



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

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Honiton Town: Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

August 2023 



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date with us
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Devon and Cornwall Police



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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 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

Your local Neighbourhood team:

Inspector Phil Gray
Sergeant Matthew Beards
PC Jaz Trudgeon
PC Katrina Catton
PCSO Darren England

How to contact us:



For questions, advice and to receive updates on crimes that have already been reported, contact us using the **webchat** function on the Devon & Cornwall Police homepage to have a conversation with a staff member at our contact centre. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



For non-emergencies, give us a call on **101**. Contact Officers are there to answer your calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please be kind and respectful to our staff; rest assured we will answer your call as soon as we are able. There are often high volumes of incoming calls, so depending on the urgency of your enquiry with us, it may be worth considering some of the other contact options available, especially if you do have access to the internet, to allow the phone lines to be more accessible to those without internet access.

Where to find us:

Honiton Police Station, 167 High St, EX14 1LQ

Please note: We are presently not a station open to members of the public without a prior appointment.

Please find your nearest open Police Enquiry Office in Exeter, open Monday to Saturday 08:00 - 18:00

Devon & Cornwall Police, Exeter Police Station, Sidmouth Road, Exeter, EX2 7RY



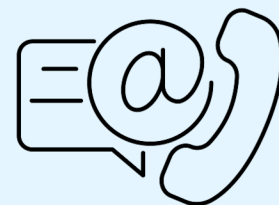
When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby, or immediate action is required, call us on **999**

- If you call us on 999 by mistake, please help us to reduce demand by staying on the line to let us know that everything is okay



To report a non-emergency crime that has already happened, go to **dc.police.uk** Here you can record all the appropriate details on the online 'report' form that can be submitted on our website. The contact centre staff will then be able to provide you with a crime reference number in due course.

Who should I contact?



Please visit www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ for more

Abnormal vehicle load: <https://www.gov.uk/esdal-abnormal-load-notification>

Animal & Wildlife crime:

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wc/wildlife-crime/what-is-wildlife-crime/>
999 / 101

RSPCA: 0300 1234 999 (24h)

Local Council for Dog Warden: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Antisocial behaviour: E.g. nuisance noise, abandoned vehicles

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/>

<https://www.dc.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

Citizen's Advice: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

Local Council & Environmental Health Team: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Environment Crime:

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ec/environment-crime/>

Local Council: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Gov.uk

The Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24h)

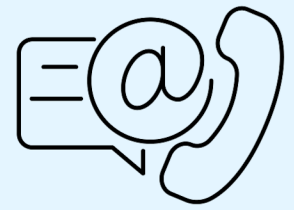
Events and Processions:

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/e/events-and-processions/>

Firearms licensing:

<https://firearms.dc.police.uk>

Who should I contact?



If you are calling us about a non-police matter, you might be stopping someone we can help getting through.

Always check our website to make sure you are contacting the right people first time: **[dc.police.uk/who-to-contact](https://www.dc.police.uk/who-to-contact)**

- Abandoned cars, untaxed cars, and anti-social parking are dealt with by local councils - please do not report this to the police unless the vehicle has been left where it presents a danger to you or to other members of the public
- Untaxed cars need to be reported to the DVLA
- Lost or found dogs should be reported to your local dog warden
- Noisy neighbours need to be reported to the council environmental health team
- After swapping insurance details, if no one is injured, there is no need to report a road traffic collision



#TAKE THE LEAD

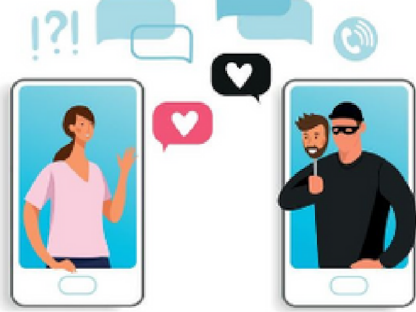
Following an increase in incidents of dog attacks we find ourselves having to reiterate the below information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your dog is under appropriate control at all times and unable to cause harm to anyone or anything. We are asking all dog owners/those who care for dogs to #takethelead and prevent their animal from causing harm.

If you choose to walk your dog off a lead, then you need to be able to recall your beloved pet successfully. If you are around livestock, then you need to be placing your animal back on the lead until you are well clear of them.

Focusing on livestock, we have had one local farmer having to report 4 separate incidents of their livestock being attacked this year alone with sheep being injured or killed well into double figures. This has a major financial and emotional impact on all concerned. It can also be a dangerous situation should the animals get onto the road causing more risk.

You can be found guilty of an offence under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 - and remember, a farmer is allowed to kill the dog if it's worrying their livestock. All in all, it's just not worth the risk.



SEXTORTION

Unfortunately, we have noticed an increased in reports to us regarding sexualised imagery. Those under the age of 18 have been taking indecent images of themselves and sending it to their girlfriend/boyfriend/friend/'trusted adult'. When the relationship breaks down, suddenly the image is made public and gets sent around friendship groups and schools. This is a reminder to anyone under the age of 18, or who cares for someone under the age of 18, about what constitutes **an offence**. Immediately, by taking this kind of photograph - even of yourself - constitutes making an indecent image of a child. By sending it, you are distributing an indecent image of a child; and the person who receives it and keeps it is possessing an indecent image of a child. If this weren't bad enough, we really want our younger population to understand that as soon as that image is sent, then they have lost all control over that image. Fundamentally, this message is a reminder about not only law, but **safety**. If you are not happy for the image to be made public, then just do not take it or share it.

Secondly, to those both under and over the age of 18: if you get a friend request from someone you have never met before, please be very cautious. Criminals befriend victims online by using a fake identity, and then persuade them to perform sexual or otherwise compromising acts in front of a webcam or in a video message. The video is then recorded by the criminals who then threaten to share the images with the victims' friends and family, blackmailing the victim into paying them money to prevent this from happening.

Even for adults, it is best not to share intimate images or sexual acts online - even with people you know and may trust. The same advice applies that once an image is out on the web, they can be very difficult to get rid of.

If this has happened to you, stay calm, do not pay up, end all communication with the blackmailers, and contact the police. For further advice, please visit: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sexual-offences/sextortion/>



ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Firstly, it is important to understand what anti-social behaviour is; it can be defined as behaviour which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to those outside of your own household. There are 3 main categories that ASB can fall under:

- **PERSONAL ASB:** which is when a person targets a specific individual or group
- **NUISANCE ASB:** which is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community
- **ENVIRONMENTAL ASB:** which is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

There are 13 types of ASB:

- **Abandoned vehicle** - this covers vehicles that appear to have been left by their owner. as opposed to being stolen and abandoned. It includes scrap or 'end of life' vehicles, and those that have been damaged at the scene of a road traffic collision that have been abandoned and are not awaiting recovery.
- **Nuisance vehicles or inappropriate use of vehicles** - this relates to vehicles being used in acts such as street cruising (driving up and down the street causing annoyance and bothering other road users), vehicle convoys, and riding or driving on land other than a road. It also includes the misuse of go-peds, motorised skateboards, and electric-propelled cycles, as well as the unlicensed dealing of vehicles where a person has 2 or more vehicles on the same road within 500m of each other.
- **Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour** - this refers to general nuisance behaviour in a public place, or a place to which the public have access, such as private clubs. It does not include domestic-related behaviour. harassment, or public disorder, which should be reported as crimes.



ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- **Rowdy or nuisance neighbours** - this covers any rowdy neighbour or general nuisance caused by neighbours, including boundary and parking disputes. It also covers noise nuisance from parties or playing loud music.
- **Littering or drugs paraphernalia** - this includes fly posting and discarding litter, rubbish, or drugs paraphernalia in any public place.
- **Animal problems** - this covers any situation where animals are creating a nuisance or people's behaviour associated with the use of animals is deemed as anti-social. This includes uncontrolled animals, stray dogs, barking, fouling, and intimidation by an animal.
- **Trespassing** - this is any situation in which people have entered land, water or premises without lawful authority or permission. It can range from taking an unauthorised shortcut through a garden, to setting up unauthorised campsites.
- **Nuisance calls** - this covers any type of communication by phone that causes anxiety and annoyance, including silent calls and intrusive 'cold calling' from businesses. It does not cover indecent, threatening or offensive behaviours, which should be reported as crimes.
- **Street drinking** - this relates to unlicensed drinking in public spaces, where the behaviour of the persons involved is deemed as anti-social. It also covers unplanned and spontaneous parties which encroach on the street.
- **Activity related to sex workers or sex working** - this relates to any activity such as loitering, displaying cards or promoting sex worker services. It may also refer to activities in and around a brothel that impact on local residents. It does not include 'kerb-crawling', which should be reported as a crime.



ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- **Nuisance noise** - this relates to all incidents of noise nuisance that do not involve neighbours.
- **Begging** - this covers anyone begging or asking for charitable donations in a public place, or encouraging a child to do so, without a license. Unlicensed ticket sellers at or near public transport hubs may also fall into this category.
- **Misuse of fireworks** - this includes the inappropriate use of fireworks, the unlawful sale or possession of fireworks, and noise created by fireworks.

Where should I report ASB?

Please head to <https://devon-cornwall.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/> to use our online report form service, where you will be advised of the appropriate reporting agency. For example, ASB issues involving abandoned vehicles that are not stolen or suspicious should be reported to your local council.

Where can I receive support for ASB issues?

Victim Support - 08 08 16 89 111

Are a national charity dedicated to helping anyone directly affected by crime to cope with and recover from their experience. Victim Support also run 'My Support Space', a free, safe, secure and confidential space where you can choose how you want to be supported.

ASB Help - <https://asbhelp.co.uk/asb-help/>

Are a charity in England and Wales that provide online advice and support to victims of ASB.

Supportline - 01708 765 200

Are a confidential telephone helpline offering emotional support to anyone on any issue, but particularly aimed at those who are socially isolated, vulnerable, at-risk groups, and victims of any form of abuse.



WHAT'S ON NEAR ME?

AUGUST 2023 EVENTS

SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL

4th - 11th August

SIDMOUTH FRINGE FESTIVAL

5th - 9th August

SIDMOUTH AIR SHOW

25th August

SIDMOUTH REGATTA WEEKEND

25th - 26th August



By Alert Officer Linzi Berryman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

PROTECTING LOCAL HERITAGE SITES

Devon & Cornwall Police, in partnership with Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association (DACCWA) and Historic England, have launched Heritage Watch in Devon and Cornwall.

The counties of Devon and Cornwall contain over 35,000 designated heritage sites, both on land and in the sea, and together they represent the chronological story of people, places and events that have shaped our regional identity.

Heritage Watch is a national scheme for landowners, custodians of heritage assets and people who live near heritage sites or those who are simply interested in the history and culture of Devon and Cornwall. It encourages proper reporting and sharing of information on crime or suspicious behaviour around our heritage assets. Through the scheme, members can also receive invitations to crime awareness events run by DACCWA and Devon & Cornwall Police and receive information regarding heritage crimes or suspicious behaviour in their area through systems such as Devon and Cornwall Alert.



By Alert Officer Linzi Berryman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

PROTECTING LOCAL HERITAGE SITES

PC Julian Fry, Rural Affairs Officer, Devon & Cornwall Police said- “Heritage crime is any offence that harms the value of heritage assets and their settings, such as ancient archaeological sites, churches, historic shipwrecks, stately homes and castles. It can include arson, criminal damage, theft, unlawful salvage from historic shipwrecks and the trade in illicit cultural objects. With around 35,000 designated heritage assets in Devon and Cornwall and many more remaining undesignated or simply waiting to be discovered, we want protect the past for our future and by joining the scheme, people can do that.”

Duncan Wilson, Historic England Chief Executive said, “We welcome our colleagues from Devon and Cornwall Police and Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association as the newest Heritage Watch area in England. By working together with communities and partners across the law enforcement and heritage sectors we can help protect our historic buildings and archaeological sites from the threat of crime and anti-social behaviour and ensure their preservation for future generations to enjoy.”

Members of the public can sign up for alerts at <https://alerts.dc.police.uk> and choose ‘Heritage Watch’ under ‘Community Groups’.

More information about designated heritage sites can be found at the online database provided by Historic England at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

This is the only official, up to date register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England including listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, registered parks and gardens, and battlefields.

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