



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

CRIME STATS:

(October 2022: the latest month data is available for)

HONITON TOWN:

Violence & sexual offences: 26

Anti-social behaviour: 9

Vehicle crime: 7

Criminal damage & arson: 6

Public order: 5

Shoplifting: 3

Drugs: 1

Other theft: 1

Theft from the person: 1

TOTAL: 59

HONITON RURAL:

Violence & sexual offences: 4

Anti-social behaviour: 2

Other theft: 1

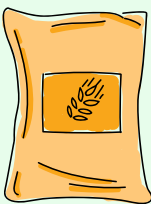
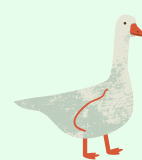
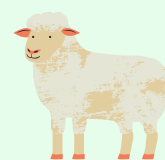
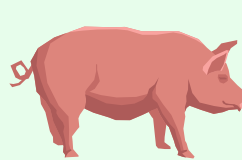
Public order: 1

Other crime: 1

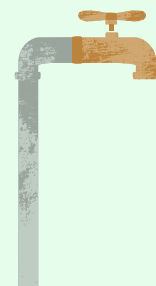
TOTAL: 9

*Want to know more about what is happening in your area? Please visit **police.uk** for more.*

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: FUEL AND BATTERY **THEFT**

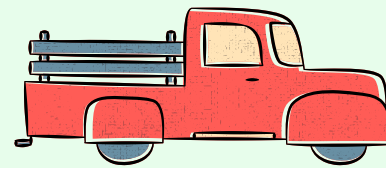
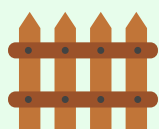
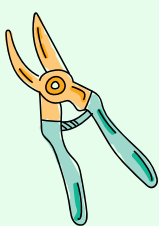
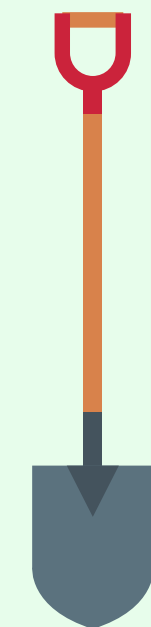
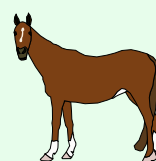


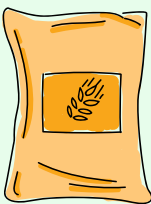
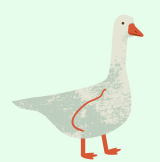
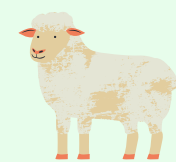
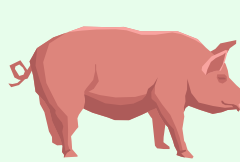
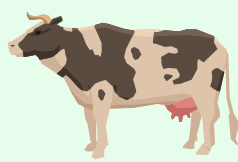
Theft of fuel is a concern for the police and rural communities. Fuel can be stolen from vehicles and storage tanks using siphoning equipment that can vary from basic tubes to more sophisticated arrangements involving pumps and the cutting of fuel lines. Batteries can also be stolen from farm machinery and electric fences.



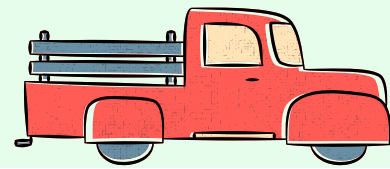
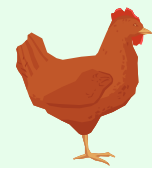
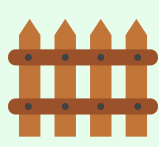
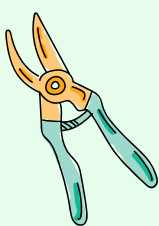
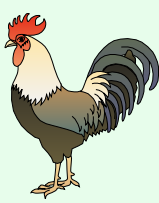
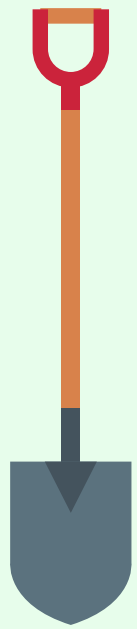
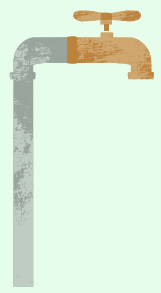
How can it be prevented?

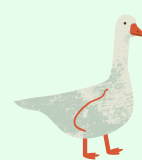
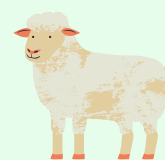
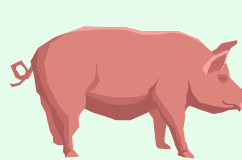
- Wherever possible, keep vehicles and machinery in a secure area
- Consider the use of locking fuel caps
- Re-fuel vehicles just before the planned journey rather than leaving a vehicle fully fuelled overnight
- Park vehicles in areas that are well-lit so they can be observed easily
- Improve lighting and focus on vulnerable areas
- Fit anti-siphoning devices
- Install or confirm that existing CCTV is fit for purpose, and that it covers tanks and vulnerable vehicles
- Consider using fuel dyes, or 'PAINT IT PINK' for batteries
- Install cages and/or improve security that surrounds fuel storage tanks
- Consider using 'bunded' fuel tanks if your existing storage facility is not of that type





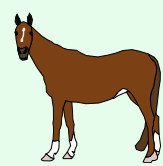
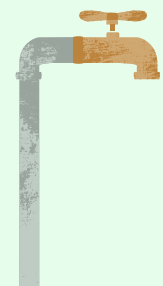
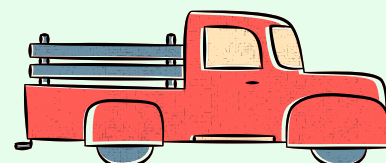
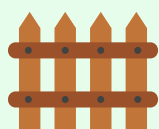
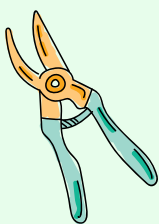
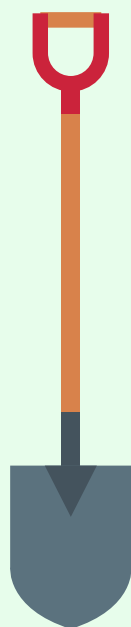
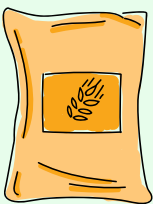
- Consider installing fuel cap alarms. More advanced systems can be linked to security lighting or can send a text message to the owners or security provider. An isolation switch allows authorised access to the tank for refuelling
- Make sure gates and compounds are locked and secure; consider fitting an anti-attack cover for the lock
- Arrange to check vehicles and premises outside of normal working hours
- Agricultural sites should consider portable refuelling systems that can be locked in secure storage areas and not left in fields or stock yards
- Use appropriate signage at the entrance where security devices are being used. This will act as a deterrent
- Consider signing up to your local Farm Watch scheme
- Follow your Rural Affairs Team on Twitter @DCPoliceRural_D
- Sign up for free alerts from Devon and Cornwall Police at alerts.dc.police.uk





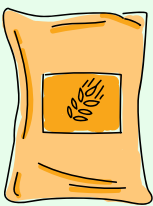
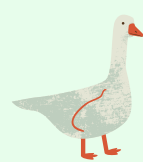
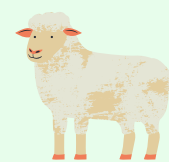
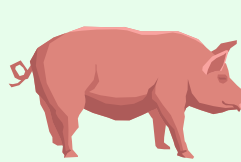
LIVESTOCK THEFT

Livestock are regarded as any creature that is kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur for the purpose of use in the farming of land or continuing agricultural activity.

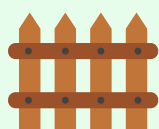
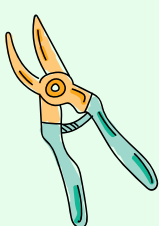
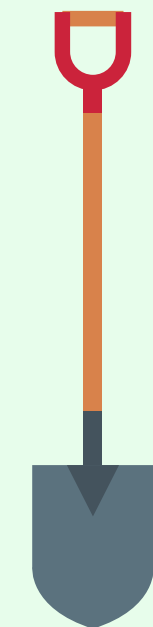
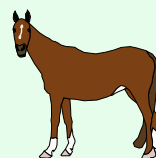
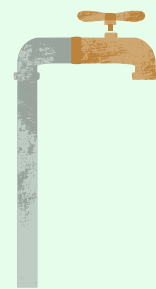


Prevention advice:

- Ensure your farm is easy to locate by attending officers - use the 'what3words' app or a grid reference and road name
- Regularly check all gates and fences to prevent accidental straying; check stock regularly and at varying times
- Consider use of signage to deter offenders; e.g. 'CCTV in operation due to sheep theft.'
- Take photographs of valuable individual animals, or where there is something unusual about the appearance e.g. rare breed or marking - these can be used to raise awareness of any subsequent theft on social media
- Ensure all animals are tagged and individually marked (paint, ear notches etc.) - ensure lost tags are replaced promptly
- Always maintain accurate records of all stock and movements
- Maintain regular contact with neighbouring landowners and ask them to familiarise themselves with your stock marks, and ask them to alert you if stock are out of place, and to report any suspicious vehicles or people in the area



- Where possible, utilise locks to secure all gates, and invert hinges to prevent removal
- Consider reporting your theft to the National Sheep Association who can raise the profile and awareness of the theft nationally
- Join your local Farm Watch scheme and other local social media/community groups to keep in touch with what is going on
- Join the Farm No Cold Caller Scheme - contact your local Rural Affairs Officer for information
- Explore potential for technical solutions to prevent and detect livestock theft, including gate monitors linked to a mobile phone, cameras (covert and overt) that cover access/egress points, and GPS tagging opportunities or property marking microdot markers into the fleeces of animals
- Where possible, block or obstruct vehicular access to location
- Keep pedigree stock/valuable animals closer to home, and have them graze away from roads where practical to do so.
- Consider alternative arrangements for any stock roaming too far away from their grazing area on common land.



Support:

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK: www.fcn.org.uk

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION:
contact can be made through the fcn website also

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

