

Rural Task Force



This period has continued to be busy for the Rural Task Force, which has include the National Rural Week of Action for Rural Affairs and Wildlife Crime.

The action for this week was very much business as usual. The Rural Task Force conducted 4 days of Op Galileo (anti-hare coursing/poaching) , 2 days of fly tipping enforcement with local authorities, 1 day executing 3 warrants in relation to Badger Persecution with the RSPCA, 1 day on Operation Traverse (fish poaching)patrols with angling trust and Environment Agency. Four warrants were executed, with 3 arrests and 5 non-custodial interviews. 13 vehicles were seized during operations for various offences and 6 Traffic Offence Reports were completed. 41 Intelligence reports, 41 Fixed Penalty Notices, 2 Section 59 warnings, and 2 Community Protection Warnings (CPW) given. 28 exhibits were seized in relation to badger persecution and 2 Livestock worrying incidents attended. 2 "night hawking" heritage crime theft was established and is being investigated. Good planning with partner agents ensured these results were attained, and publicised in local media for community reassurance. BBC Inside Out (South East) were out with the RTF filming a piece on rural crime enforcement and our PCC also visited repeat victims of crime to listen to their experiences

You will see from the below report the team have been working hard in relation to Op Galileo, Theft of Machinery, Livestock worrying and Fly Tipping to name a few topics. I would like to remind machinery owners to please record all serial numbers, take photos consider additional markings such as DNA solutions and tracker devices. All of which will assist the police in recovering your property should it be stolen.

Here is a snapshot of the work carried out by the Rural Liaison Team (RLT) over the last six weeks.

Rural Theft

Officers engaged in the search for a stolen tractor from Egerton. The tractor was fitted with a tracker and information shared via WhatsApp group for UK plant theft. Extensive area search carried out and tractor eventually located by Sussex Police and recovered. Victim updated and pleased with Kent Police quick response.

Information received via Farm Watch refers to a theft of a quad from a Farm in Newchurch. The vehicle was parked overnight in an open lean-to attached to a barn at the farm. The vehicle is a green Yamaha Big Bear 350cc with an Enduromax sprayer attached to the back. The images were shared over FARMWATCH. This vehicle was located later the next day in a maize field at Ruckinge by a farmer cutting his crop.



RTF officers attended a location in Headcorn to assist with the recovery of a Stolen caravan from 2013. Caravan had been stolen in Warwickshire. Occupants claimed the caravan belonged to some Romanian males who had been working for people on the site but had left.



Rural Task Force responded to a tracker activation in Medway following information from a company called CANTRACK that items stolen from a Burglary the previous night in Rainham had been possible traced. Some of the items stolen were showing at a location on the Medway City Estate. RTF attended the site and shortly after, the tracking activation showed the items were on the move. A White Ford Transit had left the location as Police arrived. The location of the tracked items was relayed by RTF to other Tac Ops resources and the subject Transit was sighted in Higham. The vehicle made off at speed before being located in Gravesend. At this time numerous officers were close by and firearms officers saw a male walking along away from the direction of the van and he was subsequently arrested. The van with the stolen property was recovered.



The following items that were seized from an Irish Registered M.A.N HGV following the arrest of the Driver by the RTF on 14th September 2019, have now been identified. The two engines and electrical unit form part of a large irrigation pump that was stolen from the Environment Agency on 08/08/2019 in Aldergate Lane, West Hythe. The Pump is valued at £26,000 (twenty six thousand pounds) and was stolen with a Trailer which is still outstanding.



PC Lingham and Verrall responded along with other Tac Ops patrols to a report of a Ford Ranger being stolen with keys in Sittingbourne. The vehicle had a GPS tracker and was tracked to the Swanley area where it was parked up in a close. Firearms Unit spotted a Transit van which they had seen earlier leaving the close with 3 males on board, from the Swale area. These males were located and arrested by PC Lingham and conveyed to Medway custody.

Stolen Vehicle recovered and Offending vehicle seized used in crime.



RTF received a call from local Farmer stating he had found a safe in the river Stour near his farm. We have attended and potentially identified this being the one stolen during a Burglary Dwelling in Shadoxhurst being investigated by the Chief Constables Crime Squad. Linked in with OIC and details passed over. Safe recovered.



PC Verrall and Linham were patrolling at the woodland around Ladywood Drive when they located a LR Defender 90 in green parked at the side of Combfield drive, with front N/S wing damage. This vehicle was displaying Index R812AFL. PNC confirmed this to be a landrover 90 in green but the visible VIN was missing. A check on the hidden chassis number confirmed it to be in fact the stolen landrover from Luddsdown in the week. Vehicle seized and will be subject to CSI and Vehicle examiners.



RTF Officers executed a Theft Act Warrant at a Farm where a suspected stolen Timber Wolf wood chipper was thought to have been stored. The warrant was executed in the present of the company owner. Three Wood chipper were located in the lock up none matching the description of the stolen wood chipper. The occupier provided paper work for the purchase of all three Wood chippers on site there where check along with other equipment and where all in order.

Kent Police were notified through Country Eye of an abandoned Horse Box Trailer in a small country lane at Yalding. Police have recovered the Trailer as suspected stolen for examination. Kent Police identified the owner who has been re-united with his Horse Box. Good example of the use of the Country Eye App



PC's Williams and Lingham deployed to vehicle making off from burglary in City Way. Whilst on route the offender rammed two police vehicles. Vehicle was lost in Walderslade Woods area. Dog handler located subject vehicle and was able to track over mile to a farm site located on Warren Lane, Bluebell Hill. Air Support attended and assisted in the search. RTF Officers secured the area and two suspects were located and arrested.

PC Callaghan investigated the theft of two Vintage Cars in Deal, between the 6th and 20th October 2019. Both vehicles were parked in secure Garages a short distance apart and neither Victim is connected. Contact made with national Intelligence Units to update them and Victims questioned as to any links between both crimes. The Anglia has attracted a lot of Media Attention as the vehicle was used on the Harry Potter Film as a Replica of the Flying Car.

ANPR activation of stolen vehicle grey Citroen Picasso. RTF Officers attended the area and the vehicle was located leaving Tonbridge on Tudeley Road. Vehicle followed to Fuggles Close, Paddock Wood whilst awaiting additional TPAC resources. Vehicle then went to dead end of Fuggles Close and attempted to drive through a bollard onto a green where it got stuck. Driver and Rear Seat Passenger decamped. Two Females were arrested at the scene and claimed that they did not know the persons who had decamped. Vehicle recovered and investigation on-going.



Op Galileo/Poaching

RTF responded reports of poaching on the North Downs. Officers attended the area and located a vehicle actively poaching in the fields, dog were seen loose and running after Game. Upon seeing the Police vehicle the offenders have made off across fields and onto the A20 at speed and the vehicle was lost. No Make, model or VRM due to the poor weather conditions and poor light.

An RTF patrol was stationary along the A28 Ashford, when a silver Landrover Freelander was seen with a large male occupant in camouflage clothing driving. Patrols followed the vehicle towards Great Chart village, at which point the vehicle made off from patrols. Turning onto a byway, the driver decamped, leaving the vehicle in the road. Dog units attended, but the driver was not located. The vehicle has been recovered for forensic examination.



Direct contact from farmer in Lenham that he had disturbed two juveniles males in his pheasant pen shooting birds with catapults. RTF attended with local patrols and two males both from Lenham were located in nearby fields. The males had discarded two push bikes that they claimed were not theirs, which have been seized and denied poaching. Farmer is unsure what action to take due to fear of reprisal, enquires ongoing.



RTF made aware through FarmWatch of more Hare Coursing in the area of Brooklands. Reported padlocks cut in the area and crop driven over causing damage, which was called in last night. Two vehicles have been identified as being responsible and enquiries are ongoing with these vehicles.

Criminal Damage at the top of Hart Hill, North Downs. The gate was smashed through and the newly drilled field was driven over, causing extensive damage. Incident to be recorded as criminal damage.



Kent Police received a call from a member of the public reporting day poaching, she stated she saw the dogs pursuing and raising rabbits on the fields as trophies. She saw them get into a vehicle and provided PC Tancock with an index as he had called her on route to try and obtain one. The vehicle was nominated to ANPR and activated in Leysdown. The vehicle was located and stopped. Two persons were inside the vehicle. The vehicle had 5 dogs and two dead rabbits inside. The vehicle was seized for use in crime, enquires ongoing ref the insurance. Two statements have been obtained and the two male suspects will be interviewed shortly.



RTF made aware of a Suspicious Event Sooks Hill, Faversham. Report of persons shining torches into fields. This is the same location where a local Swale Police was rammed by a suspected hare coursers the previous week. Green Land Rover Discovery found in the road and drove off. Eventually stopped in Faversham Road, Doddington containing 3 persons. Vehicle and occupants searched under Poaching Prevention Act and two catapults, ball bearings, two small folding knives and pheasant feathers located. No confirmed offences and items seized for destruction.



Suspected poaching of game birds on the Belmont Estate, Faversham. Vehicle described as a silver 4x4 had left the scene. A silver Land Rover Discovery was stopped on Bunce Court Road, Otterden shortly after the call and travelling away from the scene. There were two males in the vehicle. The males claimed to have travelled from Faversham after buying some parts for the car. Car searched under poaching prevention act and three catapults, ball bearings and two dead pheasants located and seized. The males claimed that the pheasants were from a farm in Rodmersham, where they had permission to hunt. He provided a telephone number for this Farmer who was contacted and confirmed this story.

PC's Pennicott and Smith saw a Blue Jeep Cherokee located on Hill Road, Darenth. Vehicle appeared to be a mission vehicle for hare coursing/rural crime and was seized due to holding no tax.



PC's Callaghan and Sutton received a call reporting two Males with two Dogs Hare Coursing in his field at Netherhale Farm. Attended the call from the area of Chartham, Canterbury and arrived seconds after the males left in a blue Nissan Terrano. An area search was carried out and the vehicle was not initially located. However as PC CALLLAGHAN and PC SUTTON returned to Nackington the vehicle was located on an un named road between Chalk Pitt Hill

and Shepherds Close Road at Patricxbourne, Canterbury. The vehicle was stopped after it was witnessed driving very slowly between two open fields. At no point were any of the occupants out of the vehicle and No Dogs were released. Due to this all occupants were sent on their way after the vehicle was searched under the Poaching Prevention Act. Two Lurcher type Dogs were in the rear, a white coloured bitch and a black coloured male Dog. Enquiries will be made in slow time regarding the occupants as their maybe enough to issue a CPW in relation to his Poaching activity.



PC's Pery and Moody attended Pickneybush Lane, Burmarsh in relation to suspected hare coursing involving a green Subaru Forester recently seen outside a known Hare Courser. The vehicle was located on Burmarsh Road. Occupant details were recorded and were all know to RTF Officers for Hare Coursing activity. All dogs were wet, but there was no blood or other evidence of hares having been taken. Driver has been issued with a Sec 59 warning in realtion to his vehicle being seen driving off road at Goodnestone.



PC Moody dealt with a call in the area of Elham, where two males were seen with lurcher type dogs on farmland. He spoke to the witness, who saw one of the dogs pursuing and turning a hare. The males realised the informant had seen this and swiftly left with the dogs. The informant made his way to where he suspected their vehicle was parked, but on arrival only located a Royal Mail post van, the occupant of which stated that the two males had just left in a green 4x4 pick-up (No index taken)

Game Keeper from Sevenoaks had two males seen to be catapulting birds. Vehicle seen parked along nearby Lane. Details provided to RTF that showed a local keeper. Enquiries ongoing.

PC's Verrall and Williams reviewed a report of a dark red Jeep Cherokee driving across fields. This vehicle was involved in catapulting pheasants. Officers attended the Registered Owner's address but it transpires the vehicle has been registered to an address to which it does not belong. Vehicle nominated to be stopped.

Op Traverse (Fish Poaching)

PC MOODY and SC MOTTRAM joined Environment Agency enforcement officers in West Kent for fishing licence checks at a number of locations. Barden Lake, the Ballast Pit, Haysden Lake and stretches of the River Medway were checked in Tonbridge, and Sherwood Lake in Tunbridge Wells. All anglers checked were in possession of valid EA rod licences.



Wildlife

Three search warrants executed at different locations with RSPCA special investigation team in relation to Wildlife and Countryside Act and Badgers Act. This activity is a follow on from OP Almond which was warrants executed by the RTF in March this year. RSPCA have established evidence that the subjects of the warrants have actively engaged their dogs to fight /kill badgers and foxes. The locations of the Warrants were Maidstone, New Romney and Ashford. This involved the DSU Officers from Maidstone and CPT Officers from Folkestone to help bolster the Rural Task Force numbers to ensure a full containment and search of the addresses. 4 Suspects were identified and interviewed for offences relating to Badger Persecution and Animal Welfare offences.

RTF were contacted regarding concerns Bird of Prey being flown in Public Park. Liaised with Local Authority and Bird owner. No confirmed offences but words of advice given.

PC's Pennicott and Smith attended Haysden Country Park to assist RSPCA regarding possible badger sett interference. RSPCA had received a call from a dog owner reporting that their dog had gone into the sett and not returned. Dog was fitted with an electronic tracker so the owner was able to confirm it was still in the sett. RSPCA attended with the dog owner and advised that they would need to wait 48 hours and apply for a licence from Natural England. When RSPCA have gone back to check the sett after the 48 hours there is clear evidence of the sett having been partially dug up. Unclear who is responsible and ongoing investigation between RTF and RSPCA.

PC Sutton and Callaghan dealt with a call from a local working on a property in Smarden who had called to say that in 2018 he may have committed an offence when he carried out work removing asbestos sheeting from an industrial property. He was using information from a survey carried out in 2016 and he now is looking to redevelop the site and has commissioned another survey but the company will not carry this out until it is confirmed if offences committed previously. Developer has forward PC Sutton a number of documents for review in relation to the redevelopment and previous work carried out. Further investigation work required to see if any offence have been committed.

PC's Smith and Pennicott responded to a report of possible badger persecution in the back garden of a residential address at Maidstone. Address attended and confirmed no offences had been committed. Occupier has applied to Natural England for a licence to trap badgers and relocate them and is also liaising with the West Kent Badger Group. This is still pending being issued and the occupier has not undertaken and work as yet and will wait for the outcome of the licence application.

PC Williams received report of habitat destruction of Great Crested Newt, Slow Worms, Adders and Lizards on the Isle of Sheppey. Transpires land owner had ecology survey completed in March 2019 which confirmed the presence of the above species. Report submitted to Swale Council along with planning application for 15 dwellings. Ecology report states developer will require EPSM licence from Natural England to permit the permanent and temporary destruction of terrestrial Habitat.

Site visited and extensive land clearing has already taken place with no evidence of mitigation or protection for the protected wildlife. Awaiting confirmation from Natural England re EPSM licence. Ongoing investigation.



Livestock

PC's Linham and Verrall responded to a report of a Sheep Attack. This was a repeat victim from local farm in Sevenoaks. Farmer had managed to capture offending dog after it was chasing his sheep. This is the fourth incident at the farm since March. Victim had not reported the two other incidences. This has been the same offending dog and on last occasion returned to the owner at a nearby cottage where the owner was identified. The dog is not being housed in the correct manner and the owner allowing the dog freedom to roam. Victim is happy for a civil proceeding with payment of the vet costs and suitable warning advice.



PC's Goodsall and Southern responded to a Sheep Worriying Attack in fields next to St Nicholas Church, Leeds, Maidstone. Attack was witnessed by off duty civilian member of Kent Police who stated that the dog was seen running after two sheep but no biting or

injury had occurred. No physical contact made between the dog and a Ram and a ewe however both sheep have injuries consistent of running away from the dog. The dog was not located as owner had picked it up and driven off in unknown vehicle. However area covered by local CCTV so officers re-attended the following day. CCTV does not show the incident but showed a female walking off with her dog matching description given by Witness. Whilst conducting enquiries in local area, the same female walked past officers with her dog. She was stopped and identified herself. Female stated it was her dog involved in incident on Friday arrangement were made to interview the female about the matter at a later date.

PC Sutton dealt with a report of two sheep killed at a Farm at Smeeth. Spoke with victim to obtain details and identify any outstanding lines of enquiry and discussed crime prevention/detection measures.

Heritage

At Western Link, Faversham, PC Tancok and PC Cousins noticed a suspicious vehicle as they were travelling along the A2 towards Doddington. Officers turned around and incepted a Renault Clio, trying reverse back onto the main road. The vehicle was stopped and the driver identified himself. Inside the vehicle were items relating to night hawking (metal detectors, digging equipment). Driver admitted night hawking saying he found some Roman coins and stated he did not have permission to be on the land. Items seized and driver has been interviewed in relation to the matter and admitted theft.

RTF made aware of a Night Hawking off of the A2 in Sittingbourne. Incident was initially attended by local Police Officers. Two persons were stop and searched and items were seized. Informant has reported numerous Night Hawking. Enquires taken on by the RTF.

Op Assist

RTF Officers carried out an Op Assist day with Swale Borough Council Enforcement Officers on 30/09/19.

Visit to Spade Lane to speak to Landowner in relation to waste collection and burning on site following complaints to Council from local residents. Whilst going onto site Land Owner was burning materials on his plot. Investigation continuing by SBC.



Vehicle Stop of a Ford Transit Tipper on Lower Hartlip Road Hartlip. Driver given Fixed Penalty Notice by Council for no waste carriers licence and reported by PC GOODSALL for No Insurance, MOT or Tax. Vehicle Seized.



Vehicle stop of Ford Transit in Upchurch. Driver finally identified despite initially giving false details. Driver showing as having No licence or Insurance. Reported by PC SUTTON and vehicle seized.



PC Perry and Moody received a report of a Ford Transit flatbed with load of old tyres on which could get dumped locally. Officers carried out checks against the index provided and are liaising with KCC Enforcement Team to see if any reports of fly tipped tyres is reported in the area.



On 07/10/19 5 RTF Officers were committed to Op Assist at both Medway and Maidstone. Results were :-

Ford Transit tipper involved in various Fly Tipping offences around Strood. Vehicle located loaded with various waste. Enquires at scene identified that this vehicle was in fact on false plates and the true identity established as a stolen vehicle from London. Vehicle recovered.



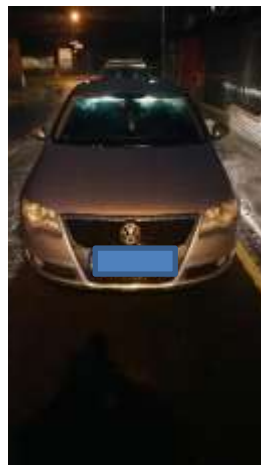
White Ford Transit suspected to be involved in waste carrying offences and fly tipping. Located Luton Road, Romanian national now living in Chatham driving but had no insurance, vehicle seized No Insurance, driver spoken to by KCC.



Blue Ford Transit reported to Maidstone council for fly tipping. Vehicle located in Maidstone and seized by Council. Owner to be interviewed by Council.



Stop check High Street, Luton, Chatham a VW Passat. Suspect for fly tipping in Bell Lane, Boxley. Driver uninsured and provisional licence holder. Seized for fly tipping and driver reported for driving offences.



Red quad bike had failed to stop in Parkwood and made off across a park. Located on driveway of an address at Quarry Road and seized for vehicle examination as suspected stolen.



PC 10387 CALLAGHAN, PC 11204 GOODSALL, PC 13623 SUTTON and PC 13776 SOUTHERN engaged on OP ASSIST with Thanet District Council on 10th October.

Stop/ Check, A299 Canterbury Road East Ramsgate. White Citroen Relay due to no brake light. Two male occupants. Driver admitted that he does not have insurance and provisional Licence. Driver reported for driving offences also reported by council officers for having scrap metal in rear. Vehicle seized.



Stop / Check, A299 Canterbury Road East, Ramsgate. Ford Transit Tipper. Vehicle all in order to owner however did not have waste carriers licence so issued Fixed Penalty Notice by council.



Stop / Check, A28, St Nicholas at Wade. Ford Transit. Vehicle All in Order. Driver did not have a waste carriers licence present but stated his company he works for do. Issued a Production Document by council in relation to Waste Carriers Licence.



Stop / Check, Manston Road, Margate. Green Renault scenic. Driver was of interest to the council. The vehicle was seen exiting the tip and was stopped. Driver admitted to having no insurance and was driving otherwise in accordance of a licence. He was also reported under tax offence due to the vehicle not being taxed since June 2019. Vehicle seized for No Insurance.



Stop / Check, Buxton Road, Ramsgate. OP Assist Target Vehicle, a white Ford Transit Tipper located in Buxton Road, however it had no Waste in the back. The owner was located by the vehicle but wouldn't engage with Thanet Council Officers and walked back into number 18. Believed to be the Owner from the address.



PC's Pennicott and Smith working closely with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to locate a male wanted on a Bail warrant. The Warrant was issued as the male failed to attend Court for the original offence of Fly Tipping. The Officers received information that he was that using a white Ford Transit. Checks showed that this vehicle was issued to the wanted male at a West Malling address. This address was attended and Male was located outside. He was detained for bail warrant and bailed to Sevenoaks Magistrates Court on 24/10/19.

RTF Officers did some intelligence work on a Swale Nominal they suspected to be using a green van illegally to transport waste. A green Ford Transit van with no Insurance notified off road, no mot or tax was identified and had been seen regularly outside an address in Faversham. Vehicle sighted by officers going into Tesco Petrol Station in Faversham. Officers ran out from the Police Station and managed to stop the vehicle on foot whilst it had stopped at Traffic Lights. Driver was reported for No Insurance and not driving within accordance of licence and vehicle seized.



Community Engagement

RTF Officers attended Dartford for the North Kent Ploughing Match. Met with NFU Kent Chairman Toby WILLIAMS, and discussed rural crime matters. Network with other stakeholders and farmers.



Other Business

RTF officers attended an injury RTC in Petham. Two vehicles involved and one was a foreign national who had failed to stop at stop sign. Minor injuries only with the foreign driver being issued with a graduated fixed penalty notice of £500.

On an unnamed road in Shadoxhurst a suspicious vehicle was found parked in a gateway with three males inside. As officers approached the front seat passenger appeared to conceal something. Males admitted there was cannabis in the car and a search located a plastic tub containing 44 grams of herbal cannabis. Two of the occupants admitted it was theirs both issued with Cannabis warnings.



Report of two elderly ladies trapped in a vehicle in a ditch off a country lane track. **What Three Words** App determined them to be off a farmer's field between Hollingbourne and Harrietsham. Road Policing Unit and local patrols attended in conjunction with KFRS. The ladies were extricated from the vehicle and taken to hospital. RTF remained at scene in an effort to recovery the vehicle with the assistance of a Farmer. Local farmer attended with a tractor to assist with recovery of the vehicle.



PC Pennicott was patrolling along Eastling Road, Painters Forstal when he observed a male on push bike seen to hide his identity as he passed was lost from view. The push bike was located abandoned in a nearby orchard. Additional Rural Officers and a Dog Unit attended area to assist with search and deploy drone. Dog Unit tracked to male hiding in the bushes

who was identified. Male was shown was also shown as wanted for a shoplifting and arrested for this offence.

Whilst patrolling around the A28 Great Chart a white transit tipper with 3 occupants was stop checked going into Great Chart. Checks were carried out against the occupants. The vehicles tax expired in April 2019 so the vehicle was seized.



RTF Officers were asked to assist with an urgent arrest for a male from Thames Valley Police area who has moved to Kent and was wanted in connection with possession of a Firearm. The RTF deployed to the prison and the male was arrested as he was released from Prison and conveyed to Medway Custody.

PC's Verrall and Lingham attended woodlands off Ladywood Road, Darenth, Dartford when they came across a number of off-road motorcycles in the field to the rear of the woods. One bike was stopped and vehicle checked. A number of other bikes made off and a large group between 25-30 other males and females left the location upon police arrival, were verbally abusive towards police and when police returned to the police vehicle it had clearly been spat on and around the door handles and windows. A section 59 warning was issued to the rider of the bike which did stop and engage with police.



PC's Pennicott and Smith attended an address in Sevenoaks to locate Male who was wanted x 3 no bail warrants. Not located during initial visit but address revisited and curtains that were open had been closed. Officers were able to gain access to address via unlocked rear window and the male was located trying to hide in the hallway. The male was arrested for the outstanding offences.

Suspicious vehicle seen by PC's Pennicott and Smith on A20, Lenham, Maidstone. The vehicle, a blue Volvo was stopped and PNC checks showed previous keeper details and no insurance. The vehicle was seized for no insurance and driver reported.



Whilst on patrol PC Lingham came across a vehicle fire at junction 2 of M20. Lane 1 closure implemented with assistance of TD.



PC's Lingham and Williams responded to assistance request from colleagues who were a stolen Range Rover Evoque with cloned index plate. Vehicle made off and collided with several vehicles. Pursuit came to a stop on Crayford Way (Metropolitan Police Area) when the Range Rover had heavy collision with a vehicle from in opposite direction. Driver was tasered after short foot chase. Due to circumstances of collision road needed to be closed off and diversion implemented. RTF Officers implemented the road closures and the road was not opened until 5 hours after the incident.



PC's Southern and Goodsall carried out investigative work around a wanted female. These enquiries gave a possible address for the female in the Murston area of Sittingbourne. The officers attended this address and located the female who was wanted on Warrant. Offender was arrested and then bailed to attend Medway Magistrate Court.

RTF Officers deployed on Arrest tasking for 3 males from Throwley for assaulting two Game Keepers at their home address. Officers managed to locate one of the suspects who was arrested. Officers now liaising with Officer in the Case regarding the two outstanding suspects and provided visits and re-assurance to the two victims.

PC's Verrall and Lingham managed the return of two horses that had been seized for straying onto the highway. Horse owners need to be aware that horses on the road present a significant safety issue to road users and the horse, and that horses will be seized if initial enquiries at the scene fail to identify the owner. There are costs applied to secure the return of a seized horse.



PC Williams received a call from Chestfield Parish Council reporting suspicious event that persons were digging a hole in a field and placing a coffin down. He attended location and it was deemed to be a legitimate burial. Land Owner had passed away and family had buried him lawfully in his field. Checks conducted with Local Authority and Funeral Directors who carried out the funeral.

Arrest tasking by Medway Police to RTF Officers for suspect of historic Rape and Stalking. Male located at his home address and arrested at his home search of the address. Conveyed to Medway Custody and handed over to the OIC.

RTF Officers assisted with search of The Farm in the Otford area where a large number of illegal firearms and ammunition were recovered.

RTF Officers assisted LDPT and CPT in Canterbury after they got involved in a Pursuit with a stolen Vauxhall Astra which was stolen this morning from a Burglary in Margate. The Pursuit continued through Canterbury and Wincheap and onto the A2, coast bound towards Dover. The vehicle came off at the Barham junction and crashed on the slip on, where two males were detained and arrested.



Crime Prevention Advice

There has been an increase in the theft of Catalytic Converters in Kent. Please broadcast the following crime prevention advice.

Catalytic Converter Theft

Your car has something that's in demand for thieves. It isn't your stereo system or anything you've hidden in the glove box. Some thieves target the car's tyres or machinery underneath the car. Thieves want your car's catalytic converter, which takes seconds to remove and is required for your car to run properly. Catalytic converters have been fitted to the exhaust systems of most petrol cars built since the early 90s. Thieves have been targeting catalytic converters because of the precious metals they contain- with high clearance vehicles like vans and 4x4's being particularly vulnerable.

This link is for a recent BBC article on this type of theft:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-46882497>

The Appeal of Catalytic Converters

The reason is platinum. Catalytic converters contain platinum, rhodium, and palladium. The metals are expensive, and thieves sell the converters to scrap yards. It is illegal to drive your car without one. The resulting gap in your exhaust system also makes the car run poorly until it is fixed.

The rate of catalytic converter theft varies depending on the current prices of the metals inside it. Price increases typically result in an increase in thefts. Thieves look for easy targets when it comes to catalytic converter theft. A thief just needs a saw to remove the converter. Some thieves also use a sliding board to get under the vehicle more efficiently. A jack is sometimes used to lift the car for easier access, but this is rare because of the added time the jack adds to the process. Taller vehicles such as 4x4's, Vans or pickup trucks are often more attractive to thieves because of the easier access to the undercarriage. Once under the vehicle, the thief uses a saw to slice through the piping on both sides of the converter. The converter is then pulled off.

To avoid becoming a victim of this kind of theft, follow this advice:

- 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.
- If you can, park your vehicle in a locked garage when it is unattended.
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) can be an effective deterrent.
- Where possible park a vehicle against a kerb, with the catalytic converter being closest to the kerb.
- If there is a fleet of vehicles, park the low clearance vehicles to block the high-clearance vehicles. This will obstruct access underneath.
- If a catalytic converter is a bolt on type it is possible to have the bolts welded shut.
- Fit protective coverings on catalytic converters, these can make it much more difficult for thieves.
- Have your catalytic converter etched or forensically marked and put stickers in the windscreen to say this has been done.
- Consider installing a Thatcham approved alarm to your vehicle. Ones that activate if your vehicle is lifted or tilted are particularly effective.

These websites provide details of product that could help protect your vehicle

Approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers'

Secured By Design scheme www.securedbydesign.com

Approved Thatcham alarm installers www.thatcham.org

Catalytic converter marking system www.retainagroup.com

Products to enhance vehicle security www.soldsecure.com

Other products by Secured By Design are available

Catalytic converter guards www.garrisonlocks.co.uk

Catatak - theft prevention kit www.catalyticconvertertheft.com

CatSecure theft prevention device for Mercedes Sprinter vans www.maplefleetservices.co.uk

CatClamp catalytic converter lock www.catsafe.org.uk

**I hope you find this guide of use, and remember if you see any suspicious activity or if you suspect a converter has been stolen then report it to the Police immediately by calling 101, alternatively report this online:
<https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online>**

Kind regards, Darren Walshaw

07870 252185 or darren.walshaw@kent.police.uk

Follow the team on Twitter @ **Kent Police Rural**

Team Email : rural.task.force@kent.police.uk