



January 2020

# Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter



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



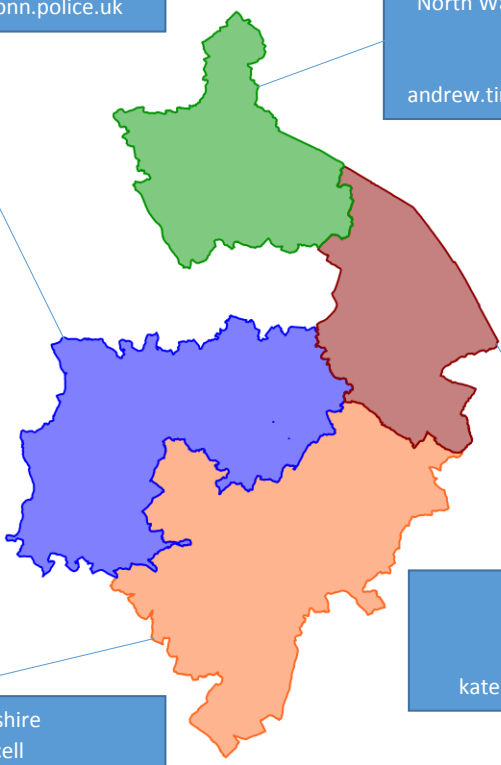
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Following **large scale fly tipping** offences across South Warwickshire we have been working closely with the Environment Agency and local Farmers to gather information and target those involved.

As a direct result of this work we followed a lead to Birmingham and tracked down the vehicle that was using false plates and involved in the offences (pictured). The vehicle was seized and during examination we found that the roll on/off skip on the back, worth several thousand pounds, had been stolen from a farm near Stratford during November. We have now handed the investigation over to the Environment Agency who are the primary investigator in this type of offence.

## Partnership Working

We continue to expand our contacts and work with other agencies and Police Forces across the Country to deal with various Rural issues.

Since forming in October 2019 we've crossed borders into West Midlands, Leicestershire, Thames Valley, Gloucestershire and West Mercia to seize stolen items and make arrests.

## Rural Patrols

Our patrols are based on information provided by the Public. We assess crime reports to establish key areas to target and intelligence information to establish key people and vehicles to target.

Please ensure you report all rural crime matters so that we have a clear picture of what is happening across Warwickshire. This will help to inform and direct our efforts.



During patrols of the Southam area we were searching for a specific type of BMW suspected to be involved in rural crime. Locating a vehicle matching the description near Harbury we were in for a surprise.

The car was untaxed for over 12 months, the MOT had expired in June 2019. The two kids in the rear weren't properly secured. The handbrake didn't work. The suspension was seriously defective. Wheel nuts were missing. Worst of all the headlights didn't work and neither did the driver side windscreen wiper. It was just getting dark at the time we stopped the car and it was raining!

We can't even begin to explain how dangerous this car was so even though it took us away from searching for rural criminals we were happy to spend time seizing it. The Driver has been reported for various offences.



## Future Offence Prevention Work

We are presently working with a company to trial a sheep collar that will track both the sheeps whereabouts and, it is hoped, the speed of the sheep. Following Operation Hillman last year, our RCO Carol Cotterill looked at how we could potentially warn farmers that their sheep were being chased, whether to be stolen, caught to be butchered or worried. She found a company that said they could help and we are presently trialling it with 3 farmers



## Operation HILLMAN – Sheep Slaughter & Theft Investigation

Following the work our RCO Carol Cotterill did with local officers supporting farmers and working with neighbouring forces in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire when the offences happened in 2019; PC Kate Taylor and PC Andy Timmins have now taken on the Operation Hillman investigation for Warwickshire. After assessing the reported crimes and revisiting some of the crime scenes, they were able to compile sufficient evidence to question one of the three males currently remanded in custody by Northamptonshire Police, on suspicion of being involved in Warwickshire offences.

In January the Officers visited Peterborough Prison where the male was produced for interview. Our joint work with Northamptonshire Police continues and since the three arrests that took place in October last year there have been no further offences reported in the three counties. Warwickshire have no incidents reported since August 2019.



## CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY



A large part of our work surrounds crime prevention. It will be an ongoing effort and direct engagement with the Rural Community has been key in starting to present our message. During January we have visited a large number of farms across Warwickshire where security has been lacking with vehicles and equipment left insecure. Talking one to one with property owners about security has proven successful but time consuming. We have expanded to discussing the issues in group meetings and across our social media platform. The alert to a spate of quad bike thefts (pictured above) was viewed by over 7000 people on our Facebook page alone. It generated questions from Farmers across Warwickshire who were keen to engage with us surrounding security measures.



## PLEASE INVITE US TO YOUR RURAL MEETINGS



As your Rural Team we want to be engaging directly with you about the work that we are completing and how you can get the best out of us. We have been attending and speaking at meetings held by the NFU, NFU Mutual, CLA, Young Farmers events, Parish Council meetings and many more, plus holding engagement events ourselves.

With specific Officers from the Team covering each area of the County we want you to know the name of the Officer representing your area and how to contact them directly.

If you have an upcoming meeting that you want us to attend or if you are able to put together a group of people solely to meet with our Team then please email [ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk) with details.



## Ongoing Rural Crime Information

This is our first Rural Team Newsletter and 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.



With over 8000 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.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.

Visit:

[www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk)

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