

RURAL CRIME SURVEY

In October 2023 we conducted a survey that many of you responded to, telling us what issues and priorities were important to you and what we should be focusing on.

We have used your feedback to shape our activities on the Rural Task Force since, tackling the problems most impacting on your quality of life in rural areas.

We intend to re-run the survey very shortly and we will be sending it out to you across our engagement platforms to ensure we are still focusing on the issues you feel are most important – your voice is important to us and we would actively encourage you to take part and tell us what you think.

Thank you for your support!



FARMING MACHINERY THEFT

Marked up over 5000 items of plant machinery using our property marking machine.

The team have recovered around 4,000 power tools, 21 vehicles, 16 caravans/motorhomes, 14 items of farm/plant machinery, 8 trailers, 6 ATV's, 6 excavators, 3 HGV's and 3 horseboxes. The total value of items recovered throughout 2024 is over £2,850,000.

Many of these items were seized during search warrants during which several individuals were arrested and remain subject to on-going investigations.



LIVESTOCK OFFENCES

Lead investigator on this issue, several cases in which dog owners charged with offences and taken to court with positive outcomes.



FLYTIPPING

The Rural Task Force worked closely with colleagues in local authorities and the Environment Agency to disrupt and enforce the law surrounding illegal waste disposal.

Undertaken 63 joint days of action with local authorities, and have conducted multiple joint visits and days of action in locations where large scale illegal waste disposal has been on-going.



EQUINE CRIME

29 horses recovered under the Force's Horse Recovery Scheme, also 3 stolen horse boxes recovered.



HERITAGE CRIME

Recovery of War Memorial plaques stolen from Hawkhurst, identified at an Auction House.



ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Proactive working with Community Safety Units to disrupt the persecution of wildlife/rural habitats and identification of offenders.



FUEL THEFTS

Developed response plan to provide an effective and consistent response, with a focus on and engagement with vulnerable sites in the spirit of crime prevention.



ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES

Worked closely with RSPCA to respond to incidents involving concern for animal welfare, re-planned visits to properties involving animal suffering.



POACHING OFFENCES

Responded to 50 cases countywide, worked in partnership with Natural England to share intelligence and proactively target offenders.

3 incidents of harecoarsing resulting in community resolutions and 1 case being sent to CPS.



NUISANCE OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Conducted numerous 'Days Of Action' to target the issue of off-road vehicles, working in partnership with Local Policing Teams using a dynamic approach to disrupt this activity, leading to section 59 warnings issued, and positive community engagement.