



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

JUNE 2021



Report non-emergency crime
Get advice & guidance

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 or call 101.

Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts



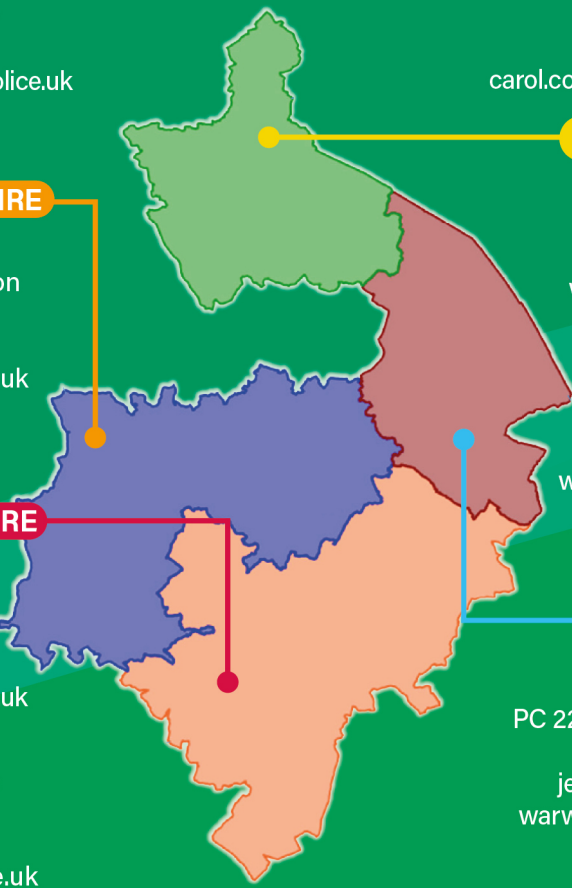
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After a lengthy investigation, officers from the Rural Crime Team have charged a 30 year old man from Coventry with theft of a caravan, aggravated vehicle taking of a Mitsubishi 4x4 and criminal damage.

Between Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November 2020 a Mitsubishi Pajero was stolen from a driveway in Northamptonshire. Following this theft, this vehicle was then used to steal a caravan from an address in Warwickshire. During the theft of the caravan a substantial amount of damage was caused to a farmer's gate. A short time later the two stolen vehicles were located by patrol officers after being involved in a road traffic collision and had been abandoned in a ditch.

When the Rural Crime Team came on duty the next morning we looked into this incident and through extensive enquiries tracked down the people responsible. A male was subsequently arrested, interviewed and charged with the above offences and is due to appear in Court at the end of the month.

Rural Crime Team officers seized this Fiat Ducato Bessacar motorhome in May, near Shipston –on–Stour.

Officer's suspicions were raised when several markings on the vehicle had been tampered with or completely removed.

A further in depth inspection was required by specialist officers from the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service, who we work closely with.

During the inspection, several anomalies were found and subsequently information was received from Fiat and the Swift Group that the motorhome was stolen in April 2020 from Hertfordshire.

A significant amount of effort had been put in by offenders to try and prevent the true identity of the stolen vehicle coming to light.

Fortunately over the last 18 months, our team has developed great working relationships with key organisations and individuals who are relentless in staying ahead of these offenders.

These motorhomes can sell for more than £45,000 currently, and this incident further highlights the need for buyers to have appropriate checks conducted by professional parties before committing to a sale or purchase.



A stolen trailer was recovered from near Shipston on Stour in May. Officers from the Rural Crime Team made contact with the manufacturer of the trailer and were able to confirm that it had been stolen in February 2021 from a building company in Worcestershire.

As well as informing the police of the theft the owners had also had the foresight to update the original manufacturer of the trailer.

Remember to register your items and update them with any changes i.e. address, phone number or if it's stolen.

You can register trailers with The Equipment Register - TER as well as with the manufacturers.





This welfare unit was recovered near Shipston on Stour after checks were conducted by the Rural Crime team and officers from the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service. It was confirmed stolen from a building site in Buckinghamshire at the start of April this year. Thankfully the owners had suitably marked the unit so we were able to confirm it as stolen relatively quickly. The unit will now be returned to the rightful owners. Enquiries are ongoing in relation to how it came to be at the location.

WARWICKSHIRE RURAL CRIME TEAM STOLEN AND RECOVERED

WILDLIFE



Sadly this swan was injured at Bubbenhall Meadow and when later treated by a local animal sanctuary, it is believed the injury had been caused by a dog. This would confirm information we have received about dogs being walked off the lead in this area. Please contact police on 101 if you witnessed this incident or email us at ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk. We are still getting reports of dogs being allowed to roam free on this site, despite signage at the entrances stating that they should be on a lead. We are working with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and ask people to be courteous, consider the wildlife in this area and keep their dogs under control and on a lead.

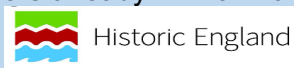


On the 1st June 2021 we had a report that green-winged orchids have been taken from Draycote Meadow. These lovely flowers bloom in May and June and are rare wild flowers. Some of the orchids appear to have been dug up and removed from the site, not only damaging the site but causing concerns for the conservation of these flowers at the meadow. The flowers need specific growing conditions and are very unlikely to survive if removed. Draycote Meadows is a site of special scientific interest and is therefore a protected site. The flowers themselves are afforded protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which makes it an offence for an unauthorised person to uproot them. If you have information surrounding this incident please email ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk, referring to incident number 455 of 1st June 2021.



HERITAGE CRIME

Warwickshire Police have become the first police force in the country to complete a new training course with Historic England providing officers with input from specialists in their field on heritage crime. Following the two sessions, over two months, including visits to heritage sites in their local area, 16 officers from different ranks in the force, including the Rural Crime Team, are now recognised as Heritage Crime Officers, with knowledge to deal with these types of crime. This is in addition to the 3 existing officers already in Warwickshire Police.





In May a member of the public called Warwickshire Police believing that they had seen their stolen caravan at the Corley Services on the M6. Four Special Constables from the Rural Crime Team attended the services and located the suspected stolen caravan.

On inspection by the attending officers, it was clear that offenders had doctored the identifying markings for the caravan in an attempt to hide its true identity. It was confirmed as the stolen caravan taken from an address in Coventry last month.

A male and female with the caravan were arrested on suspicion of theft.

Special Constables selected for the Rural Crime Team are given the exact same tools and training as the regular officers on the team. This incident and recovery, shows just how valued their time and efforts are to our team.

If you own a caravan, please take the time to register it with CRIS at www.cris.co.uk and see the detailed crime prevention advice sheet on our dedicated website at

LIVESTOCK



Sadly again this month we have had reports of dogs chasing and attacking sheep around the county. In North Warwickshire, the Rugby area and Shipston on Stour serious cases have been reported to the police and investigated by the Rural Crime Team. Terrible injuries have been inflicted with some of the sheep

not surviving. As well as the welfare issues, it is devastating to the farmers who care for them. PLEASE keep your dog on a lead if you are walking anywhere where there is livestock and ensure your dog is cannot get out when at home.

Tractor GPS Systems

An increase in the theft of tractor GPS systems is occurring nationally and in Warwickshire we have had two incidents this year. The first happened in Brinklow, where 3 x John Deere domes were taken and in Astley, North Warwickshire, 'Trimble' GPS equipment was taken from a tractor, which caused damage to the vehicle.

If you have this kind of system on your tractor, please consider the following precautions:

- Remove all GPS guidance receivers, aerials or antenna globes when not in use and keep them in a secure locked place when possible.
- Consider fitting security tethers or brackets to stop units being removed.
- Property mark your equipment visibly by engraving, paint or a permanent marker pen with your postcode and invisibly with either a forensic solution such as Smartwater, Datatag, Selecta DNA or a UV pen.
- Put signs up stating property is marked.
- Lock cabs at all times when not in use.
- Consider fitting a tracker in the equipment.
- Store machinery inside locked barns if possible.
- Consider fitting mains or battery- operated alarms to outbuildings or beam alarms around the perimeter of areas where machines are stored.
- CCTV and intruder alarms covering all areas are a good deterrent and ensure they are checked regularly.
- Record machinery serial numbers and take photographs for reference to help police identify stolen items and increase the chances of them being recovered.
- Let any employees know the security arrangements that are expected of them while working on the farm.
- Encourage all farm staff to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour or vehicles to the police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

CRIME PREVENTION EVENTS FOR FARMERS

Tuesday 29th June – Stratford Livestock Market,
CV37 8LP - 09.00 to 12 noon
R.S.V.P to Luke_Ryder@nfumutual.co.uk

Wednesday 30th June – Malt Kiln Farm Shop,
Stretton under Fosse, CV23 0PE
09.00 to 12 noon
R.S.V.P. to
ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Opportunity to see equipment including trackers, beam alarms & other equip **with special offers**, plus speak to Rural Crime Team Officers.

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-horsetwath.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