

RURAL TIMES

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PROTECTING
OUR RURAL
COMMUNITIES

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT



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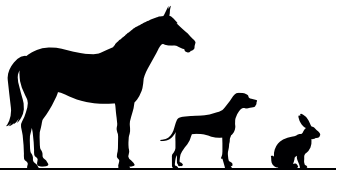
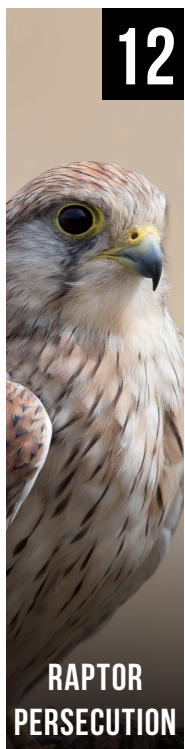
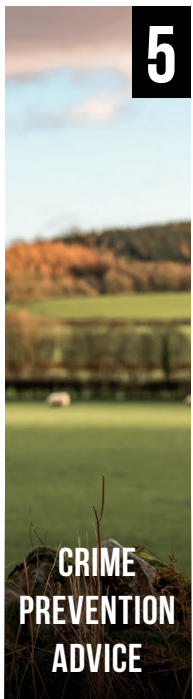


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WEBSITE

Hampshire Alert
www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk

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**Assistant Chief Constable,
Scott Chilton**
Hampshire Constabulary, Rural Policing Lead

Earlier this year I attended the New Forest and Hampshire County Show and was delighted to meet many members of the Rural Crime Partnership. It emphasised to me what we can achieve when we work together with common interest and focus. I do recognise it is not always easy. As with many areas of policing there are challenges to overcome but having the support and understanding of our community, guided through the Rural Crime Partnership, is a real strength.

This partnership and the focus of our activity were shared with the NFU and the CLA recently. We held some really good conversations regarding the many issues that affect their members, from organised criminals stealing

WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF RURAL TIMES

machinery – which impacts upon livelihoods as well as the cost of replacement – to poaching and the fear of crime among isolated communities. With Hampshire and the Isle of Wight being more than 80 per cent rural, it is so important that we listen to the needs of all communities, both business and the general public.

To enable our enforcement activity, we need to ensure we have a clear understanding of what the problem is and where crime is taking place. I have ensured that this continues to be analysed, and, where appropriate, have locally owned and managed plans to tackle offending, support victims and work across borders to seek mutual benefits from disrupting crime. We are very aware that the autumn and winter seasons bring in some different dynamics, but also opportunities, and I continue to support activity through both local neighbourhood policing and the Country Watch team in seasonal plans to recognise this.

From the spring/summer article you may recall the work that was being carried out to introduce a drone capability into the force. I am pleased to announce that this is now operational and being deployed, in support of initiatives, to detect and deter crime in our rural areas. Of course such activity is not enough on its own and we continue to seek new opportunities, such as the recent example where volunteers conducted mounted rural patrols with some very positive and welcome feedback.

There is so much going on in policing at present and I know crime and the fear of crime remains of the utmost importance. Despite a turbulent political landscape over recent times, our commitment to you, the communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, is to continue to work with you to ensure we give the best possible policing service we can. We are fortunate to live and work in this part of the country and we will together do our best to keep it safe.



Michael Lane
Police and Crime Commissioner

A significant pleasure of being Police and Crime Commissioner has been to become more familiar with our wonderful countryside and rural communities across my area. Thank you to all who have added to my education and understanding. The value and scale of this core part of our area is too often underestimated.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

During October, the first Rural Crime Event – led by our dedicated Hampshire Constabulary Country Watch Team – at Sparsholt has attracted plaudits and you can read more later in this issue (see p6). The event formed part of a national Wildlife and Rural Crime Week of Action. Residents and businesses of the rural community joined Hampshire Constabulary and more than 20 partners to see how rural crime is tackled, discuss concerns and learn how they can help in the prevention and detection of rural crime.

My team took the opportunity to capture the top rural crime concerns. Burglary, poaching and fly-tipping were identified as priorities for action and funding; and of course continuing to fund the dedicated Country Watch Team is as important as ever, recognising Inspector Bishop and her team for their expertise. As each year, I will be consulting about the whole policing budget, so please visit my website www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk to sign up for alerts on surveys and consultations to ensure you can have your say.



Hugh Oliver-Bellasis is chair of the Strategic Independent Advisory Group (SIAG) and acts as a critical friend to the force.

HUGH'S VIEWS

Since I last wrote, the rural challenge has been horribly illustrated by the murder of PC Andrew Harper.

All our thoughts are with his wife and family in these dark days, following such a shocking incident.

We live in sparsely populated areas, which are often less accessible than the urban situation. At night, there is no lighting, so it is conducive to 'ne'er-do-wells' having free rein. We must therefore be very alert. Many of those who would conduct any crime in a rural area will review targets in daylight, so the first step is to be observant in daylight for vehicles and people out of place.

It was the 1920s US newspaper publisher Fred Barnard who observed that 'one picture is worth ten thousand words'; so it is with our modern digital equipment. Any picture you take can be used as evidence, so take photographs but do not approach. Make a plan to canalise the intruder through an entrance of your choice; block the others with tree trunks. Boring as it is and unsightly at times, use ditches where fields' boundaries meet lanes and can be accessed.

It is perhaps valuable to make sure one's neighbours understand the reasons for security, for if they are not rural folk, they may not recognise the threat. It is important they are vigilant as well, since they may be visited by the very people who at another time will visit to pilfer. In daylight, they will visit with offers at silly prices [for cash] – tarmac, garden furniture, compost with likely stories of surplus or spare. Be wary if the price seems 'too good to be true' – it is, because it is not true.

Communicate with your local police officer, get them to visit you and become acquainted. Ring your local station or the district headquarters and fix to meet. Meet your local Country Watch officer; their details are on the back of this magazine. Part of the solution is very much in our hands – it is a team game. Let's play it better.

Have a very happy and calm Christmas and a successful New Year.



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CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

Identifying and reporting different types of fraud

According to Action Fraud, one in four businesses is affected by fraud every year. In 2017, fraud cost UK businesses £190 billion.

A guide has been produced by Hampshire Constabulary to help businesses identify and report different types of fraud. Visit www.nbcc.police.uk for more information.



Amazon Prime scam

Action Fraud has received hundreds of reports of a scam where victims receive an automated phone call claiming they've been charged for an Amazon Prime subscription.

The phone call informs people their personal details have been fraudulently used to subscribe to Amazon Prime, however they can cancel the transaction by pressing 1.

When victims do this they are automatically connected to criminals posing as Amazon customer service representatives, who remotely access their computer and steal their personal and financial details.

Visit www.actionfraud.police.uk to find out more.

Number plate theft

The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates.

How to protect your number plates:

- If you can, park your car in a garage overnight.
- Always use safe, well-lit public car parks.
- Consider using tamper-proof screws (your local garage can offer assistance with this if required).

Always report stolen/missing number plates straight away via 101 or report online at www.hampshire.police.uk and notify the DVLA.

Supporting farming victims of rural crime

Crime didn't only cost those who live in the UK countryside more than £50m in 2018, it resulted in significant stress and difficulties to people working in the rural community – especially farmers and those allied to the agricultural industry.

FCN | THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a voluntary organisation and charity supporting farmers and farming families in England and Wales who are experiencing difficult times.

The impact of rural crime is one of many reasons that people call FCN's helpline, which operates every day from 7am to 11pm.

It's not just the financial implications that cause a problem, explains Mark Thomas, FCN's Regional Director in the South East.

"Farmers, their families and staff are facing a number of challenges such as Brexit uncertainty, falling incomes, animal disease, isolation, and rising levels of crime. These realities don't just affect the farm business, they can cause high levels of stress and poor mental wellbeing, common factors with many of the calls we receive."

"Our amazing volunteers are here to help," added Mr Thomas, "whether that's just being a friendly and understanding voice at the end of the phone, or to offer practical support with working through problems."

The network also works with farmers to help build resilience, both from a business and personal perspective. FarmWell is a new online hub which has a wealth of information, links, tips and suggestions for staying strong through changing times. The confidential helpline is available every day of the year from 7am to 11pm – telephone 03000 111 999 or email help@fcn.org.uk

Visit www.farmwell.org.uk for information on farm business and personal resilience.





RURAL CRIME EVENT

More than 200 guests, exhibitors and volunteers attended the Rural Crime Event on Sunday 6 October at Sparsholt College, Winchester.

The event, which marked the start of the National Rural Crime Week of Action, provided an opportunity for both victims of rural crime and members of the rural community to find out more about the efforts the police and partner agencies are taking to tackle rural crime.

It was also an excellent opportunity for rural police teams and County Watch officers to speak directly to the community, listen to their concerns and offer crime prevention advice.

The Hampshire Constabulary team was joined by a variety of partners who all work together to support and protect rural residents, businesses, wildlife and land:

- National Farmers' Union
- Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch
- The Farming Community Network
- Angling Trust
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Environment Agency
- Forestry England
- Victim Support
- Stop Domestic Abuse

- Bat Conservation Trust/Hampshire Bat Group
- The Blue Lamp Trust (Bobby Scheme)
- ClearWaste
- Community Speedwatch
- Hampshire Ornithological Society
- Hampshire Horsewatch
- Naturewatch Foundation
- Volunteer Police Cadets
- Mounted Rural Patrol volunteers
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Winchester Cadets were on hand to meet and greet guests and helped the event to run smoothly. The new Country Watch drone was on display with footage showing how it works and the different cameras available. (see p15)



Guests were asked to take part in a survey asking them *Which type of rural crime would you like to see more police funding and resources allocated to?*



Burglary came top of the poll with poaching a close second. This feedback is useful for the Country Watch team and also reinforces the value of our new Dot Peen property marking machine and drone to help tackle these issues. As well as promoting the benefits of our Dot Peen machine and registering items on Immobilise, officers were raising awareness of the CESAR scheme. Its primary aim is to provide police with an easy way of identifying farm and construction machinery.



The CESAR registration database is accessible 24 hours a day to provide support to police officers who are making enquiries at the roadside about equipment stopped in suspicious circumstances with people they suspect may have stolen it. Equipment can be checked and the ownership of a machine can be determined straight away. For more information visit www.cesarscheme.org

GUEST SURVEY: Do you feel rural crime is increasing, declining or staying the same in last 12 months?

48.5% said increasing **51.5%** said stayed the same



"A great show that was extremely well organised that focused on the often forgotten rural crime. It was great to see the high levels of commitment to policing in rural locations."

Martin Montague, ClearWaste.com

GUEST SURVEY: Have you registered your property on immobilise?

55% of attendees said no

www.immobilise.com helps police to identify the owners of recovered property thousands of times every day. Property updates are immediately available to the police nationally.



"It was an excellent event with a broad spectrum of exhibitors and attendees which gave an opportunity to raise awareness of the illegal persecution of badgers – a UK Wildlife Crime Priority – the puppy farming trade and the work of Naturewatch Foundation itself to combat these two areas of animal crime." **Naturewatch Foundations Animal Crime Manager, Andy Swinburne**



GUEST SURVEY: How would you like the police to share rural crime advice and information with you?

58% said emails via Hampshire Alert

Sign up to receive information and advice from Country Watch and your local policing team at **www.hampshirealert.co.uk**



"Great to meet with Hampshire Police and our neighbours to share and discuss rural crime and how we can reduce it together." **Simon J Holloway, Wildlife Ranger, Forestry England**

Common crime prevention questions at the event included:

Q: Which is the best lock to use for my outbuilding?

A: Visit **www.soldsecure.com** for tested and certified products. Always use a provider approved by the Master Locksmiths Association (MLA) and Hampshire Trading Standards'. Buy with Confidence Scheme **www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk**.

Q: Where can I find advice on the best CCTV for my property

A: Visit the ICO website **www.ico.org.uk**, who have published a guide for domestic use of CCTV. For advice on the best CCTV for your needs, always consult with an approved provider **www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk**



"Inspector Korine Bishop and her team pulled together a highly informative and inclusive event. Providing attendees with an insight into what support and advice is available to them for preventing crime and what to do if they become a victim of crime. I hope one of the messages people attending left with was that if you see or are a victim of a crime please report it, so we can understand the true impact of criminal behaviour on rural communities and so help us bid for more resources." **Enzo Riglia, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner**



DOG WATCH LAUNCHED TO HELP PREVENT CRIME

Hampshire Constabulary is launching a Dog Watch initiative in December 2019.

The scheme will begin in the New Forest area, with a view to expanding across the rest of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight throughout 2020.

The scheme encourages dog walkers to be proactive and vigilant in their area whilst out walking their dogs. They are familiar with the area in which they reside and have the opportunity to spot anything out of place or suspicious.

This could include:

- Suspicious activity or vehicles
- Graffiti / vandalism
- Nuisance vehicles
- Anti-social behaviour
- Fly-tipping
- Dog fouling
- Hare-coursing
- Dog related incidents (eg stolen dogs, livestock worrying)
- Injured animals
- Abandoned vehicles

A handy, wallet sized z-card will be made available to members, with relevant contact numbers for the New Forest area.

It is important to note that at no time will members be expected to intervene in any incidents. Their role will be to simply report information.

They will also receive information and updates via Hampshire Alerts from the police, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, New Forest District Council and partner agencies.

Members of the public interested in joining New Forest Dog Watch will need to register to join on www.hampshirealert.co.uk and select the 'Dog Watch' group.

Chief Inspector Paul Markham, New Forest district commander, said:

"We are pleased to introduce the Dog Watch scheme to the New Forest. This is an excellent opportunity to develop a closer relationship with the dog walking community around the Forest so together with our partners we can make neighbourhoods safer."





KEEPING GUNS SECURE

In Hampshire, we've recently had a spate of burglaries where shotguns have been stolen. Some of the guns had been secured by their owners, others had not.

Last year, a number of shotguns were stolen in a single burglary, even though they had been secured in an approved cabinet. Some of these have since been identified as having been used for criminal purposes in the Southampton area, with two having been recovered by police.

All guns are very attractive to organised criminals, either as an enabling tool for their activities or as a valued currency. We are currently recording an increase in the number of cases where guns are being targeted, either by a thief in preparing to steal from their next victim, or by thieves locating the security installation once they have entered the certificate holder's premises.

All holders are asked to review their security arrangements to ensure they don't become a victim of gun theft and make it

more difficult for thieves to acquire guns. Even if security has been inspected and signed off by the Licensing Department, it is worth all holders looking at ways of enhancing this, such as hiding their cabinet from view, secreting it in a cupboard or other unusual location, enhancing overall security and fitting an alarm or CCTV.

To reduce the risk of being targeted, holders should think about their movements and activities, especially if this would identify them as having guns. Varying routes and being alert to who is around when loading and unloading vehicles are both really useful. You should also know who comes to your security address, such as trades and other visitors who may not be discreet and could pass your details on, resulting in information about you, your guns and security getting into the wrong hands.

A breach of security is not just an administrative offence and those who previously thought it acceptable to leave a gun insecure must understand that this is not the case, especially when left out in premises or not properly secured in a vehicle.

Any holder who is found to have breached the statutory security condition on either their firearm or shotgun certificate risks two forms of sanction: first by being dealt with by a police officer for the criminal offence, and secondly through the revocation of certificate/s by the chief officer.

While it is unfortunate that in some cases a holder may be a victim of crime, this does not negate the fact that their criminal action or inaction has resulted in their gun/s passing into criminal and unlawful possession. While this may be regarded by some as an oversight or minor infringement, the consequence could be catastrophic for an innocent victim, as well as giving the holder a criminal record and having a lasting impact on their future as a shooter.

Natural England general licences

Waiting for the new terms for the licences to be finalised, but there has been some concession, with the agreement that corvids and pigeon can be taken if it can be proved that they are likely to cause damage to crops.



WORKING TO TACKLE DOMESTIC ABUSE IN RURAL AREAS

When we think of crimes that affect rural communities, poaching, plant theft and burglary probably spring to mind, but recent research has uncovered the hidden harm domestic abuse causes to those living in our countryside.

The National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) conducted an 18-month research project into domestic abuse, analysing evidence, speaking to victims and scrutinising police and support agencies.

The research identified that leaving an abusive relationship is harder, takes longer and is more complex for rural victims. Probably the most shocking findings were that rural victims live with abuse for around 25 per cent longer and are only around half as likely to report their abuse as urban victims.

The NRCN Chair and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, Julia Mulligan, said: “We need to take a fresh look at the map. At the white spaces where ‘nothing’ happens because domestic

abuse is there, secreted in the underbelly of our countryside.”

The report found that the barriers that prevent urban victims from seeking help were even harder for rural victims to overcome. Physical and social isolation was greater for those living in the countryside, and while a tightknit community can be a blessing, it can make it difficult for victims to confidentially seek help.

Limited public transport makes escape almost impossible without a car and even poor broadband coverage can make it difficult for victims to call for help or access support online.

Anna Presswell, a Police Staff Investigator in the Country Watch team and Domestic Abuse Champion for Hampshire Constabulary, said there were additional factors that made domestic abuse harder to identify and report in rural communities.

“In rural communities, people’s homes and livelihoods are often linked. If you leave your home you may lose your income. It isn’t easy to find somewhere new to live in your community so that you can keep your job and your children can stay in the same school.

“The physical nature of many jobs means that injuries either go unnoticed because people live in all-weather gear, or they can be explained away.”

Given that much domestic abuse is reported by neighbours, Anna added that the physical isolation of many countryside homes went some way to explaining why rural victims often endured abuse for so much longer.

The NRCN highlighted access to female police officers, domestic abuse training for all officers and police presence in rural communities as potential issues for policing.

Sergeant Debbie Ashthorpe, Domestic Abuse Champion Lead, explained the steps the force has already taken in these areas.

“All of our response and patrol officers have received additional training to respond to and investigate domestic abuse and to support and safeguard victims.

“We’ve established a network of Domestic Abuse Champions – officers and staff who volunteer to undertake extra training and to constantly identify ways in which we can do more and be better.

NRCN
National Rural Crime Network

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE YOU CAN FIND HELP, GO TO

WWW.HAMPSHIRE.POLICE.UK/ADVICE/ADVICE-AND-INFORMATION/DAA/DOMESTIC-ABUSE/SUPPORT-HELPLINES

IN AN EMERGENCY, ALWAYS CALL 999



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"We've had so many men volunteer for this role because they are passionate about getting it right."

Regarding police visibility in rural areas, Korine Bishop, the force's Strategic Rural Policing Inspector, said Hampshire Constabulary was ahead of the curve in finding ways to engage with rural communities.

"We're one of only a few forces that has dedicated rural teams and we see it very much as a partnership between us and our rural communities," she said.

"While we have established links with the National Farmers' Union, Countryside Alliance and the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, there are still communities such as the travelling community where we're working to build better relationships and be more accessible."

Through volunteer networks, the rural community actively supports its policing team, and it's this willingness to be proactive and look out for each other that Inspector Bishop hopes to harness to help victims of domestic abuse.

"People in rural communities look after each other. With a hidden crime like domestic abuse we need people to look out for their friends, family and neighbours.

"Keep an eye out and if you haven't seen someone for a while or if they're quiet, ask them how they are, ask them if they're okay. They might not be ready to talk to the police or a support agency yet, but they may need to talk to someone, and you might be the only person they see."





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ACTION TO TACKLE RAPTOR PERSECUTION

Our Country Watch team supported this year's national Operation Owl weekend of action to tackle raptor persecution in the county.

The purpose of the operation is to increase public awareness of bird of prey persecution and to seek support in tackling it head-on. The team were out on patrol on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September at sites known to have suffered persecution in previous years.

Sadly, the county has seen a number of incidents in the last two years in which birds of prey, including buzzards and falcons, have been unlawfully killed, or had their eggs stolen.

Some have suffered horrific injuries, including a buzzard and a hobby which were found on the Isle of Wight last year with their feet missing, and a kestrel that was suspected to have been shot in the head in Southampton. The penalty for killing a Schedule 1 Wild Bird is up to six months' imprisonment with a £5,000 fine.

It can also be an offence to set certain traps for mammals and birds. While many are lawfully set, the use of pole traps, for example, where a trap is set on a fence post or perch, has been illegal for more than 100 years.

On occasion, these traps have been found positioned on posts close to game-rearing pens or on exposed posts on open moorland, with the sole intention of catching birds of prey that land on the pole or post.

In preparation for the weekend of action, officers met with partners from the RSPB, the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and the Hampshire Ornithological Society in the preceding week. The team gathered valuable information during the meet relating to raptor persecution, in addition to specialist wild bird knowledge, ahead of the high visibility patrols that were planned for the weekend.

The operational response was also bolstered by a 'tweetstorm', in which the @Hantspolrural Twitter account was used to post frequent educational messages in order to help the public spot the signs of persecution and know how to report it.

If you see anything suspicious that you believe is linked to raptor persecution, or you have information about the killing of birds of prey, you can call the police on 101, or use one of the following confidential reporting hotlines:

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

RSPB Raptor Persecution Hotline
0300 999 0101

Further details on Operational Owl and how to recognise, record and report the signs of raptor persecution can be found online: www.operationowl.com



© The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)



ADVICE TO HORSE OWNERS ABOUT EQUINE MICROCHIPS AND PASSPORTS

We are urging horse-owners to ensure their animals are microchipped and not to buy a horse without a valid passport following an incident in November 2018.



Two horses, named Toby and Barney, were stolen from Swanmore and Toby was sold on, without a passport, to a member of the public in Worcester.

The new owner then applied for a passport when Toby's microchip had been checked, but this was intercepted by police after enquiries were made with Toby's rightful owner (pictured), who had reported her animals stolen.

Through the Horse Passport Agency, police were able to trace the new owner who was horrified to discover the horse was stolen, and drove to Hampshire to return him within two days.

Further enquiries established that Toby had changed hands a number of times after the theft, having been sold in Birmingham, Evesham, Abergavenny, Weston-super-Mare and London. On all of these occasions no passport had been exchanged. Despite fantastic efforts by the Country Watch team, the thief was not identified and Barney, who did not have a microchip, has still not been recovered.

The victim is delighted that she has had Toby returned to her, but fears she will not see Barney again as he will be difficult to trace without a microchip.



Our advice to horse-owners is ensure your horse has a microchip, and do not buy or sell horses without a passport, as this is an offence that can be prosecuted by Trading Standards.

Any horse born after 2009 should already be passported and microchipped – failure to have this done is an offence. However, for any animal born before 2009, whilst it should have a passport, the owners have until 2020 to get the microchip done. Local authorities can issue up to a £200 fine for the offence.

Passport issuing organisations will now upload microchip details to the Central Equine Database: www.equineregister.co.uk/home

If your horse is stolen, we advise notifying both the Central Equine Database and the individual company that provided the chip. The passport can often be lost or destroyed, but the chip in the horse can only be implanted by a vet. The chip details will not only hold the owner details but also the vet that implanted it.

To deter thieves, consider putting notices on gates to say your horses are microchipped.

You can also join Hampshire Horsewatch, which offers advice, guidance and support to anyone involved in equestrian pursuits. More details can be found online: www.hampshirehorsewatch.co.uk



RURAL ROUND-UP

FISH POACHER HIT WITH £1,500 PENALTY

A poacher who travelled from London to Winchester to fish illegally has had to pay £1,500 to a river keeper.

The poacher, who had a rod but no licence, arrived in Hampshire in September this year where he was spotted fishing in the River Itchen by two river keepers. Police were called and the man was apprehended before he attended a voluntary interview at a later date. The man fully admitted fishing and killing 12 fish during his interview, before he was informed that the fishing location was exclusive and would usually cost £2,500 per day with a total allowance of three fish.

The matter was dealt with by means of a community resolution, and the poacher paid £1,500 as a remedy to the river keeper, which was paid within a week. The money has since been donated to a fishing charity. We would encourage river keepers and landowners who suspect someone is poaching to contact the Country Watch team immediately on 101.



FOUR TEENAGERS SENTENCED FOR SERIOUSLY INJURING SHEEP IN GOSPORT

Four teenagers who caused serious injuries to sheep in Gosport have admitted the offences. Police received reports of a group of people throwing bricks at the animals at Alver Valley Nature Reserve on Tuesday 30 April this year. Enquiries discovered that there had been another incident in which the sheep were chased and hit with sticks. When officers attended the scene, they found that a number of animals had horns snapped off and others suffered serious eye injuries.

The investigation was taken on by Hampshire Constabulary's dedicated Country Watch team, who lead our efforts to prevent, detect and disrupt rural and wildlife crime. A number of arrests were made, and four people were subsequently charged with causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal.

They are a 15-year-old girl, a 14-year-old boy, and a 13-year-old boy, all from Gosport, and a 14-year-old boy from Holbury, New Forest. All four appeared at Portsmouth Youth Court yesterday (Monday 25 November) where they pleaded guilty and were sentenced as follows:

The 15-year-old girl from Gosport received a 12-month referral order. The 14-year-old boy from Gosport received a 12-month referral order.

The 13-year-old boy from Gosport received a nine-month extension to a current three-month referral order.

The 14-year-old boy from Holbury, New Forest, received a 12-month youth rehabilitation order.

They were all ordered to pay £85 compensation each, and £85 each in costs.

Following the sentencing, Police Staff Investigator Anna Presswell, from the Country Watch Team, said: "These incidents were truly shocking, and from my experience this was the most severe case of cruelty caused by children to animals that I have seen.

"What struck me most about this case is the effect it had on all officers and staff involved, from those who first attended the scene to the team that brought this to court. All were equally appalled by what they had come across.

"The animals were seriously hurt, with one losing its eye completely, and all were visibly shaking and panting when police arrived.

"I am pleased that this case has now concluded, and I hope this sends a message to anyone in the community about the consequences of animal cruelty."

MEN SENTENCED FOR FISH POACHING

Three men have been sentenced for poaching fish in the River Itchen and the River Test in April this year. In the first incident, two men were stopped by police in Winchester and officers seized fishing rods and fish.

Both men admitted poaching at court in October. The man that had the fish in his possession was ordered to pay £50 costs, a £60 fine and £30 victim surcharge. The second man was ordered to pay £35 costs, a £60 fine and a £35 victim surcharge. In a similar incident, a man was spotted casting a rod into the Test in Longparish, where there is a private right of fishery. Fishing rods and fish in a bag were located in the vicinity.

The man pleaded guilty at court on 25 October and had to pay £200 costs and £84 in compensation.

MAN HANDED COMMUNITY ORDER FOR BATTERY THEFT

A man has been ordered to carry out 100 hours' unpaid work for stealing batteries from land in Silchester in February this year.

COUNTRY WATCH AND PARTNERS CARRIED OUT ISLAND TRAFFIC OPERATION

On Wednesday 9 October, Country Watch officers were joined by the DVLA and DVSA to conduct a vehicle safety and roadworthiness operation at two sites on the Isle of Wight.

During the operation, which was carried out in Yarmouth and Newport, nine vehicles were seized, one ticket was issued for no MOT, and a driver was ordered to fix an exhaust problem within seven days. Several vehicles were given the all clear following a DVSA inspection.

RURAL ROUND-UP

OPERATION WOLF

Between April and October this year, 734 vehicles were stopped as part of Operation Wolf. Operation Wolf is a multi-agency initiative which aims to tackle vehicle crime such as fly-tipping and illegal use of red diesel.



One operation took place by the Old Station Road roundabout in Bishop's Waltham on Friday 12 July and its aim was to detect a range of offences, including rural burglaries and thefts.

It was led by Hampshire Constabulary's Country Watch team and Bishop's Waltham's Neighbourhood Policing Team. The Commercial Vehicle Unit, from the Joint Operations Unit for Hampshire and Thames Valley, also took part. During the operation, police officers worked alongside:

- Environment Agency
- Winchester City Council
- National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service
- HM Revenue and Customs
- Trading Standards

In total, 140 vehicles were stopped and inspected during the operation. Officers seized four vehicles and issued fixed penalty notices for offences such as no MOT or insurance, or tyre defects. Waste carrier licenses were also checked and vehicles were tested for red diesel. One detection of red diesel was made and enquiries will be made on a separate suspected detection.

A man received a community resolution for possession of cannabis. PC Ian Bassett, from Hampshire Constabulary's Country Watch team, said: "I would like to thank colleagues from other agencies for joining us for this operation. Vehicle stops in operations like this one play a key part in our efforts to disrupt a range of offences in rural areas, including thefts and burglaries.

"We will continue to work with other agencies to detect and disrupt those who seek to offend in our rural areas."

PARTNERS MEET TO REVIEW HAMPSHIRE FLY-TIPPING STRATEGY

Partners from the police, local authorities, NFU and CLA met on 29 October to review the aims and objectives of the Hampshire fly-tipping strategy.

Emphasis was placed on partnership working around the sharing of intelligence and information. While current tonnages of fly-tipped waste on public land continues to drop, it

was highlighted at the meeting that the partnership would continue to support landowners as much as current legislation allows. The partnership will continue to encourage private landowners to report every incident of fly-tipping on their land to their local authority, in order to help understand the scale of the problem as typically it suffers from under-reporting.

POLICE DRONES IN OPERATION



The Joint Operations Unit of Hampshire Constabulary and Thames Valley Police is operating a pilot scheme to test the capability of drones in policing.

A proof of concept trial is seeing drones being used across the two force areas, utilising them in a number of reactive and pre-planned situations. Each force will have three drones at their disposal, and 35 drone pilots have been trained. The drones can be used in a variety of incidents such as searching for missing people, responding to major incidents, capturing aerial crime scene imagery, at road traffic collisions, large public events and other policing operations.

Drones are a particularly useful operational tool for areas of our rural communities affected by crime, especially around issues of plant theft, poaching and hare coursing.



The drones are made by Yuneec and are a six-engine model with high definition, optical and thermal imaging cameras

and can be flown up to a maximum height of 400 feet (CAA Regulations). Assistant Chief Constable David Hardcastle, responsible for operations across Hampshire and Thames Valley, said: "We have launched this pilot to look at the effectiveness of using drones as an operational tool for officers in the two forces.

"We are looking at how drones can assist in a variety of overt policing situations with a view to rolling out the use of drones in both forces permanently, should the pilot be a success. This is an exciting opportunity for both forces, which means officers can get an aerial view of large areas in a short periods of time. Both Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary are committed to using technology to fight crime and make the public safer and hopefully the use of drones will be another tool available to do this."

PC Andy Sparshott is the drone unit manager who oversees the day-to-day operation and tasking of drones in both forces. He said: "The capabilities of drone technology are advancing rapidly and adding key benefits to the police and other emergency services. It is important the public understands the degree of training and regulations our pilots operate under in order to ensure our use of this evolving technology is safe.

"We are already experiencing the benefits of this technology, supporting our officers and staff as they fight crime, support the vulnerable and keep the public safe. We will continue to evaluate our use of drones and explore the future advancements in this technology."

COUNTRY WATCH

Meet the team

Contact numbers and locations for our Country Watch officers are shown here, should you need to contact them about your concerns and issues. Please note that these phone numbers should not be used to report crimes. You should call **101** if you think an offence has been or is about to be committed, or call **999** in an emergency. Although our officers are based in the locations stated, they have a countywide responsibility and can help you with any issue.



Insp Korine Bishop
07880 056657



Sgt Andy Williams
07392 314299



PC Will Butcher
07775 542982



**Police Staff Investigator
Hannah Levy**
07469 562472



PC Steve Rogerson
07554 775468



**Police Staff Investigator
Melody Manning**
07469 562444

**Special Constable
Phil Keeling**
07392 289634



PC Matt Thelwell
07392 314410

**Special Constable
Jaime Campbell**



Temporary Sgt Justin Pringle
07901 102300



PC Tim Campamy
07901 102393



PC Nick Massey
07901 102373



PC Scott Graham
07554 775488



PC Ian Bassett
07775 537382



PC Lynn Owen
07901 102344

**Special Constable
Vicky Spearpoint**

**Special Constable
Kev Saunders**

**Special Constable
Joe Earley**



**Special Sergeant
Shane Phillips**

**Police Staff Investigator
Anna Presswell**
07469 562221



Register at www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk



Cut out and keep