Northamptonshire Rural Crime Strategy

2019 - 2021

What is rural crime?

There is no centralised definition of rural crime but, following consultation with our partners, in Northamptonshire we will consider rural crime to be:

A crime or incident type which occurs in any geographical area ordinarily described as 'rural', and where the criminal activity is more prevalent in, or unique to, rural areas. Northamptonshire Police recognise the below as constituting rural crime:

- If the offence occurred at a farm house, farm building, farm yard, stable, barn or outbuilding; farm shop, field or fish farm, or

- The property involved is agricultural machinery, agricultural tools, fencing, hay/straw, heating oil and red diesel, horses and or tack, horse boxes or livestock

- The offence is burglary, robbery, theft, criminal damage, public health offences (fly-tipping)

In addition, wildlife offences, hare coursing and poaching offences are covered within this definition.

Prevention

Reassurance   Intelligence

Enforcement

Examples of rural crime

Theft/burglary

- Tractors, farm machinery and plant machinery
- Theft of diesel, scrap metal and vehicles
- Theft of animals (including sheep and dogs)
- Residential theft
- Rural business theft
- Theft of agricultural/rural equipment (horse tack, gates, etc.)

Arson and criminal damage

- Buildings, straw/hay stacks, vehicles, machinery, equipment
- Fencing cut/destroyed
- Crops damaged
- Slaughtered animals
- Pheasant pens

Wildlife and environmental crime

- Sheep worrying (to include loose dogs within livestock fields, chasing of livestock and injury/death to livestock)
- Fly grazing
- Fly tipping - low level/agricultural scale
- Trespass (aggravated only unless the trespass will include a breach of the peace as trespass is a civil only matter)
- Theft/destruction/damage/interference of endangered and protected species, including hare coursing

Fraud

- Including specific targeting of farmers and vulnerable groups

Heritage asset crime

- Damage to listed buildings, sites and structures (and theft of historical features)
- Includes church lead thefts
- Archaeological theft/vandalism

Rural crime in Northamptonshire

THE 2018 NATIONAL RURAL CRIME SURVEY

National Rural Crime Survey

In 2018, the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) commissioned a national survey on rural crime. Northamptonshire participated in the survey and 514 responses were received from within the county. The key findings were as follows:

- Specific rural businesses (farmers) are more likely than the rest of the sample to have experienced crime in the last 12 months but are less likely to report
- Business owners are typically more impacted by crime
- 45% of respondents experienced anti-social behaviour over the last 12 months
- ⅓ of crimes are not reported to police

The survey told us that the following types of crime were experienced by people in Northamptonshire:

People who live in rural areas

Harassment

Attempted burglary/ theft

Criminal damage/ vandalism/arson

Burglary

Vehicle-related theft

Theft from outbuilding

Trespassing

Online harassment

Other theft

Fraud

Farmers

Fly-tipping

Trespassing

Sheep worrying

Attempted burglary/ theft

Theft of agricultural machinery

Criminal damage/ vandalism/arson

Hare coursing

Theft from outbuilding

Burglary

Businesses (non-farming)

Criminal damage/ vandalism/arson

Attempted fraud/ scams

Attempted burglary/ theft

Burglary

Fly-tipping

Theft of agricultural machinery/equipment

Vehicle-related theft

Other theft

Theft of possessions from person

In the 12 months between December 2017 and November 2018, Northamptonshire Police recorded 58,562 crimes.

Of these, 2,388 were rural crimes (4.1%)

Rural crime in Northamptonshire

Burglary (Residential)
814 crimes
34.1%

Burglary (Business)
674 crimes
28.2%

Other Theft
509 crimes
21.3%

Theft from Motor Vehicle
127 crimes
5.3%

Theft of Motor Vehicle
111 crimes
4.7%

Criminal Damage
96 crimes
4.0%

Arson
22 crimes
0.9%

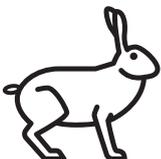**Other Offences**
34 crimes
1.4%

Theft offences accounted for the vast majority of all rural crime between December 2017 and November 2018, at 94%

Wildlife crime in Northamptonshire

449 wildlife offences

Animal welfare related offences have experienced the highest volume of incidents in the 12 months between December 2017 and November 2018.

Many of these have been domesticated animal related incidents (e.g. cruelty to pets, shooting/poisoning of cats).

Hare coursing and hunt-related incidents also saw high numbers of offences logged between December 2017 and November 2018.

Partnership approach

In Northamptonshire, we are working in partnership to tackle rural crime in the county. We have established a Rural Crime Group which meets monthly and consists of the following partnership agencies:

- Northamptonshire Police
- Office for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire
- Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
- CLA
- National Farmers' Union
- Canal and River Trust
- Community Safety Partnerships in each of the districts
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch

The Rural Crime Delivery Group will work to deliver this strategy through a detailed action plan which will be continually progressed and regularly reviewed through the group.

Our vision

" **To effectively fight crime in rural areas through the best use of policing resources, partnerships and working with rural communities** "

Our aims

- To reduce the volume of crime and anti-social behaviour in rural areas

- To bring offenders to justice

- To increase public confidence in partnerships tackling rural crime in Northamptonshire

- To support rural communities and victims of crime in rural areas

How will we achieve this?

> Prevention

Working with partners and communities, we will work to actively prevent crimes and incidents taking place, helping to stop people becoming victims of crime. We will provide advice and guidance to residents and businesses to maximize the opportunities to prevent, disrupt and detect rural crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Actions will include:

- Maintaining and improving our visible police presence in communities, providing an effective response to calls for help
- Providing advice and guidance to residents on staying safe and protecting themselves and their property from opportunist criminals
- Increasing the number of Special Constables and volunteers working in rural communities
- Developing and supporting rural watch schemes
- Listening to resident and community groups to better understand our communities, acknowledging their concerns and vulnerabilities in order to take action to deter and disrupt illegal activity

> Intelligence

Local people are our eyes and ears in the community, so it is important that we listen to what they tell us. We will improve the way we share information within our organisations, with partners and others we work with. This will help us to understand problems and identify tactics that we will use to deter and disrupt criminal activity.

Actions will include:

- Working to identify people and groups that cause the most harm in rural communities
- Developing a better understanding of criminal activity caused by people who come into our area from across our borders by sharing information with other organisations
- Improving the way we provide information to residents about those people committing crimes in their communities and the methods they use
- Encouraging people to report all crimes and incidents to the police

How will we achieve this?

> Enforcement

We will enforce the law robustly, targeting areas of crime and offenders who cause the most harm.

Actions will include:

- Ensuring an effective police response to reports of rural crime and anti-social behaviour
- Running operations in conjunction with local groups, partners and other organisations targeting rural crime and anti-social behaviour
- Developing even stronger links with neighbouring police forces to combat and deter cross-border criminality

> Reassurance

We want safe, engaged, cohesive and confident communities.
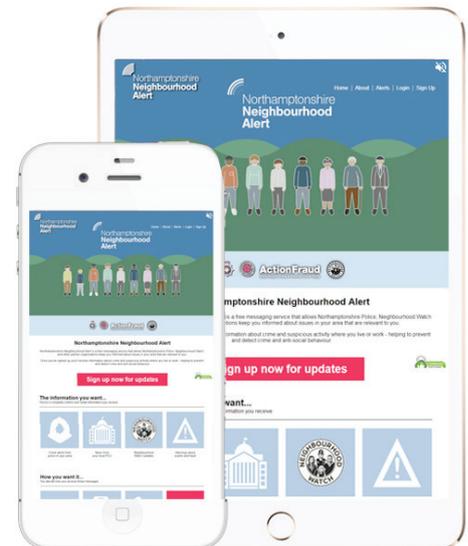
Actions will include:

- Ensuring we understand the impact crime and anti-social behaviour has on people living in rural communities and provide an excellent service at the first point of contact
- Improving the way we communicate with people living in our rural communities and keep people up to date with current trends of incidents, activity, planned operations and police patrols
- Developing effective key networks of people in communities that reflect the diversity of our rural areas
- Continually seeking feedback from people living in our rural areas regarding the way that we are working to deliver the promises made in this strategy

How can you help?

- Report crime and suspicious activity. It is vital to report all crimes. We need information to target resources and develop intelligence
- If you see anything suspicious or a crime occurring and it is happening there and then ring **999**
- If you have information that does not require an immediate response, ring **101** or report online at **www.northants.police.uk/reportonline**
- If you want to report anonymously or pass on information about a crime, you can call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or visit **crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information-online**
- Join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - the largest crime prevention movement in England and Wales with 2.3 million member households. Information on Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch can be found at **www.northantsnhw.co.uk** or you can sign up here **www.ourwatch.org.uk**
- Sign up to Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert: the Neighbourhood Alert system is a free online, secure community messaging system that allows authorised administrators to send messages to registered members on their chosen topics

Join Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert here

What we need you to tell us

- **Who** you are and who is committing the crime
- **What** is happening?
- **Where** this is occurring and where are you?
- **When** this happened?
- **Why** this happened/why are you suspicious?
- **How** did it occur/how was the crime committed?

Do not place yourself at any risk - in an emergency always dial 999

Contacts

Office of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Phone: 01604 888113
Web: www.northantspfcc.org.uk
Email: commissioner@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk
Twitter: @NorthantsOPFCC

Northamptonshire Police
Phone: 101 or 999 in an emergency
Web: www.northants.police.uk
Twitter: @NorthantsPolice

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
Phone: 01604 797000
Web: www.northantsfire.gov.uk
Email: enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk
Twitter: @NorthantsFire

National Farmers' Union
Phone: 024 7685 8500
Web: www.nfuonline.com
Twitter: @NFUtweets

CLA
Phone: 020 7235 0511
Web: www.cla.org.uk
Email: mail@cla.org.uk
Twitter: @CLAtweets

Canal and River Trust
Phone: 0303 040 4040
Web: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk
Twitter: @CanalRiverTrust

Northamptonshire ACRE
Phone: 01604 765888
Web: www.northantsacre.org.uk
Twitter: @NorthantsACRE

Neighbourhood Watch
Phone: 0116 402 6111
Web: www.ourwatch.org.uk
Web: www.northantsnhw.co.uk
Twitter: @N_Watch

Crimestoppers
Phone: 0800 555 111
Web: www.crimestoppers-uk.org
Twitter: @CrimestoppersUK

Corby Community Safety Partnership
Phone: 01536 464000
Web: www.corby.gov.uk
Twitter: @CorbyCSP

Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership
Phone: 01327 322322
Web: www.daventrydc.gov.uk
Web: www.southnorthants.gov.uk
Twitter: @DaventryDC @SNorthantsC

East Northants Community Safety Partnership
Phone: 01832 742000
Web: www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk
Twitter: @ENCouncil

Kettering Borough Community Safety Partnership
Phone: 01536 410333
Web: www.kettering.gov.uk
Twitter: @KetteringBC

Northampton Community Safety Partnership
Phone: 0300 330 7000
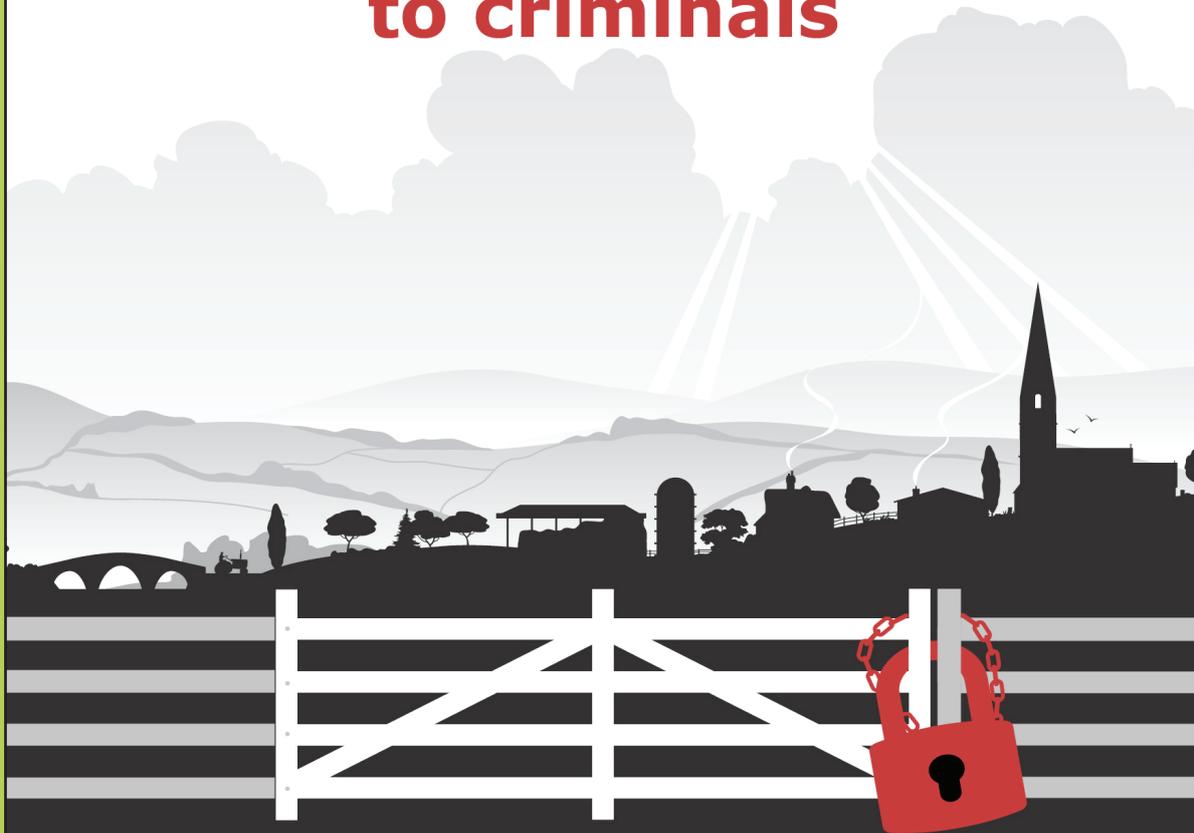Web: www.northampton.gov.uk
Twitter: @NorthamptonBC

Wellingborough Community Safety Partnership
Phone: 01933 229777
Web: www.wellingborough.gov.uk
Twitter: @BCWboro

Closing the countryside to criminals

Northamptonshire Police is tackling rural crime.

www.northantspfcc.org.uk