

May 2022

BUSY MONTH FOR ESSEX POLICE

April has been a busy month for the whole of Essex Police. On 1st April protesters from the group Just Stop Oil group started protests in relation to the government starting new oil contracts. Due to the way this group conducted their protests meant they were committing crimes which they were arrested for. In the first 2 weeks of April over 400 arrests were made which required specialist officers from Essex and all over the country to assist.

RET officers were amongst many throughout Essex that were deployed to assist in this huge operation. Our officers have various attributes from public order to protest liaison. Two of our officers were seconded for the month, One to assist in the investigations and the other to assist in the day to day running of the operation including ensuring the daily 400 plus officers were briefed and their welfare was looked after.

DECLINE IN HARE COURSING



We have seen hare coursing decline by almost a third. This success is thanks to the borderless scheme where by seven forces came together to tackle the issue. This now makes it easier to apprehend and prosecute offenders. This borderless scheme has been set up with the agreement and support of the Crown Prosecution Service which has aided the process in court. Incidents of hare coursing across the seven force areas fell from 2044 in 2020-2021 to 1415 in 2021-2022 which is a reduction of 31%.

Read more about this [here](#)



Digital 101

You can report non-emergency crime by calling **101** or by using **Digital 101**, our quick and easy to use online service that's available at any time.

Digital 101 is available on the Essex Police website: [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)



If you, or anyone you know, is interested in protecting and serving Essex, you can follow us on social media, or search **#FitTheBill**

**#FIT THE
BILL**

ASSISTING OUR DISTRICTS

This month the team took part in the Local Policing Support Unit (LPSU) Week of intensification. This is where teams from the LPSU command head to districts across Essex. This month we were out in the rural areas of Rochford. Rochford has seen recent incidents of hare coursing so it was good to conduct some high visibility patrol along with some speed checks in the rural villages. We also undertook an operation to tackle fly tipping. Finally, the team attended Wallasea Island due to reports of antisocial behaviour. The island is nature reserve protected by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds so it was good to pay a visit whilst it's nesting bird season.



We're planning for our next week of intensification in the Uttlesford district on 6th June.

LOCATING STOLEN VEHICLES



On the 9th April officers located this scooter (pictured left) in the Colchester district near to the Suffolk border thanks to the help of a local farmer. The owner was pleased to be reunited with his scooter.

On 13th April RET officers deployed to a tracker activation for the agricultural quad bike (pictured below) which had been stolen. Whilst at the location officers located a stolen caravan and some high value vehicle parts which were also stolen. 2 men were arrested with enquiries continuing.



There aren't any 'no go' areas for Essex Police. We will attend any location we need to in order to help people, keep people safe and catch criminals.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



We have a number of community events coming up as we head into summer. This is something we as a team really enjoy, being able to showcase what we do and how we can help our rural communities. If you'd like us to attend a community event that you have planned then please get in touch on the below email.

We look forward to seeing you.

(Pictured is PC Raven in the 7 force Wildlife and Heritage trailer).

UPDATE ON GPS THEFTS

Between 28th September 2021 and 27th October 2021 there were 17 reported thefts of GPS thefts in Essex. These thefts took place across the county in areas such as Colchester, Henham (covered by Essex Police), Braintree, Basildon, and Chelmsford. The total value of these thefts exceeded £400,000. The Rural Engagement Team is a county wide resource, and the benefit of RET taking on these investigations allowed us to investigate these thefts as a whole and eventually identify 2 suspects.

Recently in a newsletter we mentioned that a male had been charged and remanded for 14 of these thefts. On 20th April 2022 the second male wanted in connection with these thefts was arrested. After taking this case to the Crown Prosecution Service he was also charged and remanded for the same 14 thefts. The next court hearing for this defendant is 20th May 2022.

Further enquiries are ongoing in relation to the remaining GPS thefts, and others recently reported. Whilst RET are doing our best to investigate the GPS thefts and apprehend those involved, we ask that you assist in taking the necessary measures to prevent the theft of such equipment:

- Keep tractors and other agricultural equipment fitted with GPS stored out of sight when possible
- Remove GPS kit when possible from tractors and other machinery and store it securely when not in use
- Record serial numbers and photograph your kit
- Check serial numbers of second-hand kit offered for sale

HARE COURSING CONVICTION

On 1st February a man was spotted driving a 4x4 vehicle across farm land at speed whilst following a lurcher type dog which was chasing a hare. The dog sadly caught up with the hare and killed it.

Police were called by one of the game keepers and officers from the Uttlesford district attended and stopped the offender in his vehicle before he could leave the farm. The vehicle was searched and found to contain 2 lurcher dogs and 3 dead hares. The officer interviewed the man at the scene and then reported him to the courts for hare coursing and for criminal damage to the land and crops.

The officers attending the scene had been given training by the Rural Engagement Team in how to best deal with these offenders and were on hand to give advice. PC Dawson (pictured) then completed the investigation referring it to the Crown Prosecution Service. The man from Surrey admitted to hare coursing

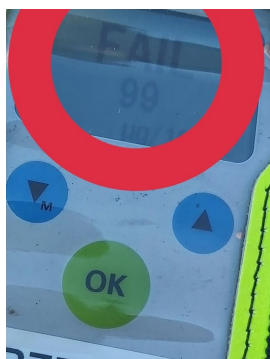
and causing criminal damage. On 21st April the man attended Colchester Magistrates Court where he was ordered to be fined a total of £1439.00. The Estate manager praised Essex Police for dealing with this incident quickly and the improved response to these types of incidents.



For the full story click [here](#)



RURAL ROAD SAFETY



If you've read our previous newsletters you'll know we care deeply about rural road safety and will continue to work hard on keeping you safe whilst using the road network whether that's by mechanical means, self propulsion or on horse back.

This month we have continued to carry out speed checks in rural villages in a bid to reduce speeding motorists through visible presence, education and enforcement.

On 5th April PC Raven assisted our Roads Policing Unit after reports were received about a drink driver in the Colchester district. Thankfully the driver was located as they were three times the drink drive limit. The driver was arrested and taken to custody.



The vehicle picture left was seized by the team after it was discovered that the driver was not insured. The driver now faces a £300 fine, 6 points on their licence and a hefty recovery bill to get the car back. Uninsured drivers cause your premiums to increase every year. If you know someone who is driving without insurance then report this online.



NESTING BIRD SEASON



OPERATION SEABIRD

Please respect birds and wildlife along the coastline of Essex



Essex estuaries provide important nesting & feeding grounds for many marine & wading birds, some of which migrate long distances to breed here. Our unique landscape sees a wide variety of birds all year round including Little Terns, Ringed Plovers, & Oystercatchers.

Nests are vulnerable to disturbance as eggs are laid directly on the beaches.

What can you do to help?

ON LAND

- Observe local signs & avoid roped off areas
- If paths are marked, stay on them
- If you spot birds & nests, quietly move away to prevent disturbance
- When taking photos, observe wildlife quietly from a distance. No selfies please!
- Keep your dog on lead when instructed, & under control at all times
- Take rubbish home, please don't litter
- EGG THEFT is a crime, please report if witnessed

ON THE WATER

- Only land boats on designated moorings & landing areas
- Keep watersports away from the shoreline, minimise wake levels, & respect speed limits
- Be aware birds may be breeding in shallow waters and on mud flats
- On Kayaks and SUPs maintain distance from wildlife - approaching silently mimics predator behaviour and can cause fear & surprise
- When disturbed, wild animals use valuable energy to flee - this affects breeding & survival chances

CALL 101

If you witness a significant disturbance to wildlife, please call the Police on 101 and report the incident

We are now well into the nesting bird season which is a wonderful time of the year. We have been made aware of many different locations that birds have nested in this year from post boxes to the hay in PC Raven's stables. We will of course have birds nesting in our hedges and places where they can be a nuisance. However please remember it is an offence to damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird. We encourage reporting of all wildlife matters. See below on how to report this to us.

Even our colleagues in Leeds have had to close an entrance to their firearms training area. Hopefully we'll see our family of ducks back at HQ this year. I know the Chief officer team were please to have them in residence last year.



Leeds Wildlife and Rural Crime Team @WYP_LDWildlife - Apr 22
Thrush has set up a nest just outside one of the entrances to our firearms training area. The entrance has been closed for the time being and mother is currently sitting on four eggs without any disturbance

