

Rural Matters



Rural policing in Kent – a magazine for residents and businesses

Winter 2019/20



In this issue:



**Kent
Police**



Poaching action update



Drone tracking crime



Crime prevention advice

Plus the latest news on rural and environmental policing in Kent

Welcome to Rural Matters


Welcome to Rural Matters. See inside for the latest on the Kent Police rural team. There are now more officers countywide dedicated to tackling and preventing crime in the countryside. We've the latest news on the Rural Task Force – officers there to protect and support Kent's rural communities.

Team Leader



Inspector
Dave Smith
07800 675376

Rural Sergeant



Sergeant
Darren Walshaw
07870 252185

North Division – 07528 989095

- PC Paul Williams
- PC Adrian Goodsall
- PC Nathan Southern



East Division – 07980 978202

- PC Dan Perry
- PC Tim Moody
- PC Harry Callaghan
- PC Michael Sutton

West Division – 07580 236308

- PC Marc Pennicott
- PC Tom Smith
- PC Nick Lingham
- PC Anna Verrall

Rural Crime Co-ordinator



Doug Robertson
07972 004578

More rural contact information, see back page.

Report non-urgent crime online



Go to www.kent.police.uk/report



Report a crime, incident or non-injury collision in minutes



Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately

To remain anonymous contact Kent Crimestoppers online or call **0800 555 111**.



Your rural PCs are also on Twitter!

The rural team regularly Tweets updates on what they've been doing and any live incidents.

Follow [@kentpolicerural](https://twitter.com/kentpolicerural) for the latest news and information.



Latest news

Rural Task Force week of action to tackle rural crime

From fly tipping to poaching and animal cruelty the Kent Police Rural Task Force teams up with local councils and the RSPCA to regularly target crime and offenders.

Badger baiting, hare coursing, night hawking, fly tipping and vehicle theft are just some of the issues dealt with. Rural Crime Week, which ran from 6 to 13 October, concentrated all the activities the rural team does day to day to tackle crime in the rural environment.

Throughout the week officers teamed up with local council enforcement officers to target fly tippers and the RSPCA to conduct warrants and help them gather evidence into animal cruelty offences.

Numerous vehicles were stopped in connection with waste carrying offences, with local authorities pursuing cases against those responsible. During one check officers stopped a Ford Transit in Strood which they found was not only involved in fly tipping but was also on false plates and had been stolen from London. The vehicle was seized. During the shift officers seized four more vehicles suspected of fly tipping (see page 10).

On the same evening in Doddington a vehicle was stopped and when searched officers seized catapults, ball bearings and knives, believed used in connection with poaching. All the items will now be destroyed.

The following day the officers attended a report of sheep worrying

in Sevenoaks where the farmer had managed to catch the dog chasing his flock. The team are working with the farmer and the dog's owner.

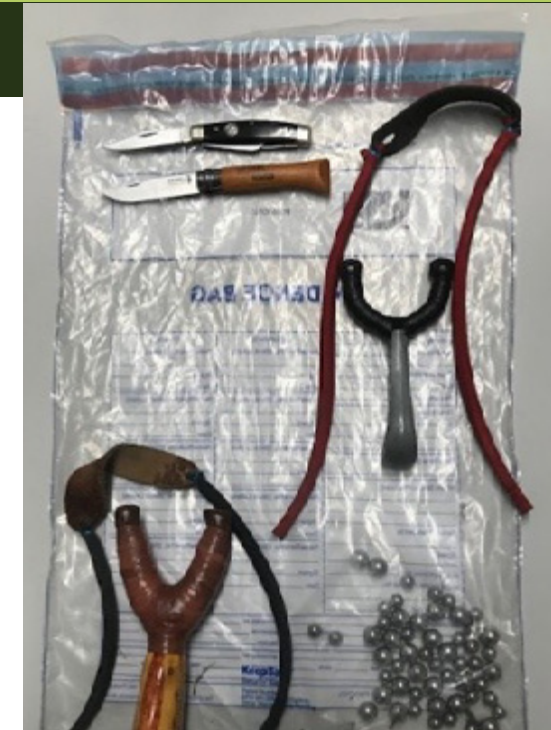
Rural officers joined the RSPCA on three warrants across the county, in relation to an investigation into badger cruelty. A number of dogs were seized from addresses in Ashford, Maidstone and New Romney (see page 9).

The team also stopped three men suspected of hare coursing in Chillenden. Their vehicle, a white Ford Transit, was not taxed and was seized.

On patrol in Doddington officers stopped a vehicle on the A2. The driver, from Medway, had been using a metal detector without permission from the landowner and had found several Roman coins. The artefacts were seized by the team, who are investigating. As well as successful stop checks, two stolen vehicles, a Landrover 90 and a quad bike were reunited with their rightful owners.

Rural Task Force Sergeant, Darren Walshaw said: 'The team had a number of busy shifts during Rural Crime Week, but it was very much business as usual. They are out on patrol every day in the rural areas of Kent to target and disrupt criminal activity.'

'People who live in rural communities often feel isolated and vulnerable and those involved in rural crime rely on the threats and intimidation for their actions not to be reported to the police. For more on poaching action, see page 4.'



However we remain committed to working with rural communities to make them feel safer and actively clamp down on the criminals who target them.

'Poaching and illegal hare coursing may not appear to be serious offences on the surface but often those involved in this are part of organised criminal networks. They cause thousands of pounds worth of damage to land, property and often use vehicles that are stolen or untaxed not to mention the cruelty they inflict on animals.'

For more on poaching action, see page 4.



Drone tracks suspected stolen vehicles

The use of drones is boosting the Rural Task Force's ability to track down stolen items.

Recently the team worked with Swale officers in the Sittingbourne area to find an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) stolen from Sittingbourne Golf Course on 18 November.

The drone also helped locate a stolen Transit Van in woodland and a suspected stolen red quad and four burned out vehicles.



Poaching and hare coursing update – Op Galileo

Information from the public and communities is vital to Rural Task Force officers investigating incidents of poaching across the county.

This autumn a number of calls were received from people concerned about illegal activity – such as hare coursing – and pheasants being shot with catapults. Rural Sergeant Darren Walshaw said: 'Hare coursing incidents have continued to be reported and it is important any such activity is recorded with the police. I was particularly saddened by the incident of dead hares being discarded in full public view in Stalisfield, this shows the complete disregard those involved have towards the hares and the rural community.'

'During the National Rural Crime Week of Action, RTF officers conducted four days of Op Galileo (anti-hare coursing/poaching). They are out on regular patrols at all times so please continue to report any suspicious vehicles or activity. We have night vision cameras, thermal imaging and now have a drone for the team to use.'

Recent activity involving vehicles driven over crop fields and dogs running freely after game, has been reported at Hart Hill, North Downs, Great Chart, Brooklands, Leysdown, Scooks Hill, Faversham, Doddington, Otterden, Rodmersham, Nackington, Chartham, Goodnestone and Burmarsh. Some vehicles were seized for forensic examination, suspects identified and investigations are continuing.

Incidents included:

- A report at Brookland via FarmWatch of padlocks being cut and vehicles driven over crops causing damage.
- Criminal damage reported at Hart Hill where a gate was smashed through and newly drilled field driven over.
- A member of the public reported day poaching with dogs pursuing and raising rabbits. The vehicle was stopped in the Leysdown area and five dogs and two dead rabbits found inside. The vehicle was seized.
- Suspicious activity reported at Scooks Hill, Faversham. A vehicle and occupants were



- searched under the Poaching Prevention Act with two catapults, ball bearings, folding knives and pheasant feathers located and seized.
- A driver was issued with a Section 59 warning in relation to his vehicle being seen driving off road at Goodnestone.
- Two men with lurcher type dogs seen pursuing hares at Elham. Police were called but they left with the dogs as soon as they realised they'd

- been seen by a witness.
- A number of incidents of pheasants being catapulted have been reported. One farmer discovered two boys attacking the birds in a pheasant pen. In Sevenoaks game keepers reported men had been seen attacking birds and Rural Task Force PCs are investigating a report of a dark red Jeep Cherokee driving across fields suspected of catapulting pheasants – the vehicle is being investigated.

Rise in catalytic converter thefts countywide – 4x4s targeted

Drivers are being advised to take steps to protect vehicles and report suspicious activity following a spate of catalytic converter thefts across Kent.

They are targeted because of the precious metals they contain – with high clearance vehicles like 4x4s, pick up trucks and vans particularly vulnerable to thieves sliding underneath to saw off the converter.

Since the summer there have been more than 170 reported thefts or attempted thefts countywide across a wide area from addresses around Sevenoaks, Dartford to Canterbury, Medway and Maidstone.

Catalytic converters have been fitted to the exhaust systems of most petrol vehicles built since the early 90s.

It is illegal to drive a vehicle without one and the subsequent gap left in exhaust systems makes vehicles run poorly.

Detective Superintendent Mark Weller said: 'This crime can have a big impact on victims as repairs can be costly and time spent without a vehicle can make it difficult for victims to go about their daily business.'

'We are keen to make motorists aware of the recent increase in catalytic converter thefts and ask them to take steps to protect vehicles from opportunistic thieves. Be vigilant and report anything to us straight away, including anybody seen acting suspiciously around vehicles.'

'As well as reviewing CCTV footage and working closely with partners, including car park operators, we are also engaging with scrap metal dealers to make it easier to trace sellers of stolen metal and identify any dealers who may be operating illegally.'



Protect your vehicle :

- Fitting perimeter security fencing can help deter opportunist thieves and slow down more organised thieves.
- Good security lighting makes vehicles more visible and can act as a deterrent.
- Park in a garage whenever possible.
- Consider installing good quality CCTV cameras.
- Security-mark and register the metal shell of the converter so it can be returned if stolen and recovered.
- Where possible park a vehicle against a kerb, with the catalytic converter being closest to the kerb.
- If there are a number of vehicles park low clearance vehicles to block the high-clearance ones to obstruct access.
- Fit protective coverings on catalytic converters to make it more difficult to steal (car manufacturers can advise on suitable clamps and security cages).
- Have catalytic converters etched or forensically marked and put stickers in the windscreen to say this has been done.

Farm Watch WhatsApp – sharing information to beat crime

Community involvement is the key to the success of the online messaging system – Farm Watch WhatsApp.

The scheme allows the fast time sharing of information between the team and the community. Its increasing success is as a result of community support, with an encouraging number of members growing daily.



Farm Watch WhatsApp is a tool to share information directly with the team and not to be used to report crime. Any crimes should be reported in the usual way; 999 if a crime is in progress or 101 and online if non-urgent and don't forget the Country Eye App.



Tractor with tracker traced

A tractor reported stolen from Egerton was fitted with a tracker. A quick response from the rural team and information shared via the WhatsApp group for UK plant theft resulted in an extensive search. The tractor was eventually located by Sussex Police and recovered.

Rural Task Force Sergeant Darren Walshaw said: 'I would like to remind machinery owners to please record all serial numbers, take photos and consider additional markings such as DNA solutions and tracker devices. All of which will assist the police in recovering property should it be stolen.'

Missing Landrover traced

A Land Rover stolen from the Luddesdown area was found by Rural Task Force officers PCs Anna Verrall and Nick Lingham patrolling near woodland near Cuxton.

The owners had posted the theft from their drive on social media and feared the vehicle wouldn't be traced. But checks of the chassis number revealed it was the stolen Land Rover.

Police are investigating.





Stay safe and prevent crime at home this winter

Beat the fraudsters – be alert, be aware

Isolated rural areas can be targeted by rogue traders, bogus callers and opportunist thieves.

Vulnerable, elderly and isolated people can also fall prey to scams over the phone or by email.

Police Community Support Officers recently visited a group of pensioners in the Maidstone area to update them on the latest frauds being used by criminals.

They gave advice on how to stay safe and avoid becoming victim to opportunist criminals at home and when out and about.

Inspector Mark Hedges of Maidstone's Community Support Unit said: 'My officers regularly visit older residents and other vulnerable groups to prevent members of their communities becoming victims of crime. Unfortunately ruthless criminals will pretend to be from a trusted organisation to gain access to somebody's house or bank account to steal cash.'

'A bank, building society or public organisation will never contact a member of the public asking for their account details or seeking to collect their money by courier.'

'The advice was much appreciated by the group who were not aware of some of the methods used by criminals to steal their money and other valuables.'

- Never give any personal details, end the call immediately and wait at least five minutes before using your phone to clear your line from the fraudster.
- If you have any doubts about whether a caller at your door is genuine, ask them to leave and come back at a time convenient to you and when you've had a chance to ask someone to be with you. Call the police if you suspect cold callers may be bogus.

'A bank, building society or public organisation **will never contact** a member of the public asking for their account details or seeking to collect their money by courier'

Inspector Mark Hedges, Community Support Unit, Maidstone

Case 1 - attempted phone scam in Marden

A Marden householder was contacted by a suspected fraudster claiming to be a police officer.

The woman received a call on 22 November from someone claiming they worked for the Metropolitan Police and two men had been arrested using her bank cards.

She was suspicious and didn't provide any bank details, ending the call. Checks revealed no cards had been stolen. Inspector Hedges said: 'In many cases, having convinced a person the money in their account is at risk, the con people tell them to withdraw the cash to keep it safe and to meet a 'courier' who will collect it. Unfortunately those who are targeted are often the most vulnerable. A police force will never ask a member of the public for their bank details or money over the phone and my advice to anyone who is not confident a person claiming to be a police officer is genuine, to ask for their details and then end the call.'

Case 2 - fraudulent caller offers drain service in Canterbury

A cold caller defrauded an elderly man after he received an unsolicited call claiming to be from a well-known drainage company.

The incident on 12 November resulted in the victim paying money over the phone for services which weren't delivered after being told urgent repair work was needed on his drain or his property would flood. Two days later the same suspect called again to request more funds, which weren't transferred.

Inspector Guy Thompson, from Kent Police Canterbury Community Safety Unit, said: 'This is an unscrupulous offence. People involved in this type of offending are speculative and opportunistic and unfortunately tend to target those who they believe to be vulnerable. I would encourage people to be vigilant and not feel pressured into handing over personal details or money.'



Wait five minutes to clear a call.



Scams – further advice

- After ending a suspicious call (wait for at least five minutes for the call to clear) then contact **101** or **999** in an emergency. A call handler will be able to verify whether your caller was genuine.
- Never hand over any money, or other items, to a courier after receiving this type of call.
- Suspicious incidents can also be reported to Action Fraud by calling **0300 123 2040** or online by visiting **www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud**
- Call Crimestoppers, anonymously, on **0800 555 111**.

Use timers on internal lights.



Keep your home safe

As part of Kent Police's campaign against burglary this winter, officers are reminding people to review the security of their homes and take simple steps to help deter burglars. This includes:

- Make sure your house is not the only one in the street left in darkness. Use timers on internal lighting, and arrange for people to visit the property while you are away;
- Lock away bikes, tools and garden items which could be stolen or used to break into your home.
- Install a safe, bolted to a solid wall or floor or hidden in a cupboard.
- Dispose of packaging and boxes carefully – don't advertise what is inside your home

Prevent burglary – don't leave keys on display

Householders are being warned not to leave house or car keys on display when they go to bed to prevent opportunistic burglaries.

It follows a theft in Wye on 2 December between 10pm and 6.05am where a silver iPhone 7 and a purse containing bank cards and cash were stolen.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Kirsty Gee said: 'It is believed the offenders got into the home by reaching through the letterbox and turning the key which was left in the door.'

'It is an unusual method to steal but we are asking people to avoid leaving their house or car keys on display when they go to bed to make it tougher for any opportunistic burglars.'

Anyone with information quote 46/231662/19.



Keep keys and valuables out of sight.

Protect cash, jewellery and valuables at home

Store valuable jewellery and cash securely to prevent opportunist burglaries.

Recently in Folkestone, Lympne and Hythe three burglaries and one attempted burglary were reported over two days. Victims reported cash and jewellery, including diamond and emerald rings and gold watches, stolen.

Simple steps to help keep homes secure:

- Keep jewellery, keys and expensive items out of view.
- Avoiding keeping large amounts of cash at home.
- Use a bank safety deposit box for expensive items.
- Record and photograph gold and jewellery and keep details somewhere safe.
- Get gold and other jewellery valued and insured.
- Security-mark items with a suitable product.
- Consider installing security systems such as alarms and CCTV.

Consider fitting an alarm or CCTV.





Rural Special Constables – new unit out and about to keep communities safe

The Rural Task Force is now regularly supported by a team of rural special constables.

The seven officers are all dedicated to rural policing and cover North, West and East Divisions alongside their RTF colleagues.

They regularly join operations and work with RTF officers in the community – covering isolated areas to help prevent crime, tackle offences and reassure residents.

The volunteer officers, who all have the same powers as regular officers, have already been involved in a proactive fly tipping enforcement campaign in East Division that saw vehicle seizures and Fixed Penalty Notices issued in partnership with local authorities.

Rural Special Chief Inspector Adam Houghton said: 'Special constables are there to support our regular colleagues, and by creating this team to work so closely alongside the RTF, we hope to further increase the already established bond between the rural communities and the Rural Task Force. Special constables come from all backgrounds of society, from all areas of the county, many rural, so they know better than most the impact rural crime has and how important having



Assistant Chief Constable Nicola Faulconbridge, Kent Special Constabulary Chief Officer Gavin McKinnon, Gary Walters, Chairman of the Country Land and Business Association, Special Sergeants Chris Hales and Scott Dawson, and Special Inspector Ben Harris

a visible presence in those areas can be.'

Rural Inspector Dave Smith said: 'The effectiveness of Rural Policing in Kent relies heavily on the trust and confidence forged with rural communities and stakeholders. 'Citizens in Policing' plays a significant part in maintaining a visible and accessible presence in rural communities and it is this aspect that the Rural Task Force (RTF) has fully embraced. Volunteer Police Cadets, Citizens in Policing Volunteers and the Special Constabulary all have a part to

play in delivering rural policing.

'The RTF has recently integrated rural specials to work closely with them. By providing support and development they are able to mirror the regular officers' capabilities and provide additional resources when addressing community concerns and preventing seasonal crimes. I'm keen to see the number of rural specials increase to match the levels of the RTF as with ongoing support and development the benefits are clearly being seen.'

Action under badger protection legislation

An investigation into dogs being used to fight and kill badgers and foxes saw additional policing teams supporting Rural Task Force and RSCPA special investigators.

Search warrants were carried out at addresses in Maidstone, New Romney and Ashford under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and Badgers Act.

The RSPCA special investigation team was supported by Rural Task Force Officers and Divisional Support Officers from Maidstone and Community Policing Team officers from Folkestone. The action follows reports of alleged illegal activity involving dogs following warrants executed by the Rural Task Force in March.

Four suspects were identified and interviewed for offences relating to Badger Persecution and Animal Welfare offences. The RSPCA investigation is ongoing.

Tortoises recovered by officers

Officers are investigating after three Sulcata Tortoises believed to have been brought into the UK illegally, were seized from an address in North Kent.

Rural Task Force North PC Paul Williams received a report that the four tortoises had been illegally imported into the UK from Morocco through Gatwick Airport. Three hatchling tortoises were recovered from three separate addresses in the Dartford area, a fourth tortoise sadly died during transportation into the UK.

The remaining tortoises are now safe at Heathrow Animal Reception Centre. Two adult suspects were issued with written warnings and their details passed to Border Force and CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

The Rural Task Force team are all qualified Wildlife Crime Officers.



Working together to tackle equine crime – World Horse Welfare Conference

The way partnership working is helping target equine crime around animal welfare, fly grazing and tack and trailer theft and other local and global issues was discussed at the World Horse Welfare Conference.

Attended by Inspector Dave Smith and Sergeant Darren Walshaw of the Rural Task Force, the event at the Royal Geographical Society, London, on 13 November was an opportunity to share important updates and meet and work with international delegates around the common cause of reducing equine crime and improving equine welfare.

Insp Smith, who is the National Equine Crime Priority Delivery Group Chair, and Sgt Walshaw, met World Horse Welfare President Princess Anne, who listened to Inspector Smith's presentation to the 450 strong audience.

He said: 'The conference was an opportunity to showcase the excellent partnership work that is being done in England and Wales. Equine crime is being reduced nationally by sharing best practice in areas of prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance. It was an ideal opportunity to meet and work with many new and existing stakeholders all with a common cause to reduce equine crime and improve equine welfare globally. The conference was also being live-streamed globally.'

Having explained what the national equine aims and objectives were, Inspector Smith advised the conference on who helps achieve them, giving examples of excellent work around intelligence and enforcement work in Kent, fly-grazing and neglect in Durham and preventative work in Warwickshire. Delegates from Africa, Canada, Belgium and Australia gave positive feedback about the work being done.

Kent update:

- 52 horses have been seized during 2019 (some for welfare issues).
- A welfare incident in Tunbridge Wells in July, posted on social media, is being pursued with the RSPCA.
- Two fly grazing sites in East Kent are being monitored by the RSPCA.
- Four Ifor Williams trailers stolen (one recovered in a pub car park)
- Funding secured for deterrence equipment (security marking etc)

Horse seizure policy

Seized horses are only in Kent Police's possession for 21 days maximum. Officers try to locate owners and put up posters. When owners come forward they are required to pay a fixed tariff. Any horse unclaimed after 21 days is rehomed.



Inspector Dave Smith of the Rural Task Force addresses the conference

Stolen horse box traced via the Country Eye App

Police were notified through Country Eye of an abandoned horse box trailer in a small country lane at Yalding. Rural Task Force officers recovered the trailer, which was suspected to be stolen, for examination. They were able to identify the owner.

Rural Task Force Sergeant Darren Walshaw said: 'This was a good example of the use of the Country Eye App to help us trace and return a stolen horse box trailer to its rightful owner.'



Country Eye

The Crime Rural Advisory Group (CRAG) in Kent commissioned the Country Eye app to help rural communities and farmers report information quickly.

www.countryeye.co.uk



Fly Tipping – police work with councils countywide to tackle offenders

Fly tipping is on the increase nationally – with more than one million incidents dealt with across the UK last year.

In Kent the Rural Task Force officers in North, West and East Divisions regularly work together with local council enforcement officers to take action under Operation Assist to deal with the problem of illegal waste carrying and the dumping of rubbish which scars the countryside for communities countywide.

Rural Sergeant Darren Walshaw said: 'Fly tipping is a large scale issue which blights both rural areas and our town centres. It is often the result of organised criminality that causes considerable distress to many people.'

'We are continuing to work closely with our partners, including the local authorities, to ensure those engaged in fly tipping face the consequences of their actions, but we also need help from local residents.'

'If you are paying anyone to remove waste from your home, for example as a result

of building work, always ensure you check that the person is licensed to do so. Remember to report anything suspicious by calling 101 or 999 if a crime is in progress.'

Recent action included two vehicles seized during a day of action in Maidstone in November. Rural Task Force officers working with Maidstone Borough Council issued a number of fines around the illegal movement and disposal of waste. In total 10 vehicles were stopped for checks, resulting in fines totalling £900.

It followed Operation Assist action in the previous months with Rural Task Force officers working with Swale Borough Council, Thanet and Medway enforcement officers which included investigating waste collection and burning following complaints from local residents, illegal waste collection, seizure of vehicles, and the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices.

The number of Fixed Penalty Notices increased nationally by 11 per cent in 2018/19.

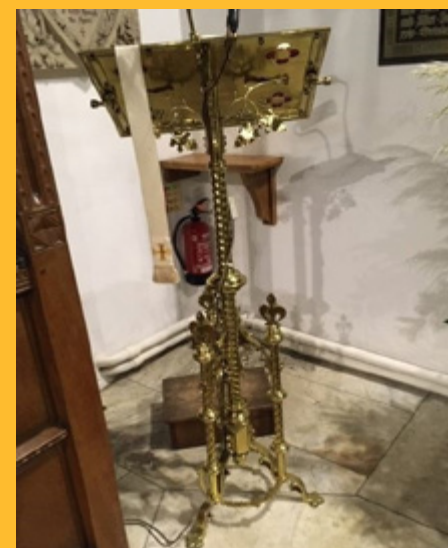


Update:

- A fly-tipping offence is committed when a person illegally dumps household, industrial, commercial or other waste without a licence.
- Fly-tipping is punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment if an offender is convicted in a Magistrates' Court, but sentences can be more severe if dealt with by a Crown Court.
- Councils reported 1,072,000 incidents of illegal dumping in 2018/19, reaching the highest level since 2008/09 – a three per cent rise on 998,000 in 2017-18 (two thirds of incidents were household waste).
- The most common size category for fly-tipping incidents in 2018/19 was equivalent to a 'small van load' (33 per cent of total incidents), three per cent of total incidents were of 'tipper lorry load' size or larger.

(Figures Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Can you help?



Lectern stolen from church

Police are trying to trace a brass Victorian lectern stolen from a church in Edenbridge.

The heavy ornate stand was taken from the Holy Trinity Church in Crockham Hill during the day on 6 November 2019. Anyone who noticed anything suspicious in the area, or has information should contact police.

Quote reference 46/216018/19.



Have you seen missing figurine?

Detectives investigating a burglary in Staplehurst have issued a photograph of a stolen statuette. The break-in happened at a house in Pristling Lane between 21 August and 21 September 2019, and other property stolen included two watches and jewellery.

Investigating officer, Detective Constable Andy Julier said: 'We are now able to issue a photograph of one of the stolen items, a limited edition cartoon figurine, and I am hoping somebody may have seen it since the burglary and get in contact.'

Quote reference 46/186084/19.

Stolen antique clock has sentimental value

This distinctive antique carved oak clock was reported stolen from a house near Dover.

DC Darren Brough said: 'This clock is of great sentimental value to the victim and we would urge anyone who knows where it might be or has been offered it for sale to contact us straight away.'

The Westminster Whittington antique was stolen in St Margaret's Bay between 25 November and 2 December 2019. It is around 23 inches high. Quote reference 46/230378/19.



Do you have information about a crime?

Calls to the independent charity Crimestoppers are anonymous. You can call **0800 555 111** or use the anonymous online form at **Crimestoppers-uk.org**

Police work with Heritage Watch to protect the county's history.

www.heritagewatch.co.uk



Stolen irrigation pump generator seized

A generator worth £26,000 belonging to a stolen irrigation pump has been seized by Rural Task Force officers.

It followed the arrest of the driver of an Irish registered HGV by rural officers in September. The items were recently identified as belonging to the large Environment Agency pump, stolen from West Hythe on 8 August. Two stolen trailers are still outstanding.

Rural officers help trapped elderly motorists

It was a team effort when two elderly women were reported to be trapped in a vehicle in a ditch off a country lane track between Hollingbourne and Harrietsham.

The Roads Policing Unit, local patrols and Kent Fire and Rescue Service attended and the women were extricated from the vehicle and taken to hospital. Rural Task Force officers worked with a local farmer with a tractor to recover the car.



Ploughing match engagement

Rural Task Force Officers attended the North Kent Ploughing Match in Dartford. They met with National Farmers Union Kent Chairman Toby Williams to discuss rural crime matters and to any issues or concerns with other stakeholders and farmers.

Could you be #MoreThanTheBadge?

Kent Police is recruiting more officers in 2020 and looking for people looking for a new challenge.

The role of a Police Constable can be demanding but it's that variety which makes it one of the most rewarding jobs around. Every day presents a new challenge, dealing with different situations to keep people and property safe.

You'll be responsible for prevention and detection of crime and working as part of a close team to serve the diverse communities and businesses of Kent.

Kent Police has over 30 specialist teams – from rural policing to public order, child protection and cyber crime.

To find out more about force recruitment www.kent.police.uk/jobs

**I am more than the voice that calms.
The strength that protects.**



I am a Kent Police officer.

Partnerships

Rural team working with partners to protect rural communities



The team use their expertise to support Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams, PCSOs or core response officers. The team are all fully trained Wildlife Crime Officers.



Retweeted by @kentpolicerural

Yet another stolen Land Rover! Our Defender was taken from the drive in Luddesdowne on Friday evening. Sharing locally would be appreciated, although I expect we won't see it again!



This Land Rover was located by Rural Task Force officers patrolling in woodland near Cuxton.

Remember to
follow the team on Twitter:
[@KentPoliceRural](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceRural)



Key partners working with Kent Police to keep rural communities safe

CRAG – Crime Rural Advisory Group

CRAG, formed in 2012, brings together main rural stakeholders, including the National Farmers Union and Country Land & Business Association – representing a large percentage of land occupancy countywide. They bring their own insights to CRAG to help keep Kent Police informed on ever-changing issues in rural Kent.

www.btfpartnership.co.uk email: michael.bax@btfpartnership.co.uk phone: **Michael Bax 01233 740077**

Kent Association of Local Councils

KALC is a not for profit membership organisation serving member parish and town councils and parish meetings in Kent and Medway. It offers training, advice and services to member councils. KALC works with rural officers to disseminate information on their behalf, and to gather crime information from towns and parishes.

www.kentalc.gov.uk email: kalc@kentalc.gov.uk phone: **01304 820173**

National Farmers Union

The NFU champions British farming and provides professional representation and services to its farmer and grower members. Around 70 per cent of full time farmers are NFU members. They aim to support Kent Police to engage with members' extensive local knowledge, working in partnership with CRAG and other stake holder organisations.

www.nfuonline.com email: isobel.bretherton@nfu.org.uk phone: **01730 711950**

Kent Fire and Rescue Service

Kent Fire and Rescue Service is responsible for delivering fire and rescue services to more than 1.7 million people. Each year fire officers deal with around 16,500 incidents including road crashes, house and barn fires and more than 2,400 non-fire rescues. KFRS works with the Kent Police, NFU, and CRAG to provide safety and risk reduction advice to support the agricultural business community.

www.kent.fire-uk.org email: enquiries@kentfire-uk.org phone: **01622 692121**

Historic England

Historic England is a public body which looks after England's historic environment. There are over 400,000 protected sites and buildings in England and Historic England works across a range of partnership to prevent the loss and damage to our shared cultural heritage. Former Kent police officer Mark Harrison advises the organisation and works closely with rural officers and CRAG.

www.historicengland.org.uk email: southeast@HistoricEngland.org.uk phone: **01483 252020**

