

# FARM *watch*



Bulletin Number: 6

Date: 14th January 2010

A very Happy New Year to you all and I hope that you have had a fantastic time over the festive season. Obviously the weather conditions are probably hampering you from getting on with the day job, but hopefully this will come to an end very soon.

The year has got off to a slow start generally for the Rural Crime Team. But things are now starting to get busier.

## **Landrover Defender Thefts**

We had a spate of Landrover Defender thefts back in October 2009 and at that time there were 8 stolen in one month. Then things went quiet again. There were two stolen in December and there have been three stolen thus far in January 2010. There is no pattern to the thefts and it is happening across the county. The Rural Crime Team are taking these on, and will be liaising with adjoining Forces to deal with the problem. Please ensure that you lock up your vehicles.

For all the focus is predominately on Landrover Defenders there have been thefts of other 4 x 4 vehicles too.

## **Hare Coursing**

Hare coursing incidents have slightly decreased on this time last year. There have been 20 reported incidents. There have been three offenders arrested on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2009, and they have been charged with Daytime Trespass in Pursuit of Game, and waiting to attend court.

## **Credit Crunch**

Not surprisingly the credit crunch has led to an increase from farms and rural areas. We have noticed in the north of the county an increase in thefts of Cotswold Stone. Across the county as a whole there have been several incidents reported of theft of bales of hay. Diesel and oil thefts are still occurring. To date in 2010 I am not aware of any, however the price of fuel is reported to steadily rise of the next twelve months and so we are expecting thefts of fuel to rise.



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There are alarm systems on the market for fuel tanks and if you want advice regarding these then can you contact the rural crime team inbox or leave a message and I will get the crime prevention officers to get in touch.

Further to this we are receiving increased reports of Deer Poaching, unfortunately it tends to be after the event and there is the evidence of the poaching activity but the offenders are long gone.

## **Metal Thefts**

We have seen a decline in metal thefts following some good arrests at the end of December 2009. This will no doubt start up again after the effects of the arrests have worn off. Keep sending in information regarding the suspicious vehicles/people etc, without this we don't get a full picture of what is going on.

## **Crime Prevention**

I have two Crime Prevention Officers in my department that are happy to come to your homes/farms etc and carry out security surveys. So if you do want any crime prevention advice can you send an e-mail to the rural crime team inbox: [ruralcrimeteam@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ruralcrimeteam@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk) or leave a message on our voice mail 08454087000 x 723548.

You may find the below advice useful regarding property marking.

## **PROPERTY MARKING**

Every year police recover thousands and thousands of pounds worth of property from the hands of criminals. One of the biggest drawbacks in an investigation is trying to trace the owners of this property. Being able to trace the ownership of the property not only helps the owner to get the property back, but it can also provide evidence that is vital in securing convictions.

There are several different ways of marking your property depending on the type of object you want to mark, and modern technology is introducing new and better systems all the time. Before marking any valuable items (those individually identified on your household insurance) check with your insurance company that they are happy for you to do so.



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What should you mark? Anything you would like to have returned to you be it valuable or sentimental.

## **MARK IT – PROTECT IT**

### **Property Marking Solutions**

These solutions are a recent addition to the property marking field, and contain artificial DNA, UV, Micro dots, or a mixture of two or three of these elements. The clear solution is easily painted onto even small items of property, and the unique code is registered to you individually. Once dry the solution is only visible under UV light. When you have marked your property and registered your contact details on the company's database, this makes the property traceable and identifiable to you and only you.

### **Ultra Violet Pens**

Quick, easy and cheap, marking your property with your postcode and house number with a UV pen is one of the most popular ways of making your property identifiable. However, it is not suitable for small items, such as jewellery, and has to be checked every 12 months as it can fade, especially if exposed to heat or sunshine.

### **Engraving/Etching**

Property can be engraved by using scribing pens, ceramic marking pens or electric hand engravers. Etching applies a unique reference number to your property using a chemical solution and stencil. Both of these methods are permanent and visible and can be used to mark china, glass, bikes (except high performance aluminum frames), lawnmowers, engines and other heavy metal objects.

### **Stamping/Punching**

Stamping your postcode on sturdier items with a hammer and a set of punches is a permanent way of marking them. This method is especially suitable for tack

## **MARKING YOUR PROPERTY MAKES IT TRACEABLE AND LESS ATTRACTIVE TO THIEVES**



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WHICH EVER METHOD OF PROPERTY MARKING YOU USE LET THE CRIMINAL KNOW YOUR PROPERTY IS IDENTIFIABLE. Use the stickers that are supplied with a purchased product, or ask one of the Wiltshire Police Crime Prevention Officers for a poster.

## **Immobilise**

Registering your property helps to combat the sale of stolen goods by alerting the second-hand trade of ownership through the unique markings you have on your property, the most common of which is the serial number.

We recommend registering your property and details for free on the Immobilise website (<http://www.immobilise.com>). This website is used by police forces throughout the country to help identify the owners of lost or stolen goods.

I hope you found this useful. I will be on leave for the next two weeks, so can you forward anything to the rural crime team inbox.

A reminder of our contact details:

PC Tony Miles: 0845 408 7000 ext 730819 or mobile: 07817689640

PC Mark Randle: 0845 408 7000 ext 724515 or mobile: 07952989999

PCSO John Bordiss: 0845 408 7000 ext 739817 or mobile: 07968942116

PS Andrea Faircloth: 0845 408 7000 ext 723421 or mobile: 07855265975

E-mail address [ruralcrimeteam@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ruralcrimeteam@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

If you want to leave a message on our voice mail telephone 08454087000 x 723548

Thank you again for all of your support, keep it up, and I will be in touch soon.

PS 693 Andrea Faircloth

