



Rural Crime Strategy 2020

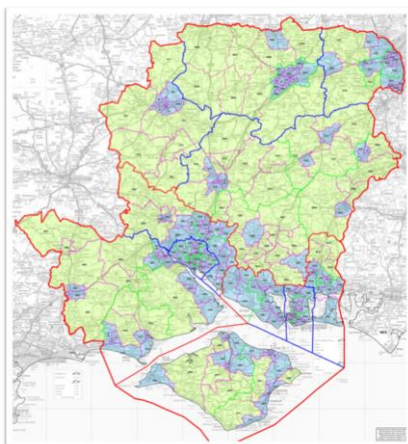
This strategy sets out how Hampshire Constabulary intends to tackle rural crime and anti-social behaviour. In developing this strategy, it is recognised some of the unique challenges faced by our rural communities and the fact that many feel isolated and vulnerable. We are committed to improve engagement by ensuring the needs of our rural communities are met and the expectations on the police and partner agencies are properly set. This is crucial to ensure the building of public confidence within the rural community.

1. Strategic Aim

- 1.1 Make our rural communities safer by reducing crime and building confidence within rural communities’.

2. History and Context

- 2.1 Across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight 85% of the two county’s geography is considered rural.



Rural Districts

New Forest
Test Valley
Winchester
East Hants
Hart & Rushmoor
Basingstoke
Isle of Wight

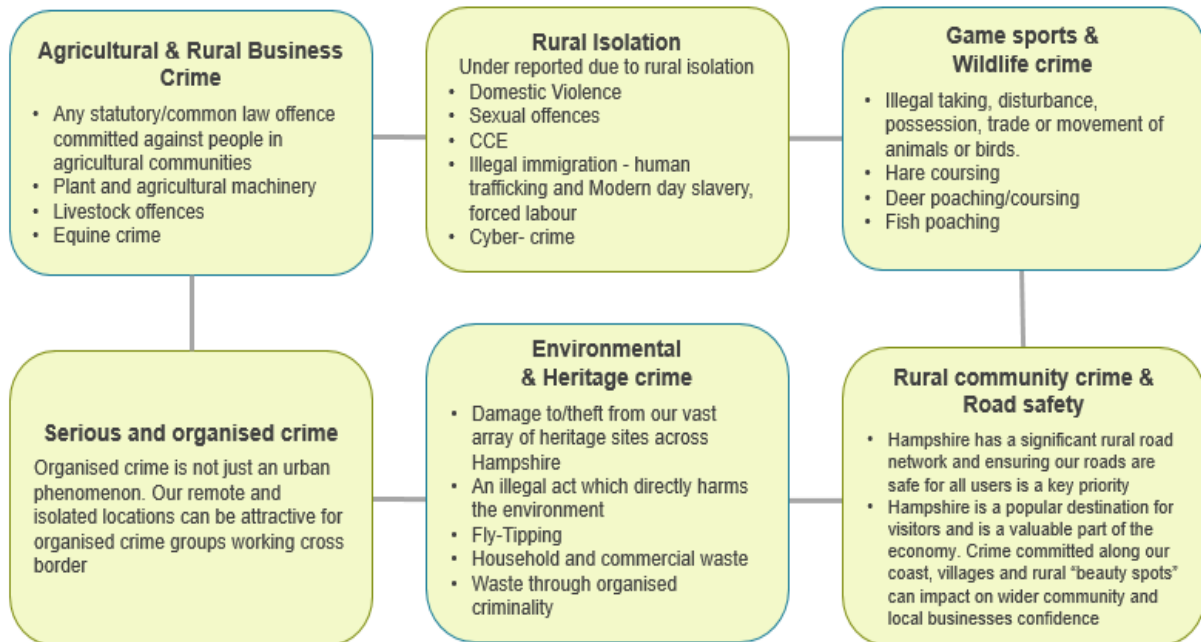
Urban Districts

Southampton
Eastleigh
Fareham
Gosport
Portsmouth
Havant

- 2.2 Neighbourhood policing teams are at the forefront of local policing supported by our dedicated Country Watch team, ensuring we meet the needs of our rural communities. Within Country Watch we have specialist wildlife crime officers and drone operators to support a number of policing operations.

3. Six Thematic areas

- 3.1 The new rural strategy will outline six thematic areas where the force will look to improve public confidence by working in partnership to tackle rural crime.



4. Rural crime PIER Plan

- 4.1 The strategy will be delivered against a PIER plan around Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement and Reassurance. We seek to provide a coordinated, focused and pro-active approach through effective partnerships coupled with increased visibility to reduce opportunities for those crimes that cause greatest threat, risk or harm to our rural communities and environment. We will achieve this by including some of the following initiatives.

4.2 Prevention

In partnership with stakeholders and volunteers, we will look to prevent crimes and incidents from taking place, in order to stop people becoming victims of crime. Maintain a visible presence and provide an effective response in rural communities

- Provide crime reduction advice and signposting to residents, businesses and visitors on staying safe and protecting property.
- Develop the specialist rural skills and knowledge of officers, staff and Special Constables through training and communications

- Work with businesses and partner organisations to raise awareness and prevent crime
- Look at opportunities to promote the use of Special Constable and volunteers working in rural communities through targeted recruitment in rural neighbourhoods
- Continue to work with the Neighbourhood Watch Association to promote Watch schemes within rural communities across the county.
- Identify repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour and manage our response to their needs.
- Educate road-users about road safety on rural roads, and take positive action to prevent collisions by working with partners including Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Community Speed Watch volunteers, and the targeted use of safety camera vans.
- Encourage members of our in rural communities to join police messaging systems including Hants Alerts and social media feeds.
- Utilise volunteers to support policing and local communities.

4.3 **Intelligence**

It is important that we listen to what people tell us and act upon it and provide relevant information to rural communities to help people take preventative action themselves. We need to improve the way we use and share information to identify the problems and determine the options we can use to deter and disrupt criminality

- Identify individuals and groups who cause the most harm to rural communities by intelligence gathering.
- Work with partners to obtain and develop intelligence on hidden harm crimes including human trafficking and modern slavery.
- Utilise Country watch and Neighbourhood teams to act as a point of contact for the rural community to share intelligence.
- Work closely with neighbouring forces to improve our understanding of cross border criminality by sharing information with them and other organisations e.g. National Food Crime Unit, NFU, Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and Federation of Small Businesses.
- Use Automatic Number Plate Recognition capability to disrupt travelling criminals by ensuring camera positioning reflects current intelligence ensuring most effective deployment

4.4 **Enforcement**

We will enforce the law and target those areas of crime and those offenders who cause most harm.

- Ensure an effective police response to reports of rural crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Work with rural communities, businesses, Watch Schemes and partners to increase reporting and detection of rural crimes.
- Develop existing partnerships with neighbouring police forces and Regional Operations Unit to combat and deter rural cross-border criminality and organised crime.

- Ensure Country watch and Neighbourhood teams co-ordinate rural crime reduction initiatives and advise on wildlife and rural crime investigations and operations.
- Provide crime reduction advice and target hardening guidance to victims.

4.5 **Reassurance**

We want to work with communities to ensure that people living in rural areas can feel safe and be safe. Good two-way communication, local engagement and reassurance all have a role to play in giving communities confidence in the policing service across rural areas.

- Make sure we understand the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on rural communities and provide an appropriate response from the first point of contact.
- Ensure Country Watch implements the Rural Policing Strategy and supporting Rural Policing Delivery Plan with partners, NPT's and community stakeholders to respond to the needs of rural communities.
- Continue to improve the way we communicate with our rural communities by keeping people updated on current trends, activity and performance.
- Make the police more visible and accessible in rural areas by letting people know when and where we will meet them in their communities
- Use police messaging systems, Watch schemes and other networks to keep communities informed as well as make use of partner's communication networks.
- Seek feedback from the people living in our rural communities on the way we are working to deliver this Rural Policing Strategy.
- Utilise volunteers to support local initiatives

Our improvements will be tracked against a deliverable action plan, which will be maintained as a living document held to account under the force governance structure that has been put in place.