



Image credit: Megan Seymour

East Devon: Rural Policing Newsletter

June 2023 



*Keep up to
date with us
on social
media:*



Facebook:

Rural East Devon Police



Twitter:

@EastDevonPolice
@DCPoliceRural_D



YouTube:

DC Police

Devon & Cornwall Alert



Is a two-way community messaging system covering Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly that helps us to connect with our communities. It tells you what is happening in your area.

You can choose what information you receive, from whom, and when.

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 location and interests, so you can ensure the information you receive is always relevant.

To find out more, you can register for free at
alerts.dc.police.uk

RESPECT EVERYONE

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

FOLLOW ADVICE AND LOCAL SIGNS



For further information, please visit:
[gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code#full-publication-update-history](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code#full-publication-update-history)

2023	THEMES
JANUARY	Rural road safety
FEBRUARY	Illegal off-roading
MARCH	Livestock worrying
APRIL	Agricultural plant, vehicle & machinery theft
MAY	Equine crime
JUNE	Heritage crime
JULY	Agricultural plant vehicle & machinery theft
AUGUST	Trespass & rights of way
SEPTEMBER	Livestock theft
OCTOBER	Fly tipping
NOVEMBER	Poaching
DECEMBER	Fuel and battery theft



03000 111 999

7am - 11pm



The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

0800 188 4444



MONTHLY FOCUS:

HERITAGE CRIME

What is heritage crime?

Heritage crime involves offences that cause damage or loss to the historic environment or cultural property: this may include buildings, monuments and landscapes that reflect our history, or objects of artistic, historical, archaeological or scientific interest.

Some heritage sites and artefacts are protected by specific legislation to prevent harm to them caused by damage or unlicensed alterations. Other crimes such as theft, criminal damage, arson, and anti-social behaviour offences can also damage and harm heritage assets and interfere with the public's enjoyment and knowledge of their heritage.

Organised criminals are known to target ancient sites and museums to profit from the sale of stolen and looted artefacts in worldwide markets. Heritage assets and items of cultural property are subject to crime, as are other ordinary buildings and property. Heritage crime offences can include lead theft from churches, damage to ancient monuments, and illegal metal detecting for example.

The harm that can be caused by heritage crime is often greater, because of special heritage or cultural significance. Victims of heritage and cultural property crime are therefore not just the owners, but also local communities, the nation, and those who care for them.

Points of support and advice:

- **Historic England:** have a substantial library of advice, notes, and guidance documents, ranging from technical guidance and planning considerations, to heritage crime prevention and conservation methodologies: [historicengland.org.uk](https://www.historicengland.org.uk)
- **Portable Antiquities Scheme:** is run by the British Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales, to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales: [finds.org.uk/guides](https://www.finds.org.uk/guides)
- **Ecclesiastical:** is part of the Benefact Group and an insurance company who offer specialist services to churches, other places of worship, cultural and heritage sites in the UK. They have a library of security and crime prevention options which can be found in their documents library under 'security': [ecclesiastical.com/document-library/](https://www.ecclesiastical.com/document-library/)

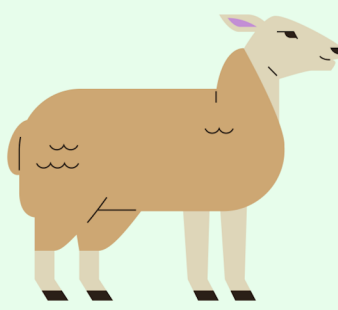


MONTHLY FOCUS:

HERITAGE CRIME

How can I help to reduce the risk of heritage or cultural property being damaged or stolen?

- Layer site security from the perimeter, right up to the heritage asset you are protecting: use appropriate signage, lock gates, use security lighting where suitable, use security cameras, and tremor alarms.
- Consideration will need to be given to the suitability of the site or object for these preventative methods, and whether there may be other restrictions or limitations, which may impact what you may be able to do: The Historic England Heritage Crime Prevention Methods website contains further useful guidance and support: **historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/heritage-crime-prevention-guide/**
- Mark your property by using DNA markers, such as those provided by SelectAMark, Smart Water, or TecTracer, just to illustrate some of the products currently available. See Secured By Design for a full list of police-approved options here: **securedbydesign.com/member-companies/accredited-product-search**
- Photograph your movable cultural property, and ideally create records for cultural property that you are the custodian of. This can be done on the free INTERPOL ID-ART app.
- Register your equipment with the free national property register Immobilise: **immobilise.com**
- Join a local Heritage Watch scheme and other local social media or community groups to stay connected with what is going on in your local area.



LIVESTOCK WORRYING:

IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM ALERT OFFICER
LINZI BERRYMAN

Incidents of livestock worrying increased in Devon and Cornwall throughout May according to Police.

Devon & Cornwall Police are reminding the public to keep dogs on leads when visiting Devon and Cornwall's open spaces.

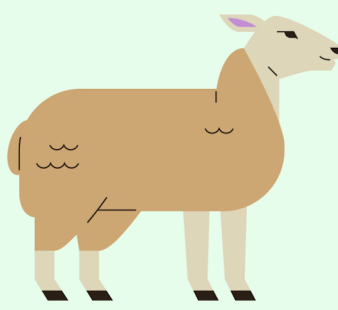
Livestock worrying is when a dog attacks or chases livestock, it is a criminal offence and can have a devastating impact on livestock, farmers and in some circumstances the dog and the owner.

Rural Affairs Officer for Devon & Cornwall Police, PC Chris Collins said: "We are hoping that by encouraging people to respect our countryside and communities, we can also ensure responsible dog ownership and remind people of the law."

"All land is owned, and access is not a given right, so it is important that users of the countryside understand specific designations of land and 'rights of way'. For example, on land which is designated as 'access land' a dog must be on a lead between the 1 March and 31 July and at all times when livestock are present."

"Allowing dogs to chase or attack livestock is a criminal offence. Take notice of local signage, respect wildlife and any livestock around you, keeping your dog on a lead to protect livestock and ground nesting birds".

"If you witness an attack on livestock, do not intervene, keep yourself safe and call 999. All other information relating to attacks on livestock should be reported to the police online at dc.police.uk or by calling 101".



LIVESTOCK WORRYING:

IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM ALERT OFFICER
LINZI BERRYMAN

Useful free resources and tips about how to keep rural communities safe:

- Do not feed livestock, horses, or wild animals as it can cause them harm.
- Sheep are especially vulnerable this time of year, so please keep dogs under control at all times. On open access land, dogs should be kept on a lead at all times - but, please release your dog if it is chased by cattle.
- Follow the countryside code and be considerate to those living there, working there, and enjoying the countryside.
- Follow local signs and marked routes, leave gates as you find them and do not block access when parking. Keep to marked paths to protect crops and wildlife.
- Protect the environment and historic features and take litter home. Avoid the risk of wildfire by not lighting fires or barbeques.
- Be cautious when driving on rural roads. Give livestock and other vulnerable road users plenty of space, and remember to pass wide and slowly.

Video about livestock worrying: youtube.com/watch?v=oeDggWO3Lm8

Video about the Countryside Code: youtube.com/watch?v=FJ8ilOD1wh0

Video about heritage crime: youtube.com/watch?v=Rbca-8a52oc

Video about rural road safety: youtube.com/watch?v=JIE_IkPjoUs

REFLECTION:

MAY

We cannot see this newsletter go out without mentioning the terrible weather we suffered on 9th May, with flooding across the area affecting those in Newton Poppleford and Harpford in particular. In times like this, there is only so much we can do as an emergency service, but it has been incredibly heart-warming to see communities come together to offer help and support for those who have been so drastically effected.



By Alert Officer Linzi Berryman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

NEW DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE
WEBSITE

Following the successful go-live of our new website, we are working to improve our non-urgent and non-emergency online contact service.

The home page of our website: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk now features a series of blue boxes – each of which is a link to our new web forms.

If you should need to get in touch about any non-emergency issue, we are asking you to use the online forms available on the new website rather than our old 101 email address.

To support the exclusive use of web forms, we removed the facility to be able to send emails to 101 on 19 April.

Why are we doing this?

The email reports we receive are often missing vital bits of information which we need to be able to understand the situation properly and respond appropriately.

As a result, we often need to engage in a lengthy email conversation to get the information we need which can take significant time and which, unfortunately, impacts our ability to deal with reports in a timely way.

The use of web forms will prevent this problem because they are constructed with “prompts” to ensure we have all the information we need from the very first time you get in touch. This allows our response to be both faster and more efficient.

An automatic message has been added to the old 101 email mailbox to support anyone who sends in any correspondence after this date.

Thank you for your understanding.

**Thanks for reading! Stay tuned
for the July issue...**