



Operation Randall

tackling rural crime

Issue 13 | 1st of July 2021

@RuralCrimeNfk 

Welcome to another monthly update...and what a month it has been! I think we have seen every type of weather except snow over the last month or so, and most days still don't feel particularly summery.

There has been a delay in the final stages of the government's easing of restrictions and although the future remains a little uncertain, some events are starting to enter the calendar which is always good to see. As a rural crime team, we are due to meet up with colleagues regionally and nationally to discuss hare coursing and working together across

.With regards to what I have been up to over the last month, I spent nearly two weeks in a beautiful part of the country deployed to the G7 Summit in Cornwall as a drone pilot. This was a fantastic opportunity to further develop my skills. After this I came straight back into a week's crime prevention course which was again a superb opportunity to further develop skills and knowledge. We were warmly welcomed by Easton College and there was a dedicated rural crime input on one of the days. After a busy month away from my desk, I am slowly catching up – dare I say the

the border to tackle the issue.
We attended Open Farm Sunday at Whitlingham Country Park last weekend. This is a huge step forward for us getting back out and about, and we've lined up Sandringham Game and Country Fair on Saturday September 20th and Sunday 21 which should be a good weekend.

word, but it has been a relatively quiet month with some positive downward trends in regard to recorded rural crime which is fantastic news!



Rural mental health support

Helpline: 0300 323 0400

helpline@yanahelp.org

BroadsBeat and Water Safety this Summer



Norfolk, the waterways and especially The Broads have seen a big increase in visitors due to the popularity of the 'staycation' this year.

Our BroadsBeat Team has a very active Twitter page and you can follow them for the [latest updates here](#).

One crime that has increased over the last month has been the number of thefts from boats including navigation systems, batteries, outboard engines and other small items.

The BroadsBeat team has plenty of advice available online about how to secure your boat you're your property working closely with Suffolk Constabulary under the BoatShield banner - [Click Here For More Info on BoatShield](#)

Staying on the water and with our BroadsBeat team; officers have been working with the RNLI and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service over the last few weeks providing training to a number of business in how to perform safe water rescues.

While we all enjoy a dip on a hot summer's day, it's also important to be aware of the risks of open water. Our waterways and coastal waters can be extremely dangerous there may be hidden dangers that people may not be aware of. Sadly, a man aged in his 20s died following an incident at Bawsey Pits earlier this month in another tragic incident. Emergency services were called to the area following reports a man had got into difficulty in the water.

[Press Release - Man Dies in Bawsey Pits Incident](#)

Follow these safety tips to stay safe around water and always encourage others to do the same:

- Do not enter water where there are signs saying do not enter water – this could be because the water contains harmful bacteria/algae or substances harmful to your health or because there are unseen dangers below.
- Ensure you are a confident swimmer and have water safety skills
- Swim at lifeguarded beaches and pools, use safety equipment and do not drink alcohol before swimming
- Know how to avoid water safety hazards such as rip tides, cold water and moving water
- Be aware of the dangers of open water. Temperatures can drop sharply and there may be obstacles underneath
- Always wear a buoyancy aid at all times if you are canoeing/kayaking /paddle boarding, whilst on boats, while getting on and off vessels and when close to the water's edge. Wear sensible clothing and shoes for your chosen activity.
- In an emergency, call 999 and ask for the coastguard

And finally, please be aware of your location when they're out and about and utilise mobile phone apps such as what3words. It provides a simple and precise way to share your location quickly and easily and is integrated into our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The Aweigh app, which is also free to download, provides information on tide times, sunrise and sunset and

location information.



NEED TO TALK TO US?

PC Chris Shelley | christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk | 07900 407106

Theft Of Tractor GPS Systems

We have seen a few GPS systems stolen from tractors again, something we hadn't seen this year until now.

If you have a GPS system in your tractor or agricultural machinery, please consider following these crime prevention measures:

- Remove GPS guidance receivers, aerials and antenna globes from tractors or other equipment when they're not in use and keep them in a secure locked place whenever possible
- Consider fitting security tethers or brackets to stop units being removed
- Mark your postcode on GPS units – either with a UV pen, engraving tool or forensic marking system such as SelectaDNA. Using engraving tools greatly reduces the value of these system for thieves.
- Store machinery in locked buildings where possible
- When it isn't possible to store machinery securely in a building that is fitted with a lock, consider fitting a main's or battery-operated alarm to cover the perimeter of the areas where the machines are stored
- Always lock tractors and keep them in a separate secure place
- CCTV and intruder alarms will deter most thieves. Ensure you place any CCTV camera or alarm in an area that won't be triggered by animals or foliage

moving in the wind, and make sure they are checked regularly to ensure they work when you need them.

- Record the serial numbers and take photographs of any machinery to help police identify stolen items. This could increase the chances of your property being recovered.
- Please report any suspicious activity via 101 – don't forget to dial 999 if a crime is in progress – and encourage staff to do the same. Record the details of any unusual or unexpected visitors to the farm or workplace and forward to Police.

If you require any additional advice or guidance, please contact me, or your insurance company and manufacturer – both of which should be able to offer some advice around securing these devices.

WhatsApp Group

The Operation Randall WhatsApp group is expanding. At present the group mainly consists of partner agencies, key landowners and administrators of other social media rural groups. I am currently looking at increasing the size of this group so if you meet one or more of the above criteria – work for a partner agency, key landowner or you administer another rural group on social media - or if you think you would benefit or be able to contribute in any way, I want to hear from you. You can contact me on email at christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk

Stack Fires/Arson



While the weather might say otherwise, we are just around the corner from harvest now and many farmers have already made the first cut of hay. Please consider these steps to protect your stacks and farms and once again, please contact me if you need further advice:

- Ensure the site where bales are stored is as secure as possible
- Hay and straw should be removed from fields as soon as possible after harvesting, stored away from other buildings, in stacks of reasonable size, spaced at least 10 metres apart
- Store away from livestock
- Store away from the road if possible so as not to be an easy target to anyone passing
- Petrol, diesel and other fuels should be stored in secure areas and storage tank outlets should be padlocked.
- Fertilisers and pesticides should be kept under lock and key
- Rubbish should be disposed of safely and on a regular basis
- Electrical safety checks should be carried out and firefighting equipment should be checked frequently
- Prepare a fire routine and action plan to ensure all farm workers know what to do in the event of a fire.
- Ensure cigarettes are fully extinguished in an appropriate container.

- Where possible, regularly check and maintain open water supplies for firefighting.

If a fire does break out:

- Call Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service on 999 without delay
- If possible, send someone to the farm entrance to direct the fire service to the fire to help save time
- Prepare to evacuate livestock should the fire spread
- Prepare to use farm machinery to assist the fire service.



Tackling Illegal Fishing

Over the past couple of months, there have been incidents involving gates being left open allowing cattle and sheep to escape, sheep being chased by dogs, nesting birds being disturbed by dogs to people being seriously injured after they were trampled by cattle in a field.

It is so important to adhere to the basics of the Countryside Code and follow the advice on any signs.

The full Countryside Code can be found here:

[Full Countryside Code Here](#)

Final Word

Thank you for taking time to read this month's newsletter. Enjoy the next month and the warmer weather...if and when it finally arrives. Should you wish to discuss anything further with me and the team, please get in touch.



**The
Countryside
Code**



**Your guide to enjoying parks and
waterways, coast and countryside**

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking

- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- take care with BBQs and do not light fires
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



www.gov.uk/countryside-code



Recent Press Releases

Boat owners urged to be vigilant

Police are urging boat owners in the Brundall area to be vigilant after a number of boats were targeted by thieves.

An outboard engine and batteries were stolen from a boat in Station Halt between Saturday 15 May and Saturday 19 June 2021. A second boat also had an outboard engine stolen at the same location between Saturday 12 June and Saturday 19 June 2021.

Two boats have also been targeted at West Lane in Brundall. Batteries were stolen from one of the vessels between Sunday 16 May and Saturday 19 June 2021 and batteries were also taken from another between Friday 4 June and Saturday 19 June 2021.

In another incident, fishing equipment, a lifejacket and drink were among the items stolen from a boat moored off Ferry Road in Norton Subcourse between Saturday 12 June and Tuesday 15 June 2021.

Following the thefts, boat owners are being reminded to keep their boats secure.

PC Paul Bassham, from the Norfolk Constabulary Broadsbeat Team, said:

"Historically, opportunist thieves have targeted boats that have been left unattended, insecure and where items have been left on display. I would urge boat owners to remove these opportunities to help reduce the chances of falling victim to maritime crime.

"Boat owners and hirers spend a lot of money buying and maintaining their boats, so the last thing you want is to be a victim of theft. It is important to take the security of your boat as seriously as you would your home, ensuring it is left secure and making life difficult for criminals to steal your boat and items on board.

"If you haven't already, make sure you have a detailed list of your boating equipment including serial numbers, which is first line of defence against thieves, which proves invaluable if your property is stolen."

Broads Beat officers also strongly recommend marking valuable items of property with your postcode, making them less attractive to a thief and easier to identify if stolen.

Anyone with information about the thefts should contact the Broadsbeat Team on 101.

Residents urged to be vigilant following telephone scams

Police are urging members of the public to be vigilant following a number of telephone scams across the county.

Officers have received three separate reports within the past two weeks after victims have been contacted by fraudsters claiming to be police officers.

The incidents happened in:

- Downham Market on Thursday 17 June. No money was lost.
- Heacham on Friday 18 June. £4,000 was lost.
- Chedgrave on Thursday 18 June. No money was lost.

Courier Fraud happens when a fraudster contacts a victim by telephone claiming to be a police officer, bank or from a government

department, among other agencies. A number of techniques will then be adopted in order to convince the victim to hand over their bank details or cash, which may then be passed on to a courier.

Residents are reminded that neither the police nor your bank will ever ask you to withdraw or transfer money or purchase items.

Further advice includes:

- Police officers, banks and other government agencies will **NEVER** ask you to withdraw money or transfer it to another account as part of an undercover operation.
- They will **NEVER** ask you to reveal your full banking password or PIN.
- The police will **NEVER** ask you to handover money for safe keeping or as part of an operation.
- The police will **NEVER** send someone to your address to collect money, cards or PIN numbers or ask you to deliver these to another location.

Try these steps if you are approached:

- **STOP** – take a moment to think before parting with your money or information.
- **CHALLENGE** – Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests, only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT** – Contact your bank immediately if you think you have fallen victim to a scam. Report it.

You can confirm requests are genuine by using a known number or email address to contact organisations directly. Ask for ID from individuals who have approached you in these circumstances.

If you're asked to telephone a bank, then always do it on a different phone to the one you were contacted on.

Officers are particularly keen for members of the community to ensure they contact family and friends, particularly elderly relatives to ensure they are aware of these scams and the warning signs.

If anyone has received a similar type of telephone call or has any information about these incidents. Contact Norfolk Police on **101** quoting **Operation Radium**.

Alternatively, Contact the independent charity Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

If you believe a crime is in progress, always call **999**.

For further advice, head to the Action Fraud website:

www.actionfraud.police.uk or call **0300 123 2040**.
