



Welcome Cleveland Police's Rural Newsletter from our Rural Crime Team!

The Rural Crime Team continues to crack down on rural crime/incidents, supported by officers from force control room, neighbourhood policing teams, the drone unit, Special Constables, intelligence officers and rural volunteers.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Karel Simpson (who I am sure most will have met!). Karel recently won the silver award for his dedication and professionalism as a rural volunteer.

Our partnership approach alongside eight neighbouring police forces (Cumbria, Durham, Humberside, Lancashire, Northumbria, North Yorkshire and South Yorkshire) has produced some excellent results:

- **Operation Hawkeye** – Sharing of rural crime intelligence
 - Arrests of Cleveland nominals travelling to neighbouring forces to commit rural crime
 - Stolen property recovered
 - Quad bikes, motorcycles, plant machinery, power tools, cash seized
 - Arrests of nominals travelling into Cleveland to commit crime
 - Targeted through intelligence
 - Stop/searches etc
- **Operation Galileo** – Sharing of hare coursing intelligence
 - Fifteen warning letters served to Cleveland nominals suspected of hare coursing during 2023
 - Three Cleveland nominals served with a Community Protection Warning (CPW) (previously served with a warning letter but continued hare coursing)
 - If these nominals continue hare coursing they will be served with a Community Protection Notice (CPN) and eventually dealt with by the courts



- **Operation Checkpoint** – Northern Region Rural Crime Operation
 - Four joint operations took place in 2023, with each operation covering 7 nights.
 - Cleveland officers visited over 350 farms, over 50 vehicles were stopped, vehicle/person searches carried out, motoring offences identified, arrests made, poachers apprehended & intelligence gathered

After evaluating feedback gathered through engaging with our rural communities (obtained via a recent rural survey, Tees Rural Crime Forums and high visibility patrols) it became apparent that the main concern was how Cleveland Police responded to rural crime incidents.

To help improve officers' knowledge and understanding of rural crime, the Rural Crime Team spent several months delivering classroom-based awareness sessions to all force control room and frontline officers.

The awareness sessions helped to improve how initial reporting calls made to force control room are prioritised and, more importantly, how quickly frontline officers are tasked to attend or deal with incidents.

One extremely positive example being...

A member of the public telephoned Cleveland Police to report seeing several males armed with shotguns hunting grouse on moorland in the Moorsholm area.

Frontline officers were immediately dispatched; three males detained, and a grouse and a shotgun seized.

- The three males were formally interviewed and reported for summons
- The three males were found guilty at Teesside Magistrates Court, and fined

Our plan for 2024

The new year will bring with it more challenges. Therefore a dedicated team of Special Constables will be formed and their role will be to carry out high visibility patrols and engagement activities, and to respond to incidents in rural communities.

Keeping You Informed

We aim to keep you up to date with our progress via this newsletter.

We will also hold a quarterly Tees Rural Crime Forum

The next Tees Rural Crime Forum takes place on:

- Wednesday 24th January 2024
- 10.30am – 12.30pm
- Kirkleatham Police HQ
Troisdorf Way
Redcar
TS10 5AP
- Email invitations will follow

How to Report Rural Crime

Cleveland Police takes all reports seriously. Help us crack down on rural crime by reporting incidents as soon as they take place:

- Call 999 in an emergency
- Call 101 to report a crime which is not an emergency
- Report online at www.cleveland.police.uk
- Download the Cleveland Online Policing App (COPA) or scan the QR code below
- For general queries please email: Lee.Mapplebeck@cleveland.police.uk

