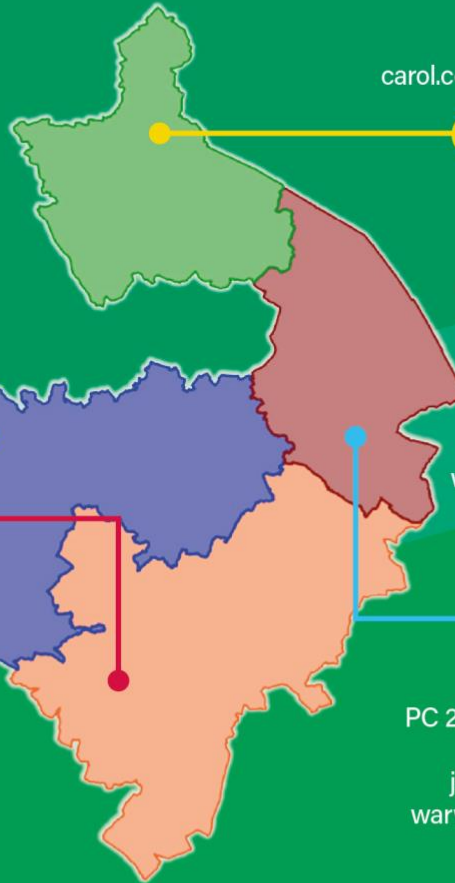
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Warwickshire  
**POLICE**



The Rural Crime Team continues to expand the specialist skills of the team with the use of new equipment and expertise.

In the past month, two Rural Officers and three officers from the Rural Specials have been trained on the two drones purchased for the team by local authorities in North Warwickshire Borough, Stratford and Warwick District.

The drones will be used on dedicated operations, patrols and response to incidents, assisting the team in addressing rural crime and the offenders who target rural communities. All deployments will be in line with CAA guidance and for policing purposes only.

In addition to the drones, two further officers from the Rural Crime Team have been trained and are now equipped as part of the force's Dual Purpose Bike Team.

Warwickshire Police are one of only a few forces who have a Dual Purpose Bike Team who assist on the issue of antisocial behaviour caused by off road vehicles such as motorcycles, quad bikes and 4x4 vehicles.



The team have also received the latest thermal imaging and night vision equipment.

Inspector Allison Wiggin, Rural Crime lead at Warwickshire Police, said: "This is a really exciting time for the Rural Crime team. The drones and dual purpose bikes will be extremely beneficial to officers and will ensure our capability to tackle rural crime is improved even further.

"Since its formation in October 2019, the Rural Crime Team have recovered nearly £700,000 worth of agricultural vehicles, plant and tools and this additional equipment will assist them further in targeting criminals affecting farms and rural areas.

## LIVESTOCK



The Team have been pleased to work with the NFU and NFU Mutual Insurance on raising awareness nationally on livestock worrying.

On the short clip, PC May-Royle chats with Graeme Hall, known as the Dogfather and featured on Channel 5's 'Dogs Behaving Very Badly' about the consequences dog owners may

face if their dog chases livestock. It has been really concerning to see the increase in livestock worrying around the county, as well as nationally. Please ensure you keep your dog on a lead when entering fields with livestock in.



An adult male from the Arley area has been located and interviewed in relation to a fly tipping incident after a number of car parts were dumped at Ufton Fields, Ufton in early April. This investigation was picked up by our team after being reported by local residents.

The male responsible, who had reloaded his vehicle with most of the waste after having second thoughts, made a full and frank admission to the offence of depositing waste on land without a permit and has accepted a community resolution.

Community resolutions take a restorative justice approach with the aim of making offenders aware of the impact of their actions, seeking to repair harm caused. Community resolutions are offered after many considerations around the individual and the circumstances of the offence.

The offender in this instance will be making a £200 donation to Warwickshire Wildlife Trust who maintain Ufton Fields Nature Reserve.



Officers from Nuneaton SNT worked with partners in the Environment Agency in April to help detain three men in connection with an investigation into illegal burying of waste in Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Buckinghamshire.

Sergeant Andy Scruton said “The illegal disposal of waste is a blight on our communities and we will always work hard with our partners in the Environment Agency to tackle it.”

An Environment Agency spokesperson said “The Environment Agency takes waste crime extremely seriously and we will persistently pursue those suspected of illegal waste activities. Illegal waste activity damages the environment and diverts money from legitimate businesses and at the Environment Agency we do everything we can to bring those responsible to account.”

A great result and shows great partnership working. The Rural Crime Team are working with the EA and Local Authorities on a number of reported incidents

Officers from our team conducted checks of trailers, caravans and plant machinery across South Warwickshire in a recent operation.

The team routinely check for stolen items during the course of their duty, but on occasions mount specific operations where RCT officers from across the county come together and set up specific check points.

The latest operation saw a number of vehicles, including caravans, trailers, horse boxes, plant machinery and a tractor checked.

The general feedback from those people stopped was very positive and it gave our team an opportunity to highlight the work we do and give crime prevention advice.

Of all the items checked only one trailer was seized on suspicion of being stolen, with checks ongoing to confirm the true ID of the item.

We can't stress enough the importance of recording the serial or vin numbers of your vehicles/equipment, taking a photo's including differentiating marks, marking your property either covertly or invisibly and ensuring you update your details with organisation like [The Equipment Register - TER](#) for trailers and plant and <https://www.cris.co.uk/> for caravans.

Similar Operations will be run in other areas of the county in the coming months.

The team are aware of many incidents of off road vehicles, including quads, scrambler bikes and 4 x 4 vehicles causing issues around the county riding on crops, farmland, public and private land without permission. This does not only relate to anti-social behaviour, including noise nuisance, but also criminal damage to crops and disturbing wildlife and livestock.

The Dual Purpose Bike Team, Rural Crime Team and Safer Neighbourhood Team are all working together with communities and farmers to address these issues and take action against the offenders.

## Update on Napton on the Hill Incidents



At the end of last year our team received multiple reports of off road motorbikes being raced around fields and land near Napton on the Hill. Local knowledge enabled officers to locate the males who were riding on the highway back to their vans parked nearby.

After checks it was found that the riders did not have tax, MOT or insurance for their bikes, plus other offences were identified, and one of the bikes was seized for further investigation.

The matter was recently heard at Magistrates Court where both riders had their driving licences endorsed with 7 points each and were fined a total of £1,995, including court costs and COVID regulations fine. One bike was sent for destruction and the other was sold at auction with the proceeds used to cover costs.

## WILDLIFE

At this time of year we get many calls regarding hedgerows and nesting birds. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, all birds, their nests and eggs are



protected by law. It is an offence, with certain exceptions to disturb a nest or intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird, plus intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

Proof of an offence is important so if possible take photos of the birds and/or nests and call the police straight away. Cutting a hedge is not an offence in itself. Further details are on [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk).



Our officers are supporting the local safer neighbourhood teams regarding issues being reported on off road vehicle issues at the old railway line at Hunningham, Marton and Long Itchington.

In the North our officers are working with local beat officers and the Dual Bike Team in Hurley, Wood End, Kingsbury, Ridge Lane, Corley and other areas.

Look out for the team in your area.

## RURAL SPECIALS

As well as some of our Rural Special Officers training as drone pilots, the team have been very active around the county.

As well as patrolling around our very rural areas and visiting farms, the team have also visited heritage sites and signed



people to our Rural Watch alerts, which you can also join by visiting our website at [www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk).

## LIVESTOCK



As a force we are seeing a number of incidents reported to us by members of the public or motorists regarding livestock loose on the highway. In the last week we have had a number of incidents of sheep and lambs getting onto the road, separately we have also had a bull, a

goat and two horses reported. Please check your fencing, hedges and boundaries on a regular basis, especially if you have young livestock in the field that can escape through small gaps. Livestock on the highway can lead to very serious road traffic accidents, especially if the animals escape at night or onto major roads. There are issues of welfare, risk to life and livestock owners can be prosecuted if adequate measures have not been made to secure animals. Thank you.

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)