

# Newsletter

## The Rural Beat

South Worcestershire Police

Rural and Business Crime Team



**John Campion**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner**  
**West Mercia**

**Autumn 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.



# URGENT ALERT



We are still receiving reports of trailers being stolen  
Please be aware if you own/use a trailer remember to secure it at all times

**If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101, or <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/>, 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

### TRAILER THEFT

Where possible park the trailer where it cannot be seen from the road. Public rights of way and when you come onto the yard. Ensure there is good lighting and the area is secure with gates and locks.

When not in use, park or place something in front of the trailer so it cannot be moved.

Secure the trailer with a chain or steel cable to a strong anchor point. Consider a cable alarm where an alarm will go off if the cable is cut. Use a wheel lock and/or hitch lock.

Consider a beam alarm for the area where the trailer is stored and CCTV. Record all relevant numbers, e.g. chassis, body, hitch numbers etc. (a form is available to print off or download on this website).

Make the trailer unique to you so it stands out, this can be done by putting the farm/stable name on the side or using a motif or logo. This will act as a deterrent and make it easily identifiable.

If appropriate mark your vehicle registration on the roof of your vehicle, this can be done by oil based paint or there are kits you can buy with vinyl lettering.

Consider marking the trailer with a solution such as Smartwater or other Forensic marking solution or have the windows glass etched and put stickers on the vehicle warning it is security marked. <https://www.smartwater.com/>  
<https://www.cesarscheme.org/>

Take photographs of the vehicle from all angles, include close ups of any unique markings such as scratches, dents, scuffs and any security markings and keep them in a safe place to give to the police to help them identify the vehicle if it is stolen.

Consider fitting a tracker that will notify you if the trailer is moved and allow you to track it and pass the information to the police.

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/>





There have been increasing reports of **Hare Coursing** throughout the West Mercia Police area

If you see this taking place please ring 999 to report this crime in progress

If safe to do so please obtain the vehicle registration number of any vehicle being used and contact the Rural & Business Crime Team

## Recent issues

### Land Rover Defender Thefts



We are starting to see a disturbing increase in the theft of these vehicles  
**To help prevent thefts of Land Rovers follow the below crime prevention advice:**

Always leave your vehicle locked and alarmed if possible

Consider fitting an after-market approved immobiliser

Park in a locked garage or other secure area if you have one, or in a well-lit open space if not  
Never leave the vehicle's keys in the ignition, in the same outbuilding as the vehicle, or near your front door inside your home

Be vigilant when using your vehicle for anyone taking an interest in it

Consider fitting a transponder-based security marking system and tracker device

Have the vehicle's windows etched with the vehicle identification number

Security pedal locks provide additional security, a bright yellow heavy duty pedal locks to prevent access from the side and bending the pedal lock or cutting pedals off

The Datatag Security Identification System is specifically designed for Land Rovers and uses state-of-the-art identification technologies such as RFID transponders and invisible UV etching to the paintwork which is virtually impossible to remove.

Fit a steering lock. A broken column steering lock is found on virtually all stolen Land Rovers, allowing it to be started with a screwdriver! This steel sleeve for the lock barrel is strong enough to prevent the barrel being removed or the end broken off.



**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**

Calling All Farmers



**Please contact us if you want to receive a FREE Farm security survey together with Smartwater marking solution and signage**

## Meet the Rural & Business Crime Team

Pc Nigel Bolton, Pc Ben Trowman and Rural & Business Crime Officer (RABO) 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



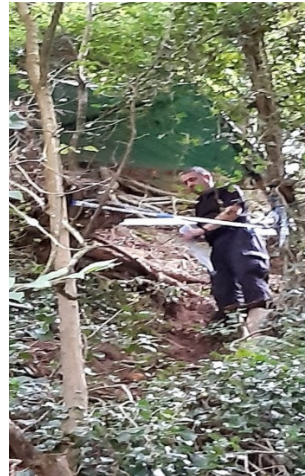


## So, what are we up to?



Attending the Worcester Livestock Market at the recent Shetland pony sale. Keeping a keen eye open for stolen trailers and other property

Pc Nige Bolton helping a landowner secure the site of a den in Lincomb,  
It is believed youngsters made this den without realising the potential dangers of the land sliding away  
We have left warning signs to advise them



Rural Team working with Heart of Worcestershire College to mark members of the public's Catalytic Converters

## **STOP PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Sign up for our brand new  
community messaging service.

**www.  
neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk**



**Neighbourhood Matters is the new West Mercia  
Police community messaging service  
Sign-up NOW**

[Home Page - Neighbourhood Matters](#)

**Contact your Local Policing Team for  
more information**



### **Theft of Catalytic Converters**

If you can, park your vehicle in a locked garage when it is unattended.

If it's not possible to garage your vehicle, park it in a busy well-lit area as close to your property as possible.

Consider installing a Thatcham approved alarm to your vehicle. Ones that activate if your vehicle is lifted or tilted are particularly effective. <https://www.thatcham.org/what-we-do/security-certification/>

Use a catalytic converter protection device or marking system ideally approved by Sold Secure  
<https://www.soldsecure.com/>



Blocking access to the underside of fleet vehicles, If you operate a small fleet, consider obstructing access to vehicles with high ground clearance by parking lower vehicles close by. Also, keep an eye out for anyone who seems to be working underneath cars nearby, they could very well be scouting out their next target vehicle.

In order to steal the parts, thieves need to slide under the vehicle and use cutting tools to detach the box from the pipes around it. This means parking your car close to fences, walls or kerbs will make theft much more difficult.

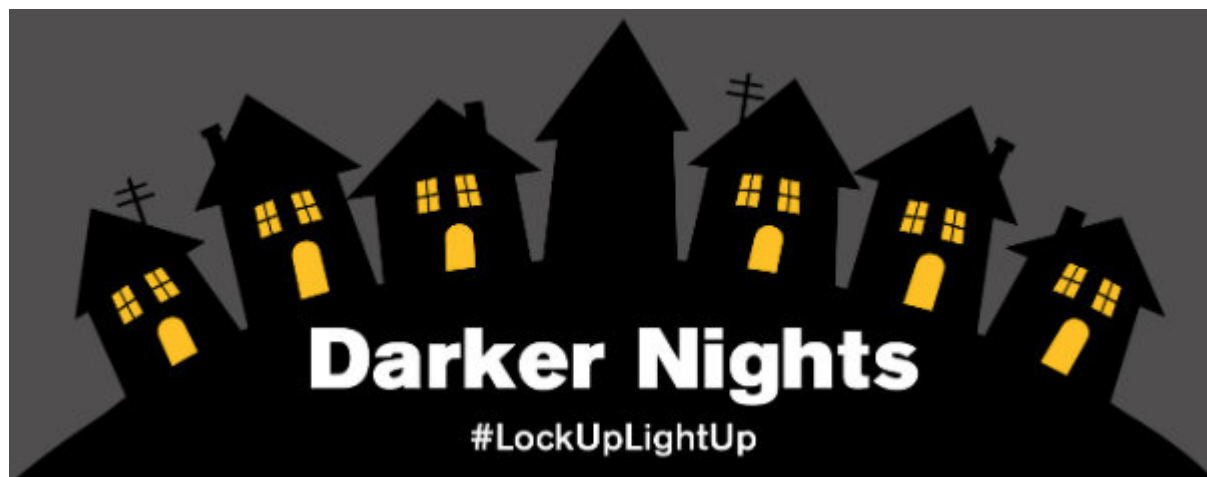
Catalytic converters control and convert exhaust emissions from your vehicle into less toxic substances. If yours is stolen, you will know because your vehicle's engine will sound different.

If you suspect your catalytic converter has been stolen, report it to us immediately by calling 101



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

## **Burglary and the Darker Nights**



- Dark evenings can provide perfect cover for burglars who can easily spot an open window in an unoccupied room, see your valuables through open curtains or blinds, or try their luck with an unlocked door while you're distracted. Try to make your house look as occupied as possible when you are not there. Use timer switches to control lighting or radios
- Don't leave your house and vehicle keys in the lock or on a side table in view of a window making it easy for a thief to fish them through your letterbox
- Always lock your front door from inside - in particular UPVC front doors that have handles, as they are often left unlocked when people are in their house.
- Check your UPVC or Euro cylinder door lock to see if it is snap resistant. It should be stamped with a three star Kite Mark. If it is not, you get the lock changed to either a SS312 Diamond Approved Cylinder, TS007 3 Star Kite marked Cylinder, or a 1 Star Cylinder with 2 Star handle for maximum protection. For more information contact the [Master Locksmiths Association](#).
- Keep front and back doors locked at all times and keep keys and valuables out of sight and reach from cat flaps, letterboxes and downstairs doors and windows
- Close, and ideally lock, all windows when you're not in the room – approximately one in four burglaries in the county still happen because doors have been left unlocked or windows left open
- Make sure your door is well lit and fully visible from the street – dusk-to-dawn lamp adaptors are available from DIY stores
- Check existing lighting is in good working order and replace any faulty equipment – remember to check batteries in torches and smoke alarms
- Keep shrubbery and hedges at the front of the house pruned to below one metre – remove any cover for a burglar to work unseen and give your neighbours every chance to spot something suspicious
- Keep curtains closed at night – if you are away, ask a trusted neighbour to close them for you, and open them again in the morning
- Secure sheds and outbuildings with good padlocks and consider fitting alarms. Lock all tools and ladders away securely

# 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.

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