

Op SCEPTRE: National Knife Crime

Intensification Week

Monday 14th November - Sunday 20th November 2022

It is important to note that Knife Crime remains low in our force area; however, we want to ensure that this stays the case.

Situations involving knives can get out of control very easily, and those who carry knives could potentially be putting their lives and futures in danger.

Any bladed or sharply pointed object could be considered as a bladed article, which would be illegal to possess in a public place without good reason or lawful authority, as would a folding pocket knife with a blade exceeding 7.62cm or 3 inches in length.

Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 prohibits the possession in any public place of an offensive weapon without lawful authority or excuse. The term 'offensive weapon' is defined as: "any article made or adapted for use to cause injury to the person or intended by the person having it with him for such use".

Sections 139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 apply to any article which has a blade or point, except a folding pocketknife, unless the cutting edge of its blade exceeds 7.62cm (3 inches).

Any person found guilty of these offences could find themselves with a custodial sentence of up to 4 years.

Amnesty bins are available in the front office in Exeter during w/c 14/11/22.

There are a number of resources available should you have any worries for yourself or others who may be ordering/possessing or carrying offensive weapons for reasons to cause concern. All information can be reported anonymously, and could potentially help a person in need, or ultimately save a life.

RESOURCES:

POLICE: call **101**, or in an emergency **999**.

CRIMESTOPPERS: report crime anonymously on **0800 555 111** or visit **www.crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/community-family/knife-crime-in-detail**

VICTIM SUPPORT: national charity helping victims of crime. Call **0845 30 30 900** or visit **www.victimsupport.org**

KNIFECRIMES.ORG: online knife crime resource offering advice and support. Go to **www.knifecrimes.org**

SAMARITANS: call **116 123** or visit **www.samaritans.org** for help.

It is ***illegal*** to:

sell a knife of any kind to anyone under the age of 18

carry a knife in public without good reason

carry, buy or sell any type of banned knife

use any knife in a threatening way

carry a lock knife (where the blade can be locked when unfolded)

for more information go to **www.dc.police.uk/support-and-guidance/threat-assault-abuse/weapons-and-knives** or **www.gov.uk**



RURAL AFFAIRS: EAST DEVON POLICING NEWSLETTER



Devon and Cornwall Alert

Is a **free** two-way community messaging system that helps us to connect with our communities. It tells you what is happening in your area and allows you to respond directly with any information. Messages can be sent either through recorded voice message, email or text message. You can register at **alerts.dc.police.uk**

You can choose what information you receive, e.g. crime, anti-social behaviour, witness appeals, missing person appeals, community events, local good news.

You can also choose when, how and who from:

- Specify what time of day messages will arrive
- By email, text or telephone
- Police, Action Fraud, Crimestoppers, Neighbourhood Watch
- It is **free**: there is no cost, contract or obligation
- Covers Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

D&C Alert plays a significant role in our rural crime prevention activity. We utilise the platform to circulate key prevention messages and crime appeals. Messages will be tailored to your specific business location and interests, so you can ensure the information you receive is always relevant.



PRIORITIES AND AIMS:

The team's primary aim is to increase our rural communities' confidence in policing, public engagement and crime prevention advice.

Priorities include focussing on:

- **Farm Machinery, Plant and Vehicle Theft (FMPV):** including quad bikes and all-terrain vehicles, modern and vintage tractors, and tools and equipment from outbuildings
- **Livestock offences:** including livestock thefts, worrying and attacks
- **Fuel theft:** including heating oil theft, and diesel
- **Equine crime:** including horse trailer and horse box theft, horse theft and tack theft
- **Fly tipping:** note that this is for collaboration with stakeholders to tackle a public priority as members of the National Action Group.
- **Poaching:** specifically looking at the OCG aspect.



Facebook: Rural East Devon Police



Twitter: @EastDevonPolice



YouTube: DCPolice

@DCPoliceRural_D

Devon & Cornwall Police Rural Affairs



Working in partnership to protect rural communities

The Farm Community Network: 0300 0111 999

R.A.B.I.: 0808 2819 490



RESPECT EVERYONE
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
ENJOY THE OUTDOORS
FOLLOW ADVICE AND LOCAL SIGNS

for further information please visit
gov.uk/countrysidecode

SEE IT • REPORT IT

Poaching Deer & Fish, Hare & Deer
Coarsing, and catapulting Gamebirds
are CRIMINAL OFFENCES



If safe to do so, please let us
know...

- any vehicle details including registrations
- exact locations
- any descriptions of suspects, dogs or firearms
- is it one person or a group, if so how many

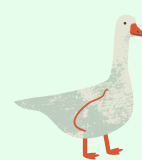
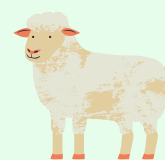
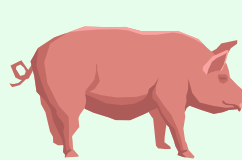


If a crime is in progress or offenders
are in the area call **999**

Please report any discovered poaching
offences, damage, threats or any other
crime to 101@dc.police.uk or call **101**



If you would like a visit, advice or leaflet regarding farm security or to discuss other rural crime
issues. please contact PCSO 30017 Darren ENGLAND via email: 30017@dc.police.uk



MONTHLY FOCUS: POACHING

What is poaching?

Poaching is the killing or taking of wild birds, mammals or fish without a legal right, or consent from the landowner.

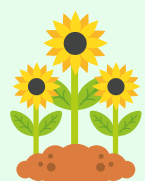
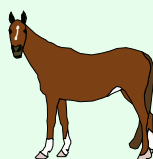
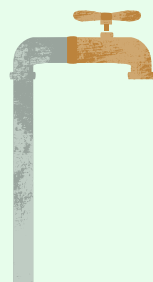
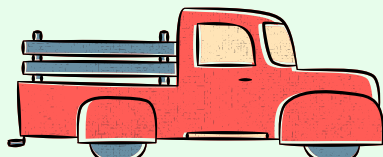
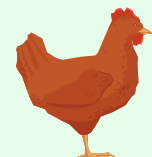
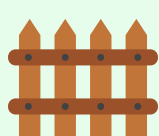
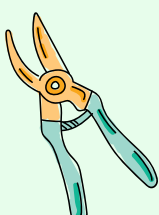
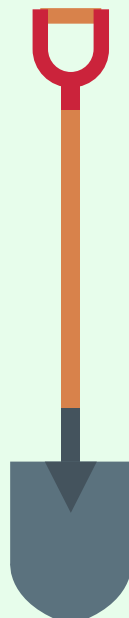
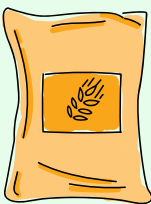
Poaching wild animals is a **crime** and can have a significant impact on protected species and conservation. It is often under-reported and can be linked to organised crime.

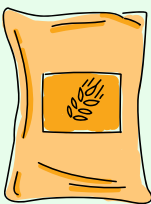
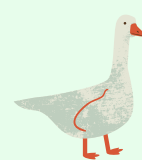
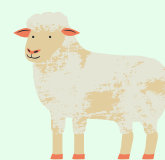
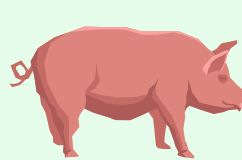
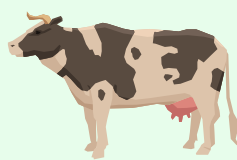
How can it be prevented?

Landowners, rural businesses and members of the public can work together using simple crime prevention measures, and be vigilant in reporting suspicious activity to the police. Vehicle details, descriptions, and accurate locations are vital.

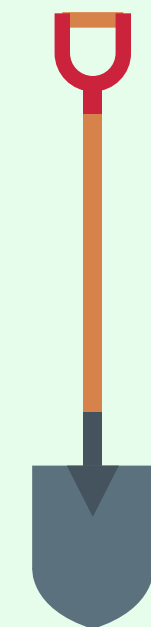
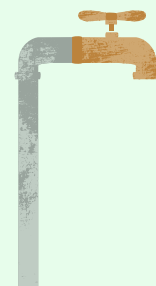
- Landowners and managers should secure gates and block unused entrances where possible.
- Do not accept game from non-reputable sources; be aware of unhygienic and unsafe meat entering the food chain.
- Consider the use of electronic surveillance, such as trail cams, and the use of signs to show that the area is privately patrolled or monitored.
- If you see or are aware of poachers on any land, please notify the police using **999**.
- Join Devon and Cornwall Alert, Watch schemes and local social media groups so that you can find out what is happening in your area.

If you know anyone who poaches deer or fish, trespasses with dogs or firearms, is involved in illegal slaughtering, or has a food business selling meat or fish illegally poached or processed, you can contact the Police, or Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.





FARM WATCH

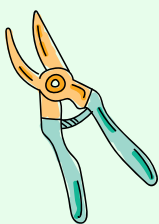
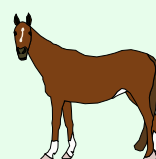


What is farm watch?

The scheme operates similarly to Neighbourhood Watch. Farm Watch is a scheme run by, and for, members of the farming community and is supported by the police.

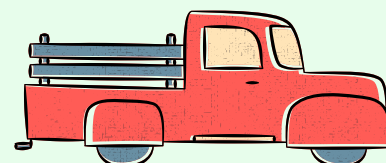
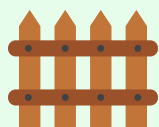


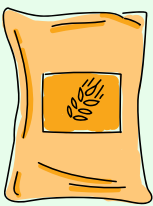
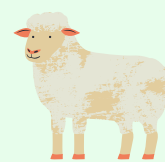
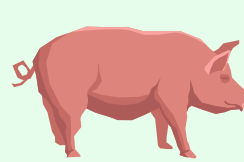
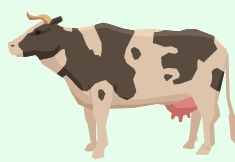
There are dedicated community co-ordinators in each individual Farm Watch area. Each co-ordinator has a link to a local policing team directly. This allows the sharing of information about criminal, anti-social and suspicious behaviour in your area to prevent crime.



Aims of the scheme:

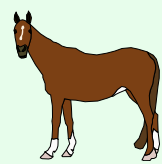
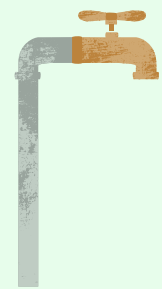
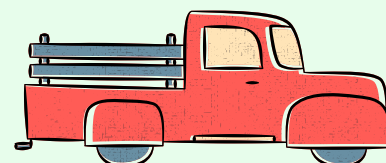
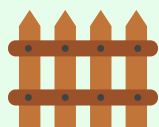
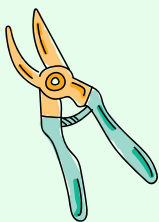
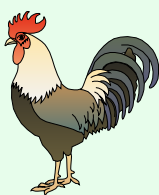
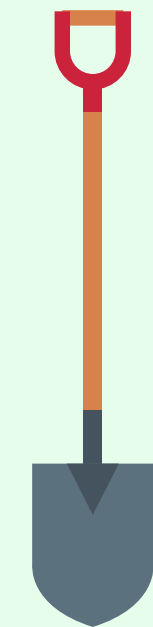
- to increase the prevention and detection of farm-related crime
- to increase community engagement between individual members, the police and other farming-related groups
- to reduce fear of crime in the community
- to increase public confidence in the police and other involved agencies





Benefits of being a member of the Farm Watch scheme

- Access to Devon and Cornwall Alert - early information detailing crimes or suspicious behaviour
- Advice on how to report suspicious activity
- Access to local policing team and Farm Watch co-ordinator
- Provision of regular farm crime information in your area
- Information about security products that reduce theft and increase the chance of offenders being caught
- Details on how to register your property and search for details of stolen property prior to buying farm equipment
- Opportunities to purchase property marking kits at reduced rates
- Signs and stickers for your premises and equipment to show that you are a member of a police-supported initiative
- Opportunities to attend/organise events such as free security surveys of farms and equipment
- Opportunities to provide content to newsletters
- Information about requirements of becoming a member



Farm Watch is a **free** scheme - anyone in the farming or rural community can join

We advise that you register your property, register your details with Devon and Cornwall Alert, and contact your local Farm Watch co-ordinator.

Before buying equipment - check it. Ask to see all relevant documentation, such as the original bill of state, health and safety certificate, license etc. If the price seems too good to be true, it probably is... if you are unsure about the authenticity of a sale, then do not proceed.

Thanks for reading! Stay tuned for the December issue...