



# Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

JANUARY 2024



Report non-emergency crime  
Get advice & guidance

[www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://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](http://warwickshire.police.uk) or call 101.

## Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts



### COUNTYWIDE

Sergeant 2216 Adam Corless  
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### COUNTYWIDE

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£1.2 Million of Vehicles Recovered by Team



2023 has seen the team recover an estimated £1.2 million of vehicles and equipment. It has been a very busy year with lots of things happening, including new members joining the team, promotions and others moving on to new roles. We look forward to welcoming two new members to the team soon. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners and all the members of public who support us in the work that we do and we look forward to 2024 and the challenges ahead.

**Stolen Digger Recovered**



After being contacted by a concerned local landowner, our team attended and located a stolen digger. It is suspected that the offenders had stolen the digger then hid it in the woods to collect at a later date or see if it had a tracker fitted. Huge thanks to the landowner that contacted us. Trackers come in many forms and are a really good piece of equipment to have for your vehicles and equipment.

**Stolen Car Recovered**

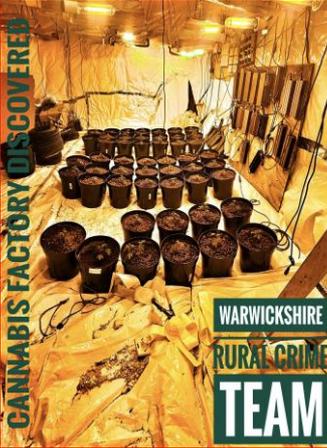
Officers from the RCT spotted this BMW looking a little sorry for itself at a site near Ryton On Dunsmore. On closer inspection it was identified as having been stolen from Rugby, Warwickshire the day before. It's likely the vehicle would have been used by offenders for less than desirable activities, so it was good to get it recovered so quickly.





The team recently supported the national grid and a local energy supplier in executing a court issued warrant at a location near Ryton On Dunsmore. Whilst the engineers were working, supported by officers from Thames Valley Rural Crime Team and Rugby Police, our officers located a trailer that was confirmed as stolen from Sussex and a van that had been stolen from the Midlands a few days previous. A Discovery also caught the officers eye when it was found that the licence plates displayed on the vehicle were not recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) and the visible number plates also didn't bring back any results. A flat bed transit drove onto the site whilst officers were at the location, this was found to be displaying two totally different trade plates, neither linked to the company the driver said he worked for and his insurance had ran out 25 minutes previously. He was reported for the offences and both the Discovery and flat bed transit were seized.

Whilst at the location officers followed their nose and found an early stages cannabis grow. This was most likely the reason the power company had noticed some inconsistencies in the meter readings. Over 50 plants were seized and destroyed along with all the associated items. A grow like this has an approximate yield of around £30k for the offenders plus the cost of the equipment used. Whilst destroying the grow, officers spotted another van that had been stolen from Coventry the day before. Unfortunately no offenders were present at the time, but inquiries are being made.



Plant & Equipment Recovered in Chesterton

During an evening patrol around the Charlecote area, our officers spotted a BMW parked in a field gateway. Something didn't seem right so the officers turned around and the BMW made off. After initially making after the BMW they realised that there may be a reason for the vehicle being there and returned to check the location. A dumper truck had been moved from a nearby building site and was filled with hydraulic equipment. Tracks were also found in the wet grass showing that a trailer had also been used. Further investigations found a trailer and a 1 tonne digger. Inquiries found that the trailer and digger had been stolen from a building site in Shipston on Stour. Just under £30k worth of equipment was recovered and the offenders left empty handed.



## WILDLIFE

### Operation Galileo



Following a report from a member of the public who had spotted a vehicle abandoned in the middle of a field, our officers attended the location. Upon arrival they found that the vehicle had been used by offenders to illegally poach and hare course before getting stuck and had dead rabbits inside. The vehicle has been seized for its use in these offences, as well as causing damage to the crops in the field and not having any current vehicle tax.

## LIVESTOCK

### Lost Sheep Returned to Owner

We recently received a call from a member of the public who had found 3 sheep suddenly appear in her field. Unfortunately they had no ear tags to help with identification so we spoke to local farmers and checked the area. When out patrolling a few days later one of our officers saw a shepherd with his sheep and asked him if he had any missing, checks confirmed he had and the wandering twosome were reunited with their flock. Details have now been added to our farm and stable mapping system for our control room if sheep get out again in this area. If you have livestock or horses in Warwickshire and would like to ensure the police have your contact details to ring you if they are called to animals loose on the road or appear in similar circumstances please email our team at [ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk](mailto:ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk) and we will send you a form to complete. This is also helpful if you have land away from the farm or rented. This has assisted our officers on a number of occasions and well worth considering.



## EQUINE

### Operation Close Pass



Our team, with support from PCSO Ben Cole from Shipston Local Policing Team and Mounted Police Volunteer Mary with her horse 'Bear', did an Operation Close Pass in Harbury before Christmas. Around 90 vehicles passed the horse and rider over the course of the morning with 7 vehicles being given words of advice. 1 vehicle was seized and a driver was given a ticket, both relating to traffic offences.

The new Highway Code states the importance of passing horses on the road wide (minimum of 2 metres, where possible) and slow (maximum of 10 mph) when safe to do so, by all that use the road, including cyclists and motorbike riders, especially on country lanes.

Great feedback was received from horse owners in the area that use these lanes. We also visited local stables with information on Operation Snap, provided our popular trailer stickers, gate signs and some fluorescent items from Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership.

Watch out for more Close Pass operations around the county during the year.

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](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.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk)  
or [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.

Search for Warwickshire Rural Watch on Facebook and Twitter



For advice, information and alerts visit our websites at  
[www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk)  
[www.warwickshire.police.uk/ruralcrime](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ruralcrime)