






**Leicestershire  
Police**  
Protecting our communities



-  Crime happening 'now'? Call 999.
-  Crime happened? Call 101 / [www.leicspolice/report-crime](http://www.leicspolice/report-crime).
-  Use 'What3Words' to accurately pinpoint locations.

October 2023

# Rural Policing Team Newsletter

We reach the shorter days and autumn weather now which inevitably means a longer window of night time opportunity for thieves in the rural community. Around this time of year, much of our demand also includes hare coursing. It's really important that any rural crime is reported to us. You'll find a QR code at the end of this publication that you can scan to report a rural crime really quickly.

## Team Update

Each rural policing area has a dedicated rural officer based there. The 5 locations are:

Loughborough. PC Lauren De Wet.

Market Harborough. PC Kelly Tones.

NW Leicestershire. PC Emma Holmes.

Hinckley and Blaby. PC Mike Statt.

Melton and Rutland. PC Matt Houghton and PC Chris Vickers.

The team Inspector, Shaun Wilson, Sgt Paul Archer and PC Rob Cross are based at HQ.

This means that we can provide effective cover forcewide and more localised support and training to our local colleagues who of course provide 24/7 response cover.



## Week of Rural Action

All UK police forces were encouraged to highlight the work that they do in the 'National Week of Rural Action' in the middle of September. No 2 weeks ever look the same for us, but we focused on engagement, improving links with other forces and our using existing networks to improve communication with the community.





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## Op Strive Tarmac Scam

An emerging issue for Leicestershire and Rutland residents is Op Strive. This refers to what is known as a 'tarmac scam'. Offenders will claim to be from Highways England or a similar legitimate firm. Sometimes they will ask to store plant equipment / tarmac or top dressing at a farm or rural location. Other times they will simply start to 'tarmac' a victims driveway. A demand is then made for an overinflated price with threats if payment isn't made. If you are a victim of this type of crime then please let us know. There are often associated offences of blackmail, harassment or criminal damage. All offences are linked together so that we can pursue all and any lines of enquiry.

## Community Meetings

Over the winter months, we aim to host a number of community meetings covering the force area. We welcome attendance from anyone within the rural community so that they can have a voice and an opportunity to air any concerns or local issues. Please keep a look out on our socials and local Whatsapp groups for more information.

## Finally...

Acquisitive crime across the force area is relatively low at the moment, but please don't get complacent. If GPS domes aren't needed for long periods of time. Remove them. Close and lock gates and sheds. Take some responsibility for your own security—quality locks / lights and CCTV. Trust your barking dog in the early hours. We hit £1 million of rural recoveries last month (stolen recovered property) but ideally—we don't want things to be stolen in the first place.

We are accessible and accountable and want to make sure that crime stays low, but we need to help each other. You can find ways to contact us overleaf.





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Leicestershire & Rutland Rural  
Policing Team

You can follow our active social media page for other timely updates about what we're up to and any local crime patterns.



WhatsApp

There are a whole host of community run WhatsApp groups right across Leicestershire and Rutland for sharing information about crime, loose animals, and suspicious activity. If you don't know if your area has one—you can email us below.



Report a rural crime.



Report a wildlife crime.

You can email the Leicestershire Police Rural Team for any enquiries (do not report crime to us on email): [Leicsruralcrime@leics.police.uk](mailto:Leicsruralcrime@leics.police.uk)

