

# Newsletter

## The Rural Beat

South Worcestershire Police

Rural and Business Crime Team



Spring 2021

'*The Rural Beat*' is a new publication from the Police in South Worcestershire for the benefit of the people who live, work and visit South Worcestershire. The aim is to provide information, advice and contact details to assist the community. We will welcome your feedback.

**Coronavirus (Covid-19):** We're asking you please to only call 999 if it is an emergency and 101 if it is urgent. If you can, use our [online services](#). Please use this service to inform us if you feel there is a significant issue or serious breach of the 'stay at home' restrictions.

- [Our information and advice on coronavirus and policing](#)
- [NHS advice about coronavirus External Link](#)
- [Stay at home measures and other guidance on Gov.uk](#)

For those reading this electronically hover over the bullet points above and PRES CTRL +CLICK otherwise log onto <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/> for further information

**URGENT  
ALERT**



We have received  
several reports of Quad  
Bikes being stolen  
Please be aware if you  
own/use a quad  
remember to secure it  
at all times

**If you have any information regarding any crime  
you can contact police on 101, in an emergency  
please dial 999.**

You can also contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to report  
any crime or criminal activity anonymously.



## **CRIME PREVENTION**

### **QUAD BIKE THEFT**

#### **HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FARM/FIELD PERIMETER:**

Reduce access by removing all gates and entrances that are no longer in use and replacing them with a permanent fence or other barrier

Secure all gates with good padlocks

Repair fencing promptly to prevent/restrict any future unauthorised access

#### **HOW TO PROTECT YOUR QUAD BIKE OR ATV:**

Park as close to your premises as possible, preferably out of sight from nearby roads

Remove keys when not in use

Fit wheel clamps and/or locking posts or consider an alarm

Park larger vehicles in front of access doors to prevent easy access

Mark or customise your property so it is easily identifiable. This can deter thieves and assist recovery if they are stolen

Consider tracking devices for high value vehicles and machinery

Keep a record of all vehicles with photographs and serial numbers

#### **CESAR MARKING SCHEME:**

CESAR is the nationally recognised marking scheme and is fitted at source to many new quads and tractors

CESAR registered vehicles have their own unique 'fingerprint', that is impossible for thieves to remove

CESAR registered vehicles are 4 times less likely to be stolen and 6 times more likely to be identified if stolen

Many insurance companies offer premium discounts for vehicles fitted with CESAR

Only approved suppliers can fit CESAR. Please contact your local dealer for further information

For further advice on Crime Prevention please contact us on the below link and scrolling down for the '**Crime Prevention**' information box

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/>



## Recent issues

**Theft of fish.** Being taken from pools and lakes. If you suspect this is happening **please let us know** and note down any descriptions of persons or vehicles **If safe to do so**

**Theft of Catalytic Converters.** Taking place mainly on Vehicle Sales forecourts but also at car parks at businesses and ***driveways and streets outside homes***. Marking kits are available at <https://www.retainagroup.com/theirs.html>

### Fly Tipping



We are aware of the concerns of the Rural Community in relation to Fly Tipping. We work in partnership with the enforcement arm of the District Councils and have provided information which has led to convictions for these offences  
To report Fly Tipping please contact as below

Wychavon District Council

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/street-care-and-cleaning/fly-tipping>

Malvern Hills District Council

<https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/parking-and-streets/community-and-environmental-protection/fly-tipping-and-littering>



**If you have any information please contact the Rural and Business Crime Team**



**We Don't Buy Crime** is West Mercia Police's response to acquisitive crime – crimes such as burglary and theft – and the associated harm it causes. These crimes can have a long lasting impact on victims, it can often leave someone feeling unsafe in their own home, and where possessions that have emotional attachment are stolen it can be heart-breaking.

**We Don't Buy Crime** has five key strands along with our **towns and villages**, we work with **second hand stores** and **fuel stations**, **deploy covert tactics**, and more recently look at ways our local communities can help tackle associated harm including **criminal exploitation and vulnerability**.

**We currently have over 20 Towns & Villages signed up to the We Don't Buy crime Smart Water scheme in South Worcestershire and we are currently looking to sign up more!**

**Please encourage your local Town or Parish Council to contact us to arrange a meeting (Covid 19 Secure) so we can explain how the process could work**





## Latest We Don't Buy Crime for Farms

**Rural & Business Crime team will provide Smart Water, appropriate signage and conduct security surveys of farm sites.**

The scheme for **Farms** has been continuing and all of these aspects are designed to aim to put criminals out of business. We do want to help communities make sure they are best placed to look after themselves and each other.

Initially focussing on repeat victims of Farm related crime in South Worcestershire we are **now able to offer this to other Farms**

**Calling All Farmers** 

**Following on from a recent meeting with NFU we are looking to hold meetings at Farms where we could introduce and explain Crime Prevention measures**  
**Could you provide a venue and invite fellow farmers to an event**

**\*\* Current Covid 19 Restrictions Apply so these may take place later in the year**

## Meet the Rural & Business Crime Team

Pc Nigel Bolton, Pc Ben Trowman and Mick Simpson work across South Worcestershire, as part of a larger dedicated problem solving team and are supported by Special Constables, police volunteers and members of the public.

If you would like to help with reducing crime in your area, contact Mick Simpson on [michael.simpson@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:michael.simpson@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) or call 07773050803

### So, what are we up to?



Clockwise from the top, **1.Pc Nige Bolton** delivering Crime Prevention to interested audience **2. Working with staff at Worcester Royal Hospital to prevent further Catalytic Converter thefts** **3. Team** visiting Worcester livestock market to discuss issues with farmers. **4. Marking bikes to help reduce thefts**

Some of the team's other recent activities

**4** Allotments were visited and offered crime prevention advice

**42** farms across South Worcestershire having been subject to crime were visited and crime prevention advice given

**56** rural businesses across South Worcestershire subject to crime were visited and provide with crime prevention advice

Meetings with National Farmers Union to discuss joint working activities

**2** covert assets deployed in rural areas

**1** Joint operation with local officers and Gloucestershire Police resulting in stolen farm equipment being recovered

Posting out Catalytic Converter marking kits to victims of those types of theft

**4** incidences of Fly Tipping investigated and offenders prosecuted by Local Authority

Patrols with local officers and gamekeepers to deter and locate offenders committing offences including hare coursing and deer theft



Mick Simpson during several visits to farms to discuss the potential for thefts of lamb during the lambing season

**Later this Spring  
will be focusing on**

- Poaching
- Caravan Theft
- Equestrian Crime

## Each edition will feature a crime that occurs in our Community with Crime Prevention advice

### SHEDS



As hopefully the weather improves many of us will be looking into our garden sheds to find the gardening equipment we stored away last year!

**A reminder that criminal will also be on the look-out for these items as well**

It's strange how most people don't secure their shed or garage in the same way they do their homes. People often end up using a flimsy lock or padlock to protect the contents – whether it's a bike or lawnmower. The fact is, a burglar will usually try a shed or garage first because they can find the tools they need to get into the house.



### Think like a thief

**Take a look at your shed and consider how you would break in?** It's worth having a good padlock on the door with no exposed screws. Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable. If you have windows then these could be vulnerable unless they're secured with wire mesh or grills. And keep it locked at all times.

**Alarm it** Consider a battery-operated shed alarm. They look low key but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren.

Don't give them the opportunity or the tools to commit a crime. Lock everything away securely. **Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain.**

Secure your bike to the ground or a lockable stand within a locked shed or garage. Visit [Sold Secure](#) to search for ground anchors and other locks designed to fix to floors and walls.

**Property marking your items** is advisable and some tools can be painted with your name or postcode. Forensic marking such as SmartWater is also an option.

**WE DON'T  
BUY CRIME**



### The top five most common items stolen from sheds



# Online Criminality

At last! There is now one email address you can report suspicious emails too

If you receive an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

**Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)**

Please be aware and remain vigilant of phishing emails. One of the many scam emails currently in circulation purports to be from the TV Licensing advising to cancel direct debits. These messages may look like the real thing but are malicious. Once clicked, you are sent to a website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords. The criminal's goal is to convince you to click on the links within their scam email or text message, or to give away sensitive information (such as bank details).

For further information and advice please go to:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-ncsc/what-is-cyber-security>

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

<https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>

**Stay Safe. Stay Connected. Stay Cyber Aware**

## ***A little bit of information goes a long way***

Report suspicious activity, people or vehicles. No matter how insignificant you might think it is, if it is suspicious to you, it probably is.

Also, REPORT CRIME! We know not all crime is reported to us, and we know the many reasons for that including frustration.

**If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999.**

You can also contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.