

RURAL TIMES

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PROTECTING
OUR RURAL
COMMUNITIES

HAMPSHIRE AND
THE ISLE OF WIGHT



CONTENTS



EDITOR



Phil Rogers
Corporate Communications
Hampshire Constabulary

TEAM



Louise Hubble OBE
Strategic Rural Policing
Inspector
Hampshire Constabulary



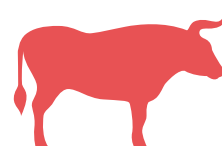
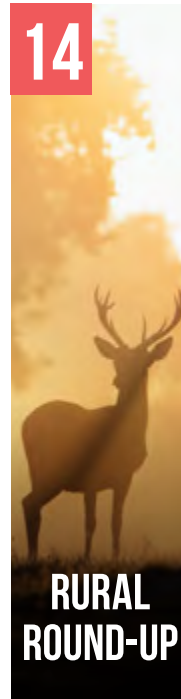
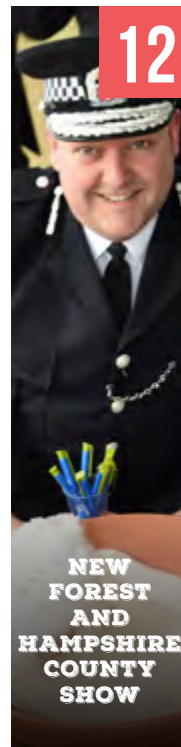
Andy Williams
County Watch Sergeant
Hampshire Constabulary



Ged Armitage
Neighbourhoods Sergeant
Isle of Wight
Hampshire Constabulary

WEBSITE

Hampshire Alert
www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk





Assistant Chief Constable, Scott Chilton
Hampshire Constabulary
Rural Policing Lead

NEW RURAL CHIEF BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO THE ROLE

Deputy Chief Constable Sara Glen has now handed over responsibility for rural policing to me and I'm grateful for her previous leadership in this area. I believe that rural policing really matters – in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as well as nationally.

I've worked for Hampshire Constabulary for 25 years in a variety of roles and I look forward to developing my knowledge. I'd like to think I have a solid understanding of the importance of rural policing and what it means to those communities. I hope I will be able to bring some of my experience in local policing, intelligence and organised crime to ensure we continue to invest effort and strategies in reducing crime across the two counties.

I have already spent some time with members of the public, listening to their concerns and ideas on how we can work together more effectively. I'm very aware of the impact of crime in rural parts of the two counties – on you personally, your families and in some cases your economic livelihood.

I would like to pass on my thanks to Inspector Lou Hubble OBE for all her hard work in developing our approach to rural policing. Lou has been selected as Head of the

National Wildlife Crime Unit - this will be a three year secondment on temporary promotion to Chief Inspector. This means I will be recruiting another hugely talented Inspector from within Hampshire Constabulary to fill Lou's boots.

I realise we have many challenges in terms of keeping our rural communities safe. I know that the police, together with the public and our partners, can make a huge difference.



Michael Lane
Police and Crime Commissioner

Engaging with the rural community

Over the past few weeks I have seen much enthusiasm and drive for increased and improved partnerships, praise for where partnership working is making a real difference to people's lives and projects that demonstrate that by working together we can be safer together.

I know from my rural conferences at the start of this year that many of you had concerns about the speed of firearms licensing. I'm sure that you will be looking at the firearms licensing update on pages 6-7 and I am keeping up-to-date with the progress that the Constabulary has made here.

My congratulations go to Inspector Lou Hubble, who was recently awarded an

OBE in the Queen's birthday honours. Inspector Hubble, who has 20 years' policing service with Hampshire Constabulary, has been instrumental in developing and delivering the rural policing strategy, which has led to a huge increase in public confidence in the force's ability to successfully tackle rural crime. She has worked tirelessly to ensure the concerns of the rural community are represented at a strategic

level and your specific needs are recognised.

I enjoyed talking to many of you at the New Forest and Hampshire County Show, where my stand was in the Countryside Area again this year. I was there with members of my team to answer queries and assist, talking about the policing and crime issues that affect you, your family, and your community.



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

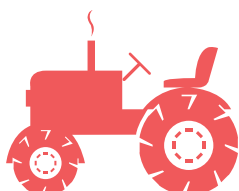
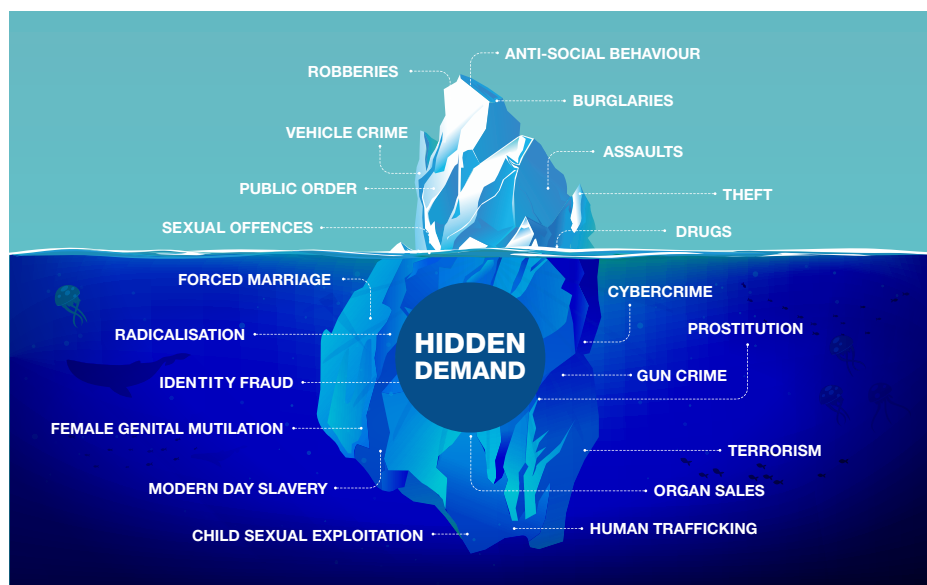
HUGH'S VIEWS

I must start by saying how proud I am to be congratulating Inspector Lou Hubble on her OBE. She has been the powerhouse maintaining and developing rural policing in Hampshire for over 13 years. She has achieved much and Hampshire rural owes her and the force grateful thanks. We are indeed fortunate.

However we are in the eye of a cyclone. The force had to find £80m from its budget by April 2016, which it did by designing and implementing a new policing model. That model hardly had time to bed in before more cuts loomed. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary noted in November 2016 that as a low cost force when compared to the 43 other forces, we were £42.8m short in our budget. Hampshire Constabulary's policing model is based around neighbourhood policing and it believes there is great strength in this approach. It provides community

connection [not as much as many would like but more than some], information and the specific expertise needed in the rural.

Where does this leave us? I do not know. What I do know is the force is under great pressure. Shortage of funds equates in part to shortage of people. The Government suggests a greater use of technology, omitting to accept that technology costs capital. The force uses the graphic below depicting total crime, with the traditional crime above the water and today's emerging crime below the water line.



The skills needed to combat that criminality are hard won and require investment and training. In many cases training is not easy because it disrupts shifts and there is no cover, because everything is tight.

If you look at all crime types in the iceberg and you relate them to your understanding of rural crime, what

priority would you give to rural crime versus the other crime types? I would struggle to give it a high priority against most of those below the water line of the iceberg. As often, the criminals committing the crimes below the line are the very ones who are targeting rural communities. These 'hidden crimes' happen in urban and rural areas, so we all need to be aware

of these changes in police demand. Please encourage your friends to take an interest in rural policing.

On another subject the Firearms Licensing Department continues to deliver improvements (see pages 6-7). If you know of any difficulties, they would like to hear from you.



Car abandoned by hare coursers

NEW NFU REPORT LAYS BARE TRUE FINANCIAL AND HUMAN COST OF RURAL CRIME

With rural crime now costing £42.5 million, the true human cost of rural crime has been revealed in a new NFU report released in July.

Farmers and their families nationwide have become victims of arson, vandalism and burglary with many NFU members experiencing fear, intimidation and threats of violence. Vehicle theft, hare coursing and fly-tipping are also contributing to widespread under-reporting, anger, frustration and worry.

The result is an increasing fear of crime in rural areas and above average dissatisfaction with the services provided by police.

The NFU has found there is no standard protocol across police forces for combatting rural crime, with some forces not even treating rural crime as serious crime. This is leading to so-called 'criminal tourism' with perpetrators often travelling long distances to target farm businesses. However, the NFU's Combatting Rural Crime report highlights the good practices of Hampshire Constabulary.

NFU Deputy President Minette Batters, who farms on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border, wants to see a coordinated and consistent approach that would allow police forces to share best practice.

Mrs Batters said: *"With significant and varied differences across police forces, safety in rural areas has become a postcode lottery. Farmers are reporting dramatic increases in incidents and are feeling more vulnerable as these actions continue. Violent crime along with fly-tipping, hare coursing and theft are just a few examples of the crimes farm businesses are being subject to. On my farm, we have suffered with constant hare coursing problems, resulting in gates being left open and stock being continually put at risk."*

"The cost of rural crime in the UK reached £42.5 million in 2015 and the NFU is asking Government and the Home Office to ensure increased and fairer funding for rural policing. More than 1,000 rural



NFU Deputy President Minette Batters

police stations closed between 2000 and 2012, directly impacting the level of police surveillance.

"There are many very good examples of police forces taking action and implementing good practice to deal with rural crime, with great success."

"But we believe more joined-up thinking is needed from police forces together with local authorities and Government to address these issues. The NFU would like Government to take the lead to ensure all constabularies adopt strategies of accurate recording and target setting and are willing to work together to find positive solutions to these challenges."

"Farmers should not be seen as a soft target for criminals."

The report can be found at www.nfuonline.com/assets/97937

Article submitted by NFU





IMPROVEMENTS UNDER WAY

Hampshire Constabulary's Firearms Licensing Department currently manages 29,458 certificates granted under the Firearms Act and Explosives Regulations, and over the past five years has consistently received an average of 1,347 new applications per year.



Unfortunately our performance had fallen over a number of years to a level that was well below the standard of service we wished to provide. In order to deal with this, and having carried out a detailed review, in December 2016 we implemented a new working model and drew up service level agreements (SLAs) for the move from paper files to an electronic system.

This left us with a considerable backlog, to which we allocated small teams. The priority focus of this work was on the 973 outstanding grant applications, some of which dated back in excess of 12 months, as well as 688 changes of address, 285 other assorted pieces of work and a significant quantity of gun sale and transfer notifications. Firearms enquiry officers are arranging visits to deal with these.

Our SLA for the renewal of certificates states that they will be processed before expiry (currently one week

prior) - provided we receive the application at least eight weeks prior to the due date, unless there are issues or concerns that require additional work or enquiries. The SLA for new grant applications states that we will complete the process within 12 weeks of receipt of the application – subject to issues requiring extra work.

The SLA for visitor permits and European firearms passes is set at six weeks, based on the Home Office guide, although in reality we are currently turning these round in a much shorter time. For all other areas of business, such as changes of address, sales and transfers of guns and variations, we undertake to complete these within as short a time as possible - subject to there being no issues that require additional work. As our cost recovery from fees is in the region of 40 per cent, identifying additional public funding has been challenging. We carried out a detailed



FOR FIREARMS LICENSING

analysis of demand against resourcing and have secured funding to recruit sufficient additional staff. During this process, Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney and Police and Crime Commissioner Michael Lane have shown a strong desire to continue our improvement and have provided the necessary means to provide the level of service our customers deserve.

I would like to publicly thank my teams for their hard work and dedication, which has resulted in our improved performance, the delivery of which has not been easy. I also wish to thank our customers for their patience and understanding during this period of transition and we look forward to continuing to improve service delivery in the future.

Tony Hill
Firearms and Explosives Licensing
Manager



A person wearing a blue jacket is shown from the chest down, sitting at a desk and typing on a laptop. The scene is dimly lit with a strong blue light source, creating a high-tech or cyber-themed atmosphere. The person's hands are on the keyboard, and the laptop screen is visible but not clearly legible.

TACKLING CYBERCRIME THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

DIGITAL technology and the “internet of things” is changing the face of crime the world-over – and the nature of farming and agriculture means the rural sector is uniquely vulnerable.

The good news is that Hampshire Constabulary now has a dedicated team whose mission is to stop cybercrime from happening through education and engagement.

Part of the Digital Investigation and Intelligence (DII) strand, the Cyber Protect team's over-arching ethos is that prevention is very much better than cure.

In its report of earlier this year, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary estimated that 50 per cent of all crime is now cyber-enabled or cyber-dependent. It is also acknowledged that the true scale can never be known because cybercrime is massively under-reported.

While the level of digitally-enabled crime is rising, analysts also estimate that 80 per cent of all cybercrime could be prevented through effective cyber security habits and education.

“One of the single most vital components in combating cybercrime is raising staff awareness in all businesses, and we are available to help people do exactly that,” said Lucy Dibdin, the force's Cyber Protect Officer.

“One of the key sectors we are keen to engage with is farming and agriculture. The nature of industrial farming these days means that farms can be especially vulnerable.

“Many agricultural businesses are run on one network, controlling stock levels, feed levels, linked up to GPS and tracking on sheep and cattle - all data of value to the cybercriminal.”

The fact that these systems and this data is vital to business continuity makes it vulnerable to malware attacks such as ransomware – most notably recently used in the WannaCry attack on the NHS and other organisations.

These systems are also vulnerable to more subtle but equally harmful cyber attacks, such as hackers gaining access to your system and faking data – to basically mess your business up. They could, for example, access important figures such as soil fertility levels, and change that data. This data is used to inform and drive other processes and decisions. If not picked up on quickly, that kind of industrial sabotage could have a major long-term impact on your business.

The key to combating the threat of cybercrime against farming and agricultural businesses is comprehensive business continuity planning and careful risk management.

Security assures business growth. Hampshire Constabulary's message to business owners, including farmers,

is “act now”. You cannot afford to take the risk and there are so many simple things you can do to protect your data and ensure your systems are not compromised.

The Cyber Protect team has given cyber security talks to a number of farmers' groups and at each group someone had a story to tell of being targeted.

Ensuring you are running the very latest software, backing up regularly and thoroughly, and raising the cyber security awareness of every single staff member are just a few simple things that can make all the difference.

The Government also offers the Cyber Essentials scheme for businesses, which the team encourages farmers to look at. “But most importantly,” warned Lucy, “don't ignore the threat. It's not going away; by acting now you can protect your livelihood and make life extremely difficult for the cybercriminal.”

The DII Cyber Protect Team can be contacted for advice, or to book a presentation with a business or community group email DIIProtect@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @HCCyberProtect

FURTHER INFORMATION

Cyber Essentials: www.cyberaware.gov.uk

Get Safe Online: www.getsafeonline.org

Cyber Street Wise: www.cyberstreetwise.com

Action Fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk

INSPECTOR RECOGNISED FOR SERVICE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES



Inspector Lou Hubble was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2017, in recognition for policing services provided to the rural communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. She was instrumental in developing and delivering the rural policing strategy, leading to increased public confidence in our ability to tackle rural criminality.

Inspector Hubble became a Wildlife Crime Officer as a PC in 1999. As a Sergeant in 2006, following a series of hare coursing incidents in Test Valley, she became aware of concerns being raised by the rural community about our ability to deal with this type of crime.

She successfully lobbied for a dedicated rural crime team to be set up. Following a pilot and a force-wide review of rural policing in 2010, Country Watch was rolled out across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and is now embedded as part of our rural policing response.

The review identified a number of recommendations. These saw Inspector Hubble appointed as the force lead for Country Watch and tasked with developing and implementing an action plan to coordinate effective policing within rural communities. This role developed in 2013 to become the force's Strategic Rural Policing Inspector.

Through her leadership and drive, Inspector Hubble has worked tirelessly to ensure the concerns of the rural community are represented at a strategic level.

This has included:

- setting up the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Rural Partnership Board
- building relationships with key community stakeholders
- designing and implementing an extensive training package for officers, controllers and call takers to educate them on rural crime types and deployment considerations
- supporting other departments such as firearms licensing, investigations and intelligence analysts

Community engagement has been a priority, with attendance at many rural events, partnership conferences and dedicated policing operations. Key to this success has been the introduction of a partnership publication, Rural Times, and the community messaging system Hampshire Country Watch (www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk). This allows police officers and staff to communicate directly with rural communities with appeals for information, crime prevention advice and 'meet the team' events.

Inspector Hubble has also assisted other emergency and criminal justice organisations in developing and improving their response to rural issues.

Commenting on her nomination, Inspector Hubble said:

"I am extremely proud of my achievements and am honoured to receive such a prestigious award. It is a huge personal accolade to be recognised at this level."

"This reflects the continued commitment from the Country Watch team and its close work with our rural communities and partnership organisations. Rural policing brings its own unique challenges and I have enjoyed forging strong relationships with many key people."

Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney said:

"I am delighted to see Inspector Lou Hubble recognised in this way. She has been absolutely tireless in her efforts to build trust and confidence within our rural communities and shown huge leadership in ensuring we understand the challenges of policing a force which is 85 per cent rural. I am sure our colleagues, partners and the public will join me in congratulating Lou on her well-deserved OBE."

FOCUS ON PARTNERSHIPS AT HERITAGE CRIME CONFERENCE

The second annual conference for Heritage and Cultural Property Crime took place in London on 5 July. Chief Constable Paul Crowther from British Transport Police, who is the National Police Lead for Heritage and Cultural Property Crime, opened the event.

The conference was attended by officers from 21 forces across England and Wales, including Inspector Lou Hubble OBE and Sergeant Andy Williams from Hampshire Constabulary.

Chief Constable Crowther launched the publication of the new National Strategic Assessment for Heritage and Cultural Property Crime. The assessment has identified seven current and emerging threats to the historic environment:

- Architectural theft – in particular metal and stone
- Criminal damage – in particular damage caused by fire (arson)
- Unlawful metal detecting (sometimes known as nighthawking)
- Unlawful disturbance and salvage of maritime sites

- Anti-social behaviour – in particular fly-tipping and off-road driving/riding
- Unauthorised works to heritage assets
- Illicit trade in cultural objects

Work will continue to develop effective tactics and partnership activities to prevent and detect heritage crime in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Inspector Lou Hubble OBE said:

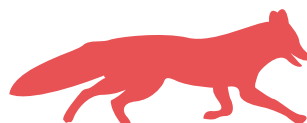
“The conference provided an excellent opportunity for Police Heritage Crime Officers from across the UK to link in with key partner agencies. A wide variety of presentations were delivered during the course of the conference, providing guidance to officers investigating heritage crime offences.”

“Best practice was shared and lessons were learnt from previous investigations. Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have over 10,000 protected sites, and this conference served as a reminder of the importance of preserving and protecting our natural heritage for future generations to enjoy.”

Mark Harrison, Head of Heritage Crime at Historic England, said:

“The conference was a great success and highlighted the steps that have been made to integrate heritage crime into the policing and partnership function.”

“Historic England is committed to working with the Hampshire Rural Partnership in order to prevent and investigate crime and anti-social behaviour within the historic environment.”





Left to right: Chris Whitlock, ACC Scott Chilton, Special Constabulary Chief Officer Tom Haye

SHOW GIVES CHANCE TO ENGAGE WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES



Left to right: PC Lee Skinner, Sergeant Andy Williams, PC Lynn Owen



Volunteer police cadets helping out at the show



PC Lynn Owen with a bird handler

The 97th New Forest and Hampshire County Show took place from 25 to 27 July in Brockenhurst. Now rated among the top ten agricultural shows in the country, people came from far and wide to take part.

This event offers a great opportunity for the Country Watch team to engage with the public and our rural partners. Officers used our exhibition trailer to highlight the work of Country Watch and give out crime prevention advice.

We spoke to people about a wide range of subjects, from security marking their personal property to firearms licensing and cybercrime.

Assistant Chief Constable Scott Chilton, who has recently taken on responsibility for rural policing, experienced the show for the first time.

He was escorted around the showgrounds by Chris Whitlock, Chairman of the New Forest Agricultural Show Society. Chris took the opportunity to tell Scott about the history of the show and its importance in the rural calendar.

ACC Scott Chilton said:

"I had the pleasure of meeting many people at the New Forest and Hampshire County Show. I would like to say thank you to all those people who spent time giving me their perspectives on living in rural communities and welcoming me to my new role."

"Rural policing is extremely diverse and many different elements were reflected at the show. We have significant rural communities that absolutely need strong and proactive relationships with the police."

"At the show I met people from so many different backgrounds. This was extremely informative and helped me to better understand the concerns they may feel."

"I am absolutely committed to ensuring these rural concerns form a central part of the force's approach to preventing and tackling crime."



Left to right: Chris Whitlock and ACC Scott Chilton



PC Lee Skinner with a baby barn owl

RURAL ROUND-UP



JUNE

Two dogs were seized by Country Watch officers at Monk Sherborne near Basingstoke in relation to suspected poaching offences. Investigations are ongoing.

Two people were given warnings for riding motorcycles across an area of the New Forest site of special scientific interest (SSSI).

Two people were summonsed for the destruction of a bat roost in Emsworth.

JULY

One person was interviewed and given advice about removing a swan's egg in Portsmouth. The person replaced the egg later.

A community resolution was agreed for the owner of a dog that attacked sheep in Bishopstoke.

There was a similar outcome after cattle were attacked by a dog in the Hedge End area.

SUMMER SHOWS

In addition to the New Forest and Hampshire County Show, we attended the Highclere Game and Country Fair in May and Roydon Woodfair, a June event run by the Wildlife Trust in partnership with the New Forest National Park Authority.

The team also attended the Ellingham and Ringwood Agricultural Society Annual Show on 12 August and will be at the Romsey Show on 9 September and the Hampshire Country Sports Day at Alresford on 10 September.

These events give the Country Watch team the opportunity to engage with the public and provide advice on preventing rural crime.



OPERATION THORNLEY

There were Operation Thornley patrols in July and August in the Alresford and East Meon areas following an increase in the reporting of poaching offences.

We carried out joint patrols with the Angling Trust in June and July in an effort to deter illegal fishing and poaching during the close season along the Rivers Test, Avon and Itchen.

OPERATION WOLF

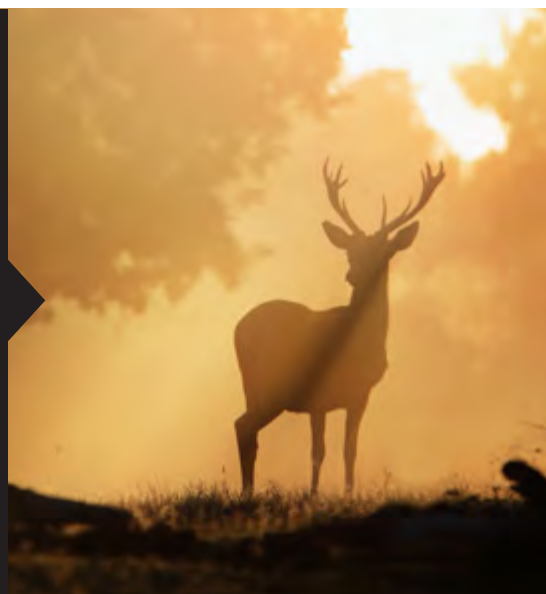
Operation Wolf was a joint operation in June and July involving the Country Watch team, HM Revenue and Customs and Test Valley Borough Council.

This was aimed at checking for illegal waste carriers in an effort to curb fly-tipping and the use of red diesel.

Following operations at West Wellow, Romsey and Sherfield English, several penalty notices were issued for vehicles without MOT or insurance. Two vehicles were seized for being un-roadworthy and there was one positive result for a commercial vehicle using red diesel.

APPEAL AFTER BODIES OF ANIMALS FOUND

We are appealing for information after the bodies of several animals were found at a beauty spot near Hartley Wintney.



The bodies of two badgers, a deer and several hares were found within a patch of bracken on Warren Heath on Wednesday 26 July.

While we are currently investigating how the animals died, we believe they were killed elsewhere and then dumped at the heath, possibly in the week before they were found.

PC Vincent Lane, of Hampshire Constabulary's Country Watch team, said:

"This is being treated as an isolated incident and we have not received any reports of similar incidents."

"Our investigation is ongoing, but it is clear that the animals were killed, rather than dying of natural causes or an environmental hazard."

"The bodies were found close to a gravel track that runs through Warren Heath. There is also a horse jump nearby."

"This area is popular with dog walkers, horse riders and cyclists, so I would like to hear from anyone who has been there recently and saw anything suspicious."

Anyone with information should call **101**, quoting **44170287336**. Alternatively, people can call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**, where information can be left anonymously.

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 Lou Hubble OBE
07554 775620



Sgt Andy Williams
07392 314299



PC Vince Lane
07970 145389



PC Will Butcher
07775 542982



PC Steve Rogerson
07554 775468



PC Lynn Owen
07901 102344



PC Corinne Irving
07554 775389



PC Lee Skinner
07901 102401



PC Scott Graham
07554 775488



Sgt Ged Armitage
07387 096611



PC Tim Campamy
07901 102393



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