



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY RURAL AND WILDLIFE NEWS

## RURAL, WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE POLICING



SUFFOLK  
CONSTABULARY

# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY RURAL AND WILDLIFE NEWS

Volume 1 / Issue 2

## CONTACT US

If you have a question for us or you would like advice on anything rural, wildlife or heritage related, the best way would be to drop us an email on [rwp@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:rwp@suffolk.police.uk)

Alternatively, **telephone 101** and ask to speak to a Rural & Wildlife Policing Team officer.

PS 233 Brian Calver

PC 1238 Colin Taylor

PC 1577 Kevin Stollery

Please **do not** report crime directly to our team, this will need to be done via the Suffolk Constabulary main website or by telephoning 101

**In the case of emergency, always call 999**

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter for rural and wildlife policing matters in Suffolk, which will be released every quarter. The aim of the newsletter is to keep you updated with some of our current work, to inform you of crime trends, to offer crime prevention advice, to provide you with the best means of contact to our team and anything else we deem relevant and interesting.

We hope you enjoy this new publication. If there is anything you would like us to cover or add in as a regular feature, please send us an email – [rwp@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:rwp@suffolk.police.uk).



**The Suffolk Rural & Wildlife Policing Team**

# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY RURAL AND WILDLIFE NEWS

## Thefts from outbuildings

We are seeing an increase in thefts from outbuildings across the county. Thieves are targeting garden machinery, such as chainsaws, brush-cutters, hedge-cutters etc, generally by quality manufacturers such as Stihl or Husqvarna. Thieves are also targeting quadbikes and ATVs such as Kubota, Polaris, John Deere Gator and as a general modus operandi, they will approach from the rear of the property, sometimes having to go across fields. They have been known to remove fence panels and place items across ditches to create makeshift bridges.



It is vitally important that you keep a note of serial numbers and any specific identifying features on your machines. We would recommend that you uniquely mark them in some way, whether it is putting your postcode on them with ultraviolet pen or scratch in a post code or other mark, something that makes them stand out from others. This way, if we do recover any items, we can get them returned to you as soon as possible.

Security of equipment and buildings also needs to be reviewed. Consideration should be given to GPS tracking kits, installation of CCTV, physical barriers at entrances of yards or in front of a building itself, locks / ground anchors, lighting, alarms, signage etc. The list could go on, but in a nutshell we want to make your property as secure and less appealing to steal so that the thieves move on.

Further crime prevention advice can be found [here on our Suffolk police website.](#)

# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

# YANA

Rural mental health support

Helpline: 0300 323 0400

[helpline@yanahelp.org](mailto:helpline@yanahelp.org)



What3words is a fantastic tool to be able to pinpoint a location, especially if it is a remote area without any landmarks.

It works by splitting the whole world into a grid of 3 metre squares and has allocated a specific 3 word combination for each square.

It is regularly used by emergency services and saves critical time in finding casualties or locating the scene of a crime for instance.

If you have a smart phone or tablet, please download the app. It could save your life.

## CrimeStoppers.

## 0800 555111

100% anonymous. Always.

# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY RURAL AND WILDLIFE NEWS

## Livestock worrying



It's that time of year again when young lambs are out in the fields, enjoying the sunshine.

Unfortunately, we are still getting reports of irresponsible dog walkers, allowing their dogs to chase, unsettle and sadly in some cases maul livestock.

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 is very clear and, even a dog off its lead in a field of sheep, this constitutes an offence, regardless of whether it is under control or not.

Please do not fall foul of this legislation and keep dogs on leads at all times when livestock are around. It really is not difficult and is the duty of anyone in charge of a dog, whilst out in public.

More information can be found here: [Sheep Worrying | National Sheep Association](#)

You can also see a media release on the topic that we published recently on our website [here](#).



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY RURAL AND WILDLIFE NEWS

## Nesting birds



Each nesting season we receive numerous reports from members of the public, reporting people for cutting hedges/trees.

I am sure the calls are well intentioned, but it is *not* a criminal offence to cut a hedge/tree at any time of year as long as there are no breaches of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and other legislation such as Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).

It is an offence to disturb a Schedule 1 bird, whether intentionally or recklessly. A list of Schedule 1 birds [can be found here](#).

The vast majority of our native songbirds are not found on this list and therefore are not afforded the same level of protection when it comes to disturbance.

It is however an offence to **intentionally** kill, injure or take a wild bird and to **intentionally** take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, contrary to Section 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. There are exceptions, such as the if the act is carried out under licence etc.

# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY RURAL AND WILDLIFE NEWS

## Operation EASTER



Operation EASTER is a national campaign to stop egg thieves and egg collectors, organised by the National Wildlife Crime Unit. More information can be found on the [link here](#) for the website of the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY RURAL AND WILDLIFE NEWS

## Good news stories

A case in Sudbury under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 – Illegal puppy farming /causing unnecessary suffering/neglect.



Back in February 2022, the team were involved with a job in Sudbury, where dogs were being kept in appalling conditions and were being bred and advertised for sale.

The male had previously been issued with improvement notices by the RSPCA but failed to adhere to them and showed no remorse whatsoever for the conditions he kept the dogs in.

In total, eight dogs were seized.

The male was convicted of six section 9 offences, one section 4 offence and one section 13 offence.

At court, the male was ordered to pay £6,200, banned from owning/keeping or looking after animals for 15 years and sentenced to 26 weeks in prison.

Full details of the case can be found on the [News section of our website here.](#)



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY RURAL AND WILDLIFE NEWS

## **Nighthawking**

In October 2022 the team, aided by other colleagues and the police helicopter, were involved in the apprehension of four suspects who were illegally metal detecting on the site of a scheduled monument in Coddanham.

The four males have been charged and will appear in court on 17 May. Again, further details can be found on the [News section of the website here](#). More details will be released in due course.

## **Engagement events for your diary:**

**Sunday 14 May – South Suffolk Show**

**Saturday 20 May – Hadleigh Show**

**Wednesday 31 May & Thursday 1 June – Suffolk Show**

That concludes this issue of the newsletter. If you have any suggestions or would just like to speak to the team, our details are at the top of the bulletin.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward to telling you all about our latest news and what the team have been doing in the next quarter.

**PC Kevin Stollery**