



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

May 2020



POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER 101
Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.



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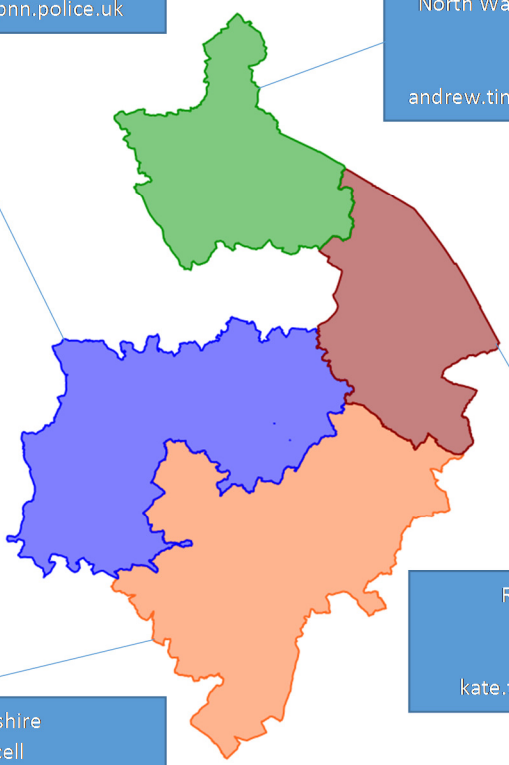
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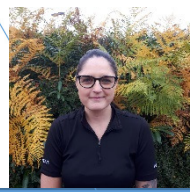
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OPERATION HILLMAN LIVESTOCK OFFENCE INVESTIGATIONS

STOLEN LAMB RECOVERED FROM VEHICLE AND 3 OCCUPANTS ARRESTED



At 7pm on 21st April a member of public called us to report seeing people taking a lamb from a field near Long Marston in South Warwickshire. They were able to describe a white van being used and gave the registration.

Along with Patrol Officers and Shipston SNT we searched the surrounding area. Within 20 minutes Officers from E-Shift stopped a Vauxhall Van in Welford on Avon. The pictured lamb was found inside along with chainsaws and other tools.

The 20 year old male Driver, 18 year old female & 16 year old male passengers were arrested on suspicion of theft.

The Driver was uninsured so the van was seized. The tools were seized for us to conduct checks and determine if they are stolen. With the help of a local Farmer we identified the exact location the lamb had come from. As we approached the field a single bleating sheep near the fence set the lamb off bleating. When it was placed back in the field the two ran together and the lamb immediately began to suckle.

Following arrest we searched a property near Stratford upon Avon for further evidence. PC Kate Taylor and PC Andy Timmins interviewed the three Suspects and the matter is now awaiting a charging decision.

Warrant executed in Birmingham as part of our Operation Hillman investigations into the illegal slaughter and theft of sheep

We've executed a warrant at a residential property in Birmingham following our successful application at Coventry Magistrates' Court.

With the help of PC Rachel Smith from Rugby Police, we detained 3 males and 2 females with property seized as part of the investigation.



Our investigation involves offences in the Alcester and Rugby Policing areas and is ongoing.

These are difficult offences to investigate and we rely on information from the Rural Community to direct our efforts. Please continue to call Warwickshire Police with any information that may help and we will continue to follow up every lead.

You can also anonymously call the Crimestoppers dedicated Rural Crime Hotline in partnership with the National Farmers' Union on 0800 783 0137 or complete the online form at <https://forms.theilne.co.uk/ruralcrimehotline>

FARM MACHINERY THEFT INVESTIGATIONS

3 Rural Crime Targets Arrested Following Vehicle Pursuit

One of our main jobs as your Rural Crime Team is to take the information you call us with, develop it further and most importantly make sure Officers across Warwickshire and beyond are aware of any target suspects we identify.

This is because we aren't on duty 24/7. So we need our Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Patrol Officers, Pro-Active Teams, Operational Patrol Unit, Force Radio Controllers, Cross border colleagues and any other people involved in Policing Warwickshire to be aware of the vehicles and people we are targeting.

Why are we telling you this? Because recently this way of working had brought us some great results.

Take this pictured Kia Sorento for example. Locals in the Wellesbourne and Shipston Policing areas provided the vehicle type involved in rural offences. We developed that to identify the specific vehicle and those linked to it. As well as our own efforts searching for it we passed information through briefings and emails to ensure Officers across the area were actively looking for the vehicle.



One night we go off duty and a Patrol unit spots the Kia in Studley. A pursuit takes place and the vehicle is lost. With everyone already aware of our work West Mercia Officers get ahead of the vehicle and are already waiting for it as it arrives in Bidford a short time later.

Further pursued through to Cleeve Prior the vehicle is stopped and 3 people are arrested. We come back on duty in the morning and pick up the investigation again from there. If you call or message us with information we will follow it up. **Public teamwork. Internal teamwork. Cross border teamwork.**



While the three males detailed above were still in custody, PC Andy King and PC Craig Purcell conducted searches of addresses they were linked to in West Mercia.

They were hunting for property stolen from Warwickshire farms. Unfortunately nothing from recent offences was present but they were able to identify a caravan that one of the males was living in (pictured) as stolen from South Warwickshire towards the end of 2019.

PC Purcell called the owner from the search location and told him that they were looking at his stolen caravan. Calls like this are a really enjoyable part of the work we do. The caravan was recovered and the related crime now forms part of our overall investigation.

Further Rural Crime Target Arrested Following Vehicle Pursuit

Following on from the above pursuit and arrests we did not assume the problem was solved and continued efforts into disruption and apprehension of Rural Crime targets.



Within a week another the vehicle we had identified as a key target was located near Clifford Chambers just outside Stratford upon Avon. The pictured Honda CR-V was towing a cattle trailer and during attempts to stop it the occupants jumped from the car waving objects to threaten Officers as they unhitched the trailer and dumped it in the road. They then fled in the Honda.

A pursuit took place through South Warwickshire and into the Cleeve Prior area of West Mercia. The Honda was driven through a muddy field and dumped with three occupants running in all directions. With the use of a Police dog and drone one male was located and arrested nearby. *This male was not one of those arrested a few days earlier with the Kia Sorrento.*

In examining the dumped cattle trailer we found it held two off road motorbikes and two small quad bikes. All had been stolen shortly before the pursuit took place. The trailer and off road bikes were quickly identified to an owner with a Social Media appeal helping to find the owner of the quad bikes.



Following forensic examination all items were returned to their owners along with further stolen equipment located in the Honda. The 18 year old male from Stratford upon Avon who was arrested has since been interviewed and released under investigation to allow further work to be completed.

IDENTIFYING STOLEN PROPERTY AND RETURNING IT TO RIGHTFUL OWNERS

When people travel into Warwickshire to commit Rural Crime we're happy to travel into their home County to track them down too.

Following up on recent arrests and seizures we headed to addresses in the West Midlands searching for property stolen from South Warwickshire farms. The locations were identified following extensive investigation that forms a large part of our work that you won't see publicised. Unfortunately we didn't find any of the items we were looking for on the day. However, we did identify a stolen trailer and caravan. Sergeant Bob Shaw and PC Andy King took the trailer straight back to the rightful owner (pictured) who was very happy to see it again.



We arranged for West Midlands Police to attend and seize the stolen caravan. Once we were finished with the Suspects for our own matters they were handed over to West Midlands Police. With the trailer also stolen from their area they are now conducting their own investigation to run alongside ours.

We will continue to search for property stolen from Warwickshire and hunt down those responsible.

RECOGNISING THE VALUE IN FARM RELATED PROPERTY

Rural folk know this isn't just a bit of string pictured. It's around £800 worth of twine that was stolen from a farm in South Warwickshire along with various other pieces of farming paraphernalia.

Seized during one of our warrants with the help of the local Southam Police the Farmer never thought he'd see anything of his property again. We couldn't get everything back to him but he was happy that we're taking this type of crime seriously.

This was part of a much larger haul of seized property with most of it reunited with the rightful owners so far. Suspects have been identified and the investigation is ongoing.



DOGS INVOLVED IN WORRYING AND KILLING SHEEP HAVE BEEN SEIZED NEAR COLESHILL

PC Andy Timmins has been investigating offences of sheep worrying in North Warwickshire. In some cases sheep have been killed by dogs that were not under control of their owner.

Working with PC Shane Bird from Coleshill Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Andy assessed offences across Coleshill and Atherstone. Links were made to specific dogs during the course of the investigation.

PC Timmins has recently been involved with the seizure of four dogs.

Coleshill SNT have been engaging with the local Farming Community and victims to keep them up to date.

Investigations are ongoing and PC Timmins also continues to work with other agencies to help prevent further offences.



Livestock worrying is a criminal offence and comes under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953

'Worrying' is where a dog attacks or chases livestock causing injury or suffering. This isn't just a welfare issue, but is also a threat to a farmer or livestock owner's livelihood, especially if the animals involved are pregnant or could get onto the road.

As a last resort, to protect their livestock, a farmer is allowed to shoot the dog if it is worrying their animals and cannot be called off.

Dogs must be kept under control at all times crossing farmland, especially if there is livestock in the field. If you see a dog on the loose worrying animals please call the police.

Supporting Our Rural Communities During Lockdown



It has been really important for us to support our Rural Communities, especially vulnerable and elderly residents, during Lockdown. Rural Crime Officer Carol Cotterill produced packs with information on for those that did not have access to computers to keep them updated on the government advice and how to get help if they needed it. Working with key contacts and partners they identified people who would benefit from the packs that were made up with Local Policing Safer Neighbourhood Team and delivered.

It was very successful and well received by residents and communities with the concept being extended to other areas of the county.



During the Lockdown restrictions we have been aware of the concerns of some rural communities and farmers regarding the number of people taking their daily exercise on farmland. Reports have been received of people not keeping to the public footpaths and not keeping their dogs under control. Our Rural Crime Officer Carol Cotterill liaised with George Bostock at the National Farmers Union and the Police Corporate Communications department in order to produce an awareness campaign. This was very well received by the farming community and a supply of signs has been made available for farmers along with an advice sheet.

Ongoing Rural Crime Information

If you have a meeting coming up and would like to invite the Rural Crime Officer for your area to attend, please contact us. Details for each of our officers and the areas that they cover are on the first page of this newsletter.

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 9000 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



Warwickshire Rural Watch
Closing the gate on rural crime

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

FREE scheme to help combat rural crime in Warwickshire.

Receive incident alerts and news for your area.

Crime prevention advice and information.

Visit:

[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