

RURAL EAST DEVON POLICE RURAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

LIVESTOCK WORRYING

In the past two months a number of reports were made to Police regarding livestock worrying throughout Rural East Devon. When a dog chases or attacks livestock such as sheep, the stress caused as a result of this can, in some cases, lead to them dying, suffering serious injury or even cause pregnant ewes to miscarry. This has a devastating consequence for livestock keepers, causing personal distress as well as significant financial cost. Often victims of livestock worrying suffer repeat offences.

It is an offence to be the owner of a dog worrying livestock and if there are active lines of enquiry, we will use them to confirm the identity of offenders for prosecution and the Police may seek a dog control order, order for compensation, request the surrender or seizure of the dog or even request a court ordered destruction.



When reporting an incident of livestock worrying to Police, try to provide as much information as possible including a detailed location of where the incident occurred, full details of dog owner and the livestock owner and all information about the livestock involved including the numbers of livestock involved and where known, the loss value.

PCSO ENGLAND has been out visiting a number of rural areas in East Devon to ensure signage is placed in popular dog walking locations to remind owners to keep their dogs on a lead. Dogs worrying livestock is considered an emergency if it is taking place at the time and there is, or likely to be, serious damage to livestock. In these instances, call 999. If livestock has been attacked and the dog has left the location, please call 101.



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

HERITAGE CRIME

Heritage crime is any offence involving damage or loss to the historic environment and cultural property, which may include buildings, monuments and landscapes that reflect our history or objects of artistic, historical, archaeological and scientific interest. Devon & Cornwall possess a significant number of heritage assets of all types and therefore heritage crime remains an area of focus for our rural affairs team.

Our rural affairs team are working alongside partner agencies to strengthen links and raise awareness of heritage crime to facilitate more effective reporting and investigation of heritage offences. Neighbourhood teams will be supporting this by patrolling heritage locations in their area. Before you visit a heritage site, ensure you are aware of any rules or restrictions in place such as no fires, no cars, and no cycling. Some sites will also not permit drone flying.

ILLEGAL OFF-ROAD DRIVING

Are you aware that under the Road Traffic Act 1988, using a mechanically propelled vehicle without lawful authority on common land, moorland or any footpath or bridleway is an offence? It also causes anti-social issues as well as damage to the landscape, heritage sites and can harm livestock. In some cases, the vehicles are uninsured and illegal for use on the road, which may lead to the vehicle being seized.



Always ensure you have permission for where you are riding and that your vehicle is roadworthy. Drive responsibly and anticipate hazards. Take note of signage; if a landowner does not want you on their land, they may have signage saying so. Landowners should try to secure their entrances to prevent illegal off-road driving and should contact the Police if they suspect an offence is being committed.



LIVESTOCK ROAD SAFETY

Livestock are frequently killed or injured on rural roads in Devon and not only is there a risk of injury to drivers and passengers, there will often be extensive damage to vehicles and collisions can cause unnecessary suffering for animals. Incidents can also have a financial and emotional impact for farmers and livestock owners.

There is a substantial increase in deer vehicle collisions during autumn and winter months due to poor driving conditions, less daylight hours and the annual breeding season. Slowing down is one of the most important things drivers can do to protect themselves and other road users. If you are involved in a collision with livestock and your are blocking the road or the animal is left in the road injured or suffering, call 999.

There is a legal requirement to report road traffic collisions involving livestock to the Police, noting descriptions, an accurate location and vehicle details.

Farmers and other members of the public can consider the use of Dash Cams and upload certain traffic offences to Op Snap on the Devon & Cornwall Police website where the footage will be reviewed which may lead to prosecutions.

Where possible livestock owners can consider feeding away from roads, regularly checking their fencing and securing all gates.

OPERATION FILEPATH

In January, officers from the East Devon Neighbourhood Team, Rural Affairs Team and Avon & Somerset Police carried out a cross border operation targeting vehicle offences and rural acquisitive crime.

Our rural affairs team were able to engage with members of our rural communities, stop farming and agricultural vehicles and provide them with crime prevention advice. Crime doesn't stop at the border, and often criminals will travel between counties believing they will go undetected as they enter a different force area!

PCSO Darren ENGLAND will be stepping away from his usual role to work closely alongside the Rural Affairs Team over the next six weeks. He will be taking an active part in promoting awareness of rural crime in the East Devon area, focusing on engagement and education as well as carrying out visits to local farms, businesses and rural communities.



If you would like a visit or advice regarding Farm Security or to discuss any other rural crime issues, please contact PCSO 30017 Darren

ENGLAND via email: 30017@dc.police.uk

Devon and Cornwall **ALERT**

Devon & Cornwall Alert is a two way messaging system operated by Devon & Cornwall Police that will keep you informed of what is happening in your local area.

The system is designed to allow people who register to choose the type of information they would like to receive concerning crime and anti-social behaviour, rural affairs, witness appeals, prevention, good news and community events. You can also respond to any of the emails with information you have. Subscribers will not be notified about very crime or incident that happens in their local community; only about those that are relevant to them.

If you wish to sign up to Devon Alert, this can be done by visiting the Devon and Cornwall Alert, by speaking with a member of your local neighbourhood team or by contacting PCSO Darren England.

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