



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

March 2022



Report non-emergency crime
Get advice & guidance
www.warwickshire.police.uk

Non-emergency number 101	In an emergency always call 999
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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 or call 101.

Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts



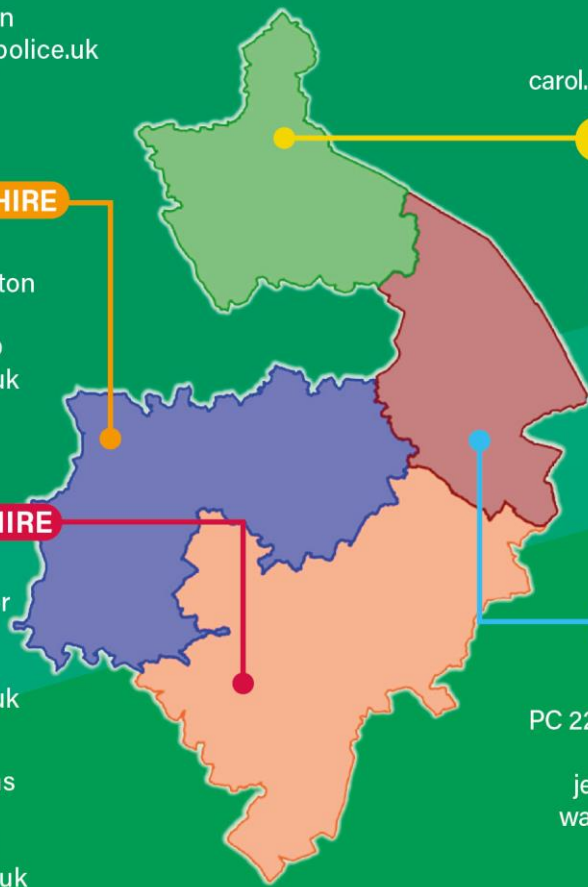
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Warwickshire
POLICE

Motorhome Recovered



Our officers recovered a Peugeot Auto Sleeper worth £50,000 from a location in the Rugby area following its theft from Coventry the previous night.

Fortunately the vehicle had a GPS tracker and working with the company our officers obtained the last known location of the vehicle and went to the address.

The motorhome was located parked out of view behind a derelict static caravan, at the exact location the GPS had offered.

Unfortunately nobody was with the vehicle, however following our team arranging its seizure the motorhome was taken to be examined by West Midland Scenes of Crime Officers to aid the investigation.

Jeep Seized and Crushed

This Jeep was found abandoned in the middle of a Wixford field by officers from our team after we were contacted by a member of public.

The vehicle believed to have been used for hare coursing or deer poaching offences as well as causing damage to the field was seized with a little help from a friendly farmer and removed to our recovery compound.

The registered keeper failed to respond to any communications and the vehicle was later crushed with the keeper receiving 6 points on their driving licence and a £400 fine for failing to provide details of the driver.



HERITAGE

WARNING
NO METAL DETECTING ALLOWED



Following a report of illegal metal detecting at a site in South Warwickshire, an individual was identified, who later admitted, under caution, that he had been hoping to find Roman treasure whilst detecting on the Ancient Scheduled Monument, a criminal offence under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

During the joint investigation by our team and Historic England, the home of the male was searched and detecting equipment was seized with a number of 'finds' described as buttons, bones and buckles.

The offender, who made a full and frank admission to the offence, received a conditional discharge and all the equipment has been confiscated. The 'finds' will be analysed and archived by Historic England.



CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111



Sheep Worrying Incident



The team has been investigating an offence of Sheep Worrying, which took place in the Shipston on Stour area of South Warwickshire. The incident involved two large dogs that had escaped from their insecure garden into a nearby farmers field which had 300 ewes in.

When the farmer arrived he was met by utter chaos as the two dogs were in the act of chasing all the sheep around the field, knocking them over and attacking them indiscriminately. Quick action was taken by the farmer to secure the two loose dogs, who were clearly not under any sort of owner control.

During the incident one of the ewes, despite the best efforts of the farmer and immediate medical treatment, died from shock.

Our officers arrived at the scene shortly after and took possession of the two dogs and set about locating the owner.

The owner of the dogs was later interviewed for the offence of sheep worrying whereby they fully admitted the offence.

The owner was reported to Court and has since been convicted of allowing dog(s) to worry livestock and was sentenced to a 12 month conditional discharge, a collection order and to pay compensation and fines amounting to £544.73.

Livestock Alert

Sadly we continue to receive reports of dogs worrying livestock, some ending with fatal results. Whilst all types of livestock are affected the main animal we get calls on is sheep. This is especially concerning at this time of year with most fields having either heavily pregnant ewes in or young lambs at foot who are very vulnerable.

Apart from terrible injuries inflicted on the sheep, chasing or worrying them in the field can result in abortions or problems with the unborn lambs which are not immediately obvious until they try to lamb.

If you are walking in the countryside and are in or near to a field with livestock in **PLEASE** keep your dog on a lead.

Also if you let your dogs loose in your garden or other area unaccompanied **PLEASE** ensure it is secure and that they cannot get out.

Ultimately a landowner by law (as a last resort for protecting their livestock) is able to shoot a dog which they believe is in the process of worrying sheep or livestock. Police must be notified within 48 hours if this course of action is taken.

However we know that no land owner or farmer wants to be put in this of livestock worrying difficult position.

Ultimately the dog owner is responsible for the actions of their dog and Warwickshire Police take all reports of livestock worrying very seriously.



During the Spring and Summer months we receive a number of calls from members of the public regarding concerns relating to hedges and trees being cut. The cutting or taking out of a hedge or tree is not a wildlife offence. However this is a main period for some species of birds to nest and it is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs. It is an intentional act, if there is an active nest in the hedge and it is still cut, damaging or destroying the nest or contents in the process. So please check for nests and birds before doing any work that may disturb them, this applies all year round and to all environments including buildings. For further information visit the Natural England website at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england.

Agricultural GPS Equipment



Nationally there have been a number of thefts of agricultural GPS systems. Our team have been working with farmers, the NFU, NFU Mutual Insurance and other specialist companies to help address this problem and prevent farms becoming victims in our county. As well as working in Warwickshire with our partners, we have also been linking in nationally with other forces and organisations to share intelligence and information. This has led to arrests and equipment being recovered both in this country and abroad. If you have this equipment on your farm there are a number of key actions you can take to help protect it which can be found on our Agricultural GPS Systems Advice Sheet found on our website www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk and include:

- remove all equipment where possible and keep in a secure place
- make a record of all serial numbers and product details
- property mark your equipment, this can be done both visually as instant identification and deterrent plus invisibly to identify and recover
- be vigilant and report anyone acting suspiciously.

Our officers are presently investigating a number of wildlife crimes from areas across the county regarding a number of different species. This includes a report of a dead swan found near a popular dog walking route in Southam. When officers located the remains, it was clear that scavengers had already been at the carcass so it wasn't possible to accurately determine the cause of death. On close inspection of the scene several dog paw prints were found in the mud inside a semi built nest and the surrounding area. It has been suggested that the swan was killed by a dog on the morning of Saturday 12th March and that members of the public may have witnessed the incident. We are appealing for any one who may have information that can help us to come forward and contact the team. Swans are protected as a 'wild bird' by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (UK), and it remains an offence to kill, injure or take a wild bird, or to take, disturb or destroy the eggs of a wild bird.



ENGAGEMENT

Wherever possible we attend events and visit places where we can engage and listen to issues and concerns affecting our farming and rural areas. This month has included a number of different locations including the livestock market at Stoneleigh Park. Officers chatted to farmers and also gave out signs and trailer stickers, which were well received.



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