

Rural Task Force continue to recover suspected stolen property across Kent

Officers from the Rural Task Force respond to rural related thefts that include significant plant and agricultural machinery and have established proactive working relationships beyond local policing teams that include partner organisations who have confidence in our ability to react quickly and effectively to information as to where active acquisitive criminals operate and the location of stolen property. So far this year the RTF have recovered stolen property to the estimated value of £ 2,000,000. The 3 examples photographed opposite were possible following information received from the rural community via FarmWatch, working closely with a national intelligence unit, and from local knowledge of likely location of a stolen forklift. To assist us in recovering stolen property there needs to be an accurate record of the property on a Police system. Ensure any reports made of stolen property include full details. Visit Kent Police Website Crime Page for reporting and crime prevention advice.



RURAL TASK FORCE newsletter



Kent Police

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July 2024

Three new PCSO's joined the RTF in July and will further enhance community engagement activity with our rural community:

If you wish to meet the team we will be attending the following locations in August and come and find us for a chat:

- 11th August Fort Burgoyne Dover
- 17th & 18th August Biddenden Tractor Fest



Rural Task Force

Rural Inspector Inspector Tom Mepstead 07977 549099	Rural Sergeants
 Sergeant Darren Walshaw 07370 252185	 Sergeant Ross Haybourne 07815 501373
Rural Crime Co-ordinator Doug Robertson 07572 084578	North Division – 07528 839085 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC Marc Ferriscott PC Paul Williams PC Beth Ninnim PCSO John Cork

West Division – 07580 236308 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC Nick Lingham PC Anna Verrall PC Luke Jordan PC Tom Smith PCSO Amy Best PCSO Millie Smith PCSO Chris Ward-Davies 	East Division – 07980 978202 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC Harry Callaghan PC Mike Sutton PC Matt Lehman PC Amy White PCSO Debbie Fields PCSO Ian Norton
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RTF working with Local Authorities.

Kent Police Rural Task Force continue to support Local Authority Waste Enforcement Teams across the County supporting their investigative and enforcement work, that includes days of action of which 6 undertaken this month that resulted in 32 vehicle being stopped, 6 vehicles seized and fines issued for a variety of waste related offences and enhancing the intelligence picture around those involved in waste related offences.



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Large Scale Fly Tipping

Rural Task Force officers are working alongside Environment Agency to combat the increase in organised unlawful commercial fly tipping that usually take place in isolated rural locations. The Environment Agency are the responsible investigating authority and we share intelligence and support enforcement action against those responsible. Rural Task Force have developed our response to reports of large scale fly tipping that will enhance the investigative capability of this offence type. Rural Task Officers also attend identified fly tipping sites and will deal positively with any disclosed criminal or traffic matters.

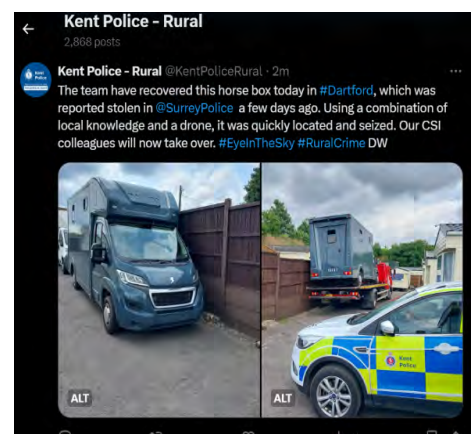
Fly Tipping is to be reported to your Local Authority (LA) who will triage the report to see whether it is a local matter for investigation or to be referred to the Environment Agency. It should also be reported to Kent Police and include a reference to it being reported to LA.



Rural Task Force locate stolen Horse Transporter

Surrey Police contacted the Rural Task Force following information that a stolen Horse Transporter was believed heading towards Kent. Interrogating ANPR systems and the use of a drone identified the location of the Horse Transporter and it was recovered by Police.

The Horse Transporter is being subjected to a CSI examination to identify suspects.



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Rural Task Force have produced a bespoke initiative to identification and recovery of stolen caravans. The movement of caravans increase in the summer period and the objective is to stop check caravans on the move and check that they are all in order. On the 26th July Rural Task Force pooled their resources for the day and operated a stop site where there was a high volume of tourist traffic.

Legitimate owners are provided crime prevention advice and reminded to register their caravans on the Central Registration & Identification Scheme (CRIS). Police patrols are equipped with CRIS scanners that allow for the swift alert that a checked caravan has been recorded stolen.

This initiative will be extended to other Police Forces in the region and part of future Rural Task Force enforcement at Dover Port.



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Stolen Trailers

Rural Task Force officers are investigating the report of Theft of these trailers. One of the trailers has a bespoke wooden top that may still be fitted. Anyone with any information please contact Kent Police quoting:

46/77908/24 (Wooden Top) or 46/125285



Rural Task Force **arrest Rogue Traders**

Intelligence was received regarding a property in Folkestone whereby an elderly resident had been the victim of a Fraud for a substantial amount of money. The tactic used by Rogue Traders is to select elderly or vulnerable persons and trick them into paying an excessive amount of money for poor or non-existent home improvement. Enquirers conducted by Rural Task have identified groups of Rogue Traders operating in Kent. The investigation is on-going and has led to two persons being arrested and other offenders being actively sought.

Here are some checks to be considered to avoid being a victim if a rogue trader;

- Rogue traders do not just cold-call at your door; they can have professional websites and place adverts in newspapers, magazines and other publications. They also operate leaflet dropping so be aware that not all leaflets are genuine.
- Ask friends and family for recommendations
- Carry out internet research including a check for any negative reviews
- Get at least three 'written' quotes for the work required, to include timescales, materials and clearing up (disposal of any waste)
- Ask to see a copy of their Public Liability Insurance
- Check what guarantees and warranties are offered and get them in writing
- Ask for references from previous customers
- Do not deal with anyone who refuses to take payment via cheque or bank transfer
- Get written receipts for any money paid

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