



Rural Crime is a key priority in the Police and Crime Plan 2015-2018 as a result of consultation with Nottinghamshire residents. Rural crime in Nottinghamshire is defined as:

Any crime or incident of antisocial behaviour that takes place anywhere which Nottinghamshire County Council defines as a rural location.

Our Vision

Through effective use of policing resources, partnerships and community working, our aim is to reduce the volume of crime and ASB being committed in rural areas. We endeavour to continue bringing offenders to justice and increase your confidence in us.

Rural crime is unique and we acknowledge that policing the issues faced by our most isolated communities is different to urban crime, although some types of crime such as business crime, domestic violence or drink-driving can take place anywhere. Crimes related to farming and agriculture or wildlife and the environment need their own special understanding and dedicated teams.

In recent months much has been done to tackle crime in our rural communities, and further plans are in place for the future.



Crime Prevention Advice

Crime prevention guides developed specifically for people living in rural areas can be found on the force website via the following link:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/advice/ruralcrime>.

Members of the public can also sign up for local email updates via www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/alert which gives access to current offence details and local information specific to individual neighbourhoods.

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For further information about his work and intended plans, go to: <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk>

Tackling Rural Crime in Nottinghamshire





County Specials Proactive Rural Crime Team

Plans continue for new Rural Special Constables to tackle crimes in country areas. In August 2015 Nottinghamshire Police created its new Rural Special Constables team, based at Ollerton. Its members work proactively with our communities and Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs), and are trained to specialise in dealing with Rural Crime issues.

"This scheme focuses on reducing crime in our villages and parkland, on farms and agricultural land with a view to playing an increasingly important role in protecting our rural areas," explained Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping.

"One of my key priorities this year is the focus on rural crime and I hope that this scheme will be a significant stride forward in further tackling the criminals who cause harm and suffering in our more isolated places."

The team will look at rural crime patterns and provide community engagement, reassurance and problem solving designed to meet each community's needs. They will also be looking to help people protect their property strengthening the security in their homes and businesses.

They will focus on offences which impact upon forestry, conservation areas and agricultural land, and prevent and investigate crimes committed against

wildlife, such as cruelty, animal-baiting and poaching. They will have knowledge of rural crimes that range from stealing livestock or dogs, drug dealing and cannabis cultivation to theft from churches and churchyards. Reduction and prevention of criminal damage to graveyards, monuments, barns, fences, fields and crops will likewise fall within their responsibilities.

The team's training has been delivered by representatives from National bodies such as The Nottinghamshire Police Wildlife Crime Unit, The National Farmers Union, Historic England and others agencies which support the vitality and protection of the countryside.

Our Rural Specials have been trained to record a crime directly to force systems (a first for special constables in Nottinghamshire). This allows them to obtain details from the Police National Computer and seize evidence, and to deal with victims, witnesses and exhibits to the same high customer-focused standard as would be expected of our regular officers.

Their training will help them to do the job of policing the countryside. But effective engagement and interaction with community members, environmental, farming and conservation organisations is essential in work to deliver crime prevention and early intervention messages.



Community Road Safety

The first tranche of training for the Community Road Safety Programme has been completed and active citizens are joining with officers to keep the roads safe.

Members of the community in Bassetlaw, Rushcliffe and Gedling are working to keep their roads safe in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police and the local authorities.

The aims of the programme include providing reassurance to local communities and reminding everyone to stick to the speed limits, while identifying drivers who do speed on our rural roads.

The programme is building in popularity and overall feedback has been very positive. More areas are being considered for inclusion and existing schemes are regularly reviewed for their effectiveness.



County Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)

Our rural communities are susceptible to a range of crimes, especially burglary, being committed by criminals from surrounding counties or passing through Nottinghamshire. To help cut crime, a large scheme to monitor the number plates of vehicles passing in and out of the district is to be implemented in Bassetlaw after a successful pilot in Ashfield.

The cameras are only used to monitor activity thought to be connected with crime in the area.

Ashfield saw a burglary reduction of approximately 50% on the previous year following the installation of a ring of permanent number plate recognition cameras recording activity day and night. Its positive results have resulted in additional funding being secured so that Bassetlaw will benefit from the same system, supported by policing operations and mobile ANPR vans.

Working closely with Trading Standards, we are using our ANPR data to target rogue traders and criminals who use distraction techniques to rob the elderly and vulnerable.

Wildlife

Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Police and Environment Enforcement Officers have been working in partnership to reduce illegal fishing along the River Trent. A typical day sees over 40 rod licences checked.

The aim of the operation, as well as catching offenders, is to increase the visibility of police officers in rural communities. The positive response from anglers and very low number of licence offences have been very encouraging for the team, which is already planning future operations on different stretches of the river and other sites popular with anglers.

We have also now signed up to Operation Traverse - a multi-partnership operation that includes the Angling Trust and Environment Agency (EA). The scheme helps to raise awareness of fish theft and wider, related criminality and encourages a coordinated response to poaching.

Anglers are asked to report incidents and information to the police on 101 or to the EA on 0800 80 70 60.

Operation Nebraska 3

OPERATION NEBRASKA 3 has been set up to extend patrols in off road capable police vehicles and motorcycles to prevent the unauthorised and illegal use of woodlands, parks and rural areas by 4x4 vehicles and motors in the Sherwood Forest area, including Sherwood Pines, Black Hill, Browns Covert, Far Round Plantation, Strawberry Hill, Harworth Estates Sand Pit and Slag Heaps. We are planning on covering Harlow Wood area of the forests due to the high increase in complaints from the area.

In doing so, preventing damage and destruction to the environment and keep the public safe and free from harm and harassment caused by such vehicles whose users normally have no thought for the damage they cause or the risk they pose to walkers, cyclist or people riding horses.

