



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

February 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



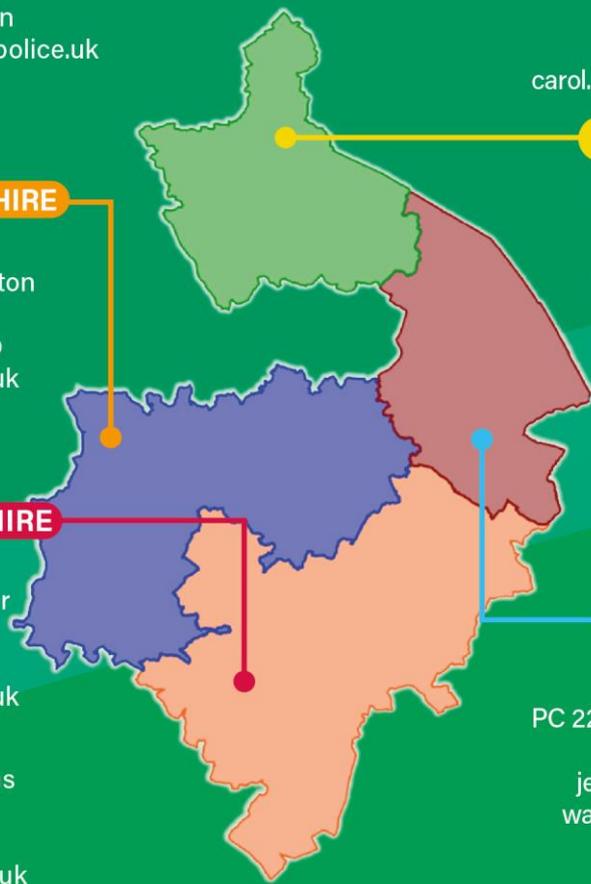
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Warwickshire
POLICE

Over £1 Million Recovered by the Rural Crime Team



During January, 2022, the Rural Crime Team broke the £1 million barrier on the estimated value of stolen caravans, trailers, vehicles, plant machinery and equipment recovered by the team since its launch in October, 2019.

The Rural Crime Team would like to acknowledge and thank the assistance from other departments within our force, our partners at NavCIS, Datatag, TER (Equipment Register), NCC CRiS, NFU, CLA and many more, neighbouring police forces and national colleagues who we work closely with on a regular basis.

Most importantly sincere thanks go to the many members of the public who contact the police and the Rural Crime Team to advise on suspicious incidents, concerns or information on something that they have seen so that it can be followed up.

The team continue to run operations, patrols and investigations tackling the offenders who commit rural crime in our county and supporting our rural communities and look forward to build on the success of our team.



Acting on animal welfare concerns raised at a location in Nuneaton, our officers attended with the RSPCA.

The RSPCA had received information relating to concerns about the dogs at the address. Upon arrival a number of dogs were seized due to the very poor conditions they were being kept in. There were also a number of cockerels and other birds found to be kept in substandard conditions. These birds were also seized to be assessed and treated by a vet.

Whilst at the property two caravans caught the attention of the Rural Crime Team officers who checked the identification marks. It was found that both had been stolen from other Force areas so were seized by our team.

Investigations are now underway.

Joint Working With Leicestershire Police Reunites Owner with Stolen Trailer



Leicestershire Police Rural Crime Team contacted our team to advise that their force had recovered a trailer. The details came back to a person in Warwickshire in the area which two of the team were in, so they went to the address to follow it up. Unfortunately no-one was at the location, but with our officer knowing the local farms, a couple of phone calls soon had us speaking to the right person and we were able to confirm the details and give the owner the good news. In his words he was over the moon and couldn't believe his trailer had been found.

Operation Cantilever

Our Rural Crime Team officers are very proactive in checking caravans, trailers, plant machinery and horse boxes, plus any vehicle carrying livestock whilst on patrol in the rural areas around our county. The purpose of these checks is to ensure the driver has the appropriate documentation and the vehicles, plus its contents are not stolen. In addition to this the whole team come together and we run our Operation Cantilever completing roadside checks on these types of vehicles in different locations around Warwickshire. This is also a great chance to engage with owners of these types of vehicles and where relevant provide crime prevention advice. We get great comments with people reassured that these checks are made in our county and we have officers that are specialists and know how to check these types of vehicles and livestock.



Illegal Metal Detecting at Brinklow Castle

Update on the Brinklow Castle crime that was dealt with by our team; the remains of a motte and bailey castle built in the 11th century.

Officers from the Rural Crime Team were made aware of an illegal metal detecting incident and proceeded to investigate the matter in partnership with Historic England. On attending the historic site it was established that in excess of 30 holes had been dug within the curtilage of the protected land.

A warrant at an address in Coventry was executed and several items were recovered significant to the investigation, this included a metal detector, shovel and associated metal detecting equipment.

A male and female were later interviewed relating to the offence of causing damage to a scheduled monument and the illegal use of a metal detector on a protected site.

The male was charged to court and the female received a caution.

The man later attended Coventry Magistrates Court where he pleaded guilty to the offences of 'Destroy or damaging an ancient protected monument' and 'Possession of controlled drug'. On conviction, he was sentenced to an unpaid work requirement of 200 hours (equal to £1900 at the national minimum wage) to be completed within 12 months and court costs of £490 to be paid. His metal detector and associated equipment was also ordered to be forfeited and destroyed by the court.

We know this person does not represent the majority of the metal detectorist community - true enthusiasts abide by the restrictions for scheduled monuments and other protected locations and would not go into areas where detecting is prohibited.

When thieves steal artefacts from a protected archaeological site, they are stealing from all of us and damaging something which is often irreplaceable.

We are grateful to our partners Historic England plus the public who reported the incident.



Great Work by Rural Specials

Our Rural Specials have been really busy with some great results.

In the South of the county they assisted the Rural Crime Team officers in recovering a stolen caravan.

In the North of the county the Rural Special officers responded to a call that came in from a company who had just been broken into.

Response officers also attended the scene but the offenders could not be seen. The Rural Crime Team used our drone and located the offenders trying to make off from the roof. The offenders were subsequently arrested.



Thank You From Our Team and Force



We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the farmers, landowners, partners, tree surgeons and other businesses who helped clear the roads when we were hit by Storm Eunice and Storm Dudley this month, it is greatly appreciated.

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