

Newsletter

The Rural Beat

South Worcestershire Police

Rural and Business Crime Team



John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia

Autumn 2020

'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.

Coronavirus (Covid-19): We're asking you please to only call 999 if it is an emergency and 101 if it is urgent. If you can, use our [online services](#). Please use this service to inform us if you feel there is a significant issue or serious breach of the 'stay at home' restrictions.

- [Our information and advice on coronavirus and policing](#)
- [NHS advice about coronavirus External Link](#)
- [Stay at home measures and other guidance on Gov.uk](#)

For those reading this electronically hover over the bullet points above and PRES CTRL +CLICK otherwise log onto <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/> for further information

URGENT ALERT



We have received
several reports of
pheasants being stolen
particularly in and
around the Pershore
area

Please be aware if you
are breeding or
releasing birds in the
South Worcestershire
area

TIP!

**If you have any information regarding any
crime you can contact police on 101, in an
emergency please dial 999.**

You can also contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to
report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.



Recent issues

Theft of Cycles. We are still seeing a spike in cycle thefts either from cycle parking areas and/or garden sheds. Please use two types of locks if parking in the street or chain together with other items in sheds. Use a simple battery PIR alarm to protect the shed. Smartwater kits are available if you contact us. Please see video clip <https://youtu.be/8U1Nq1CWWHY>

Theft of working dogs. Thankfully rare, very rare but nonetheless very upsetting for the owners. Just as a reminder all dogs over 8 weeks old must be microchipped which will assist in returning lost dogs to their owners. Also, there are some very good Pet tracking devices on the market. Just Google 'Dog Tracker'. Some of them will monitor just how much exercise they (and their human!) are actually getting!

Theft from Allotments. Recent spikes in theft of power tools and gardening equipment from allotment sheds. Please ensure that you secure these items and consider a simple battery powered alarm for the shed. Mark all property using Smart Water and/or permanent marking pen such as Cre-Mark <https://www.creproducts.co.uk/page/2/>

Contact the **Rural & Business Crime team** for help and advice

Theft of fish. Being taken from pools and lakes. If you suspect this is happening **please let us know** and note down any descriptions of persons or vehicles **If safe to do so**

Theft of Catalytic Converters. Taking place mainly on Vehicle Sales forecourts but also at car parks at businesses. Marking kits are available at <https://www.retainagroup.com/theirsr.html>



If you have any information please contact the Rural and Business Crime Team



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.

The initiative continues to receive funding and support from West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion.

It began in 2015 when the Police supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cleobury Mortimer parish council, provided each resident with a Smart Water Forensic Property Marking kit.

Signs were put in place in key locations warning criminals the parish had taken crime prevention measures. The initiative was so successful it was implemented in other towns and villages across the counties covered by West Mercia Police and we now have hundreds of towns and villages in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire signed up to the initiative.

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 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

Latest **We Don't Buy Crime Launch!**

A brand new trial scheme for **Farms** has recently been launched and all of these aspects are designed to aim to put criminals out of business. We do want to help communities make sure they are best placed to look after themselves and each other.

Initially focussing on repeat victims of Farm related crime the South Worcestershire

Rural & Business Crime team will provide Smart Water, appropriate signage and conduct security surveys of farm sites.



Meet the Rural & Business Crime Team

Pc Nigel Bolton, Pc Ben Trowman and 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 or call 07773050803

So, what are we up to?



Clockwise from the top, **1. Pc Nige Bolton** checking fishing pool for poachers **2. Mick Simpson** advising allotment holders how to protect their property **3. Team** has visited Car Boot sales checking for stolen property. **4. A new recruit** helping to protect a farm that has just received crime prevention

advice. **5. Mick Simpson** at Worcestershire County Cricket club who are helping us to advice cricket clubs in South Worcestershire on how to protect their property

Some of the team's other recent activities

12 Allotments were visited and offered crime prevention advice

22 farms across South Worcestershire having been subject to crime were visited and crime prevention advice given

17 rural businesses across South Worcestershire subject to crime were visited and provide with crime prevention advice

Meetings with Angling Trust to discuss joint working activities

Working with Worcester City Council to deter catalytic converter thefts from Royal Worcester hospital

Visiting Cycle shops to raise awareness of bike theft



Pc Nige Bolton had a meeting with 'Rudolf' to discuss Christmas this year and 'how Rudolf' could also deliver a crime prevention message with Santa's presents?

Further advice later in the year....it's only September!

Search dog assisting the team in a joint operation with Trading Standards and West Mercia Police to recover illegal tobacco from a local business



Highlighted Crime

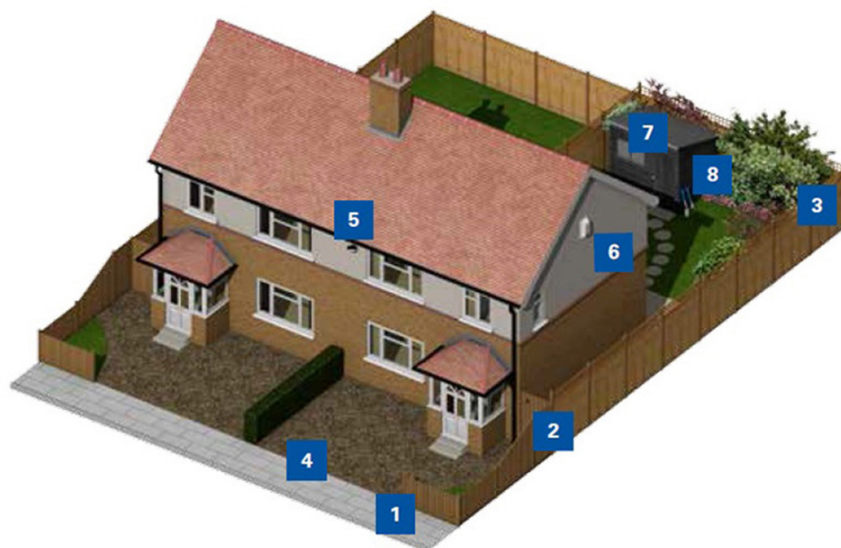
“Residential Burglary”



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



An Englishman's home is his castle but not all homes have a moat?
Consider how you would get into your own home if locked out? By doing this you will probably identify any weaknesses in your security



1. Low front boundary; keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.
2. Secure side gate; keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours.
3. High side and rear boundaries with trellis and spiky defensive planting; keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (over 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it harder for burglars to climb over.
4. Gravel driveway and path; gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.
5. Security light; install an outside security light so that intruders can't approach without being seen.
6. Intruder alarm system; install a burglar alarm system.
7. Secure your shed; always keep your shed locked and secured, and make sure it is anchored down to prevent it from being lifted in order to gain access. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles.
8. Never leave tools lying around as they can be used as a way of breaking into your home.

Lock all doors and windows using approved locks as below

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/standards-explained>

Make your valuables less attractive to thieves by using a property or police approved forensic marking solution only visible under Ultraviolet (UV) light. This can take the form of a special marker using ink or paint. Mark or etch your property with your postcode, house or flat number or the first three letters of your address.

All of these measures help police identify stolen goods, making it harder for thieves to sell.

Property marking isn't only for things like electrical items and bikes: you can also mark high-value belongings like antiques. We recommend that you get specialist advice before doing this.

Register your valuables using an accredited property database.

<https://www.immobilise.com/>

Take photographs and keep documents like receipts related to your property so you can prove ownership.



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.

If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999.

You can also contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.



Online Criminality

At last! There is now one email address you can report suspicious emails too

Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) 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).

If you receive an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email: report@phishing.gov.uk

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!