

# Newsletter

## The Hub

### Herefordshire Police

June 2020



**'The Hub'** is a new publication from the Police in Herefordshire for the benefit of the people who live, work and visit Herefordshire. Frank, informative and full of advice, we will welcome your feedback.

On that point, a huge thanks to all those who took the time to comment (really pleased you like format & content) and to those who asked questions like Pete who owns a Land Rover Defender and is concerned about them being stolen. Each one gave me the opportunity to provide some security advice and guidance.

Please keep the questions coming....I might print them and the answers in future editions.

The message may have changed but the situation remains the same, more than ever before there is a need for all of us to help each other and it would be remiss not to mention COVID-19 and overwhelming public compliance with the restrictions in place although sadly not by everyone!!



To those few we repeat, keep 2m apart or we WILL take (and have taken) enforcement action where necessary.

**Coronavirus (Covid-19):** Please only call 999 if it is an emergency. If it's not an emergency, use our online services if you can. Please only contact us about a social distancing violation if you think there is a serious breach of the rules.

- [Our information and advice on coronavirus and policing](#)
- [Government coronavirus guidance on Gov.uk](#)
- [Tell us about a possible breach of coronavirus \(Covid-19\) measures](#)

For those reading this electronically hover over the bullet points above and PRESS CTRL +CLICK otherwise log onto <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/> for further information

## Brambles Blog



By popular request, meet 'Bramble' again, he may not be a regular feature but he has a particularly significant request during any hot weather and a tale to tell.

Firstly, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DOG IN A CAR IN THE HEAT!!**

Secondly, whilst out for one of his many walks the other week he came across this unattended tractor at the entrance to a farm.

You may not see from the image, but the key was left in the ignition, and on the same ring were keys to lock-ups. There was no one about. So we went and found a very grateful farmer (who happened to like Jack Russell's too!) and as a result he asked for a full crime reduction assessment for his entire business.

**Please, please, please take you keys out of any vehicle when leaving it unattended and separate your vehicle keys from those for your home or business properties. That way, if you lose one, you don't lose everything.**



If you are the owner of any self-propelled, or trailer mounted, construction or agricultural equipment then this could be for you. There is a brilliant Government backed and Police supported equipment registration and security scheme that acts as a powerful deterrent to theft and an invaluable aid in recovery, in the event of theft called **CESAR** <https://cesarscheme.org/>

CESAR registered machines are fitted with a sophisticated multi-layered security system that gives each machine its own unique 'fingerprint', that is impossible for thieves to remove. The security is made up of 4 elements, both visible to act as a deterrent and covert to aid identification and recovery. Firstly, a number of tamper proof registration plates are securely fitted to the machine's chassis. Secondly, a number of RFID transponders, each the size of a grain of rice, are hidden in the machinery each with its own unique programmed code. Thirdly, the machine has patches of chemical forensic liquid painted on it.

A CESAR registered product is 4 times less likely to be stolen and 6 times more likely to be recovered than one unregistered.

Substantial premium discounts and reductions in mandatory excesses can be obtained by having CESAR fitted to your equipment



**SUPPLEMENT IT WITH A TRACKER TOO** - Trackers are available for anything from kids & animals to Machinery & Vehicles. They vary in design, specification and cost, and some have advantages over others, however, a good place to start is with a Police approved company such as TRACKER at <https://www.tracker.co.uk/how-tracker-works> but there are many other companies to choose from too ☺

**\*\* Speak to your Rural & Business Crime Team who can give you some practical advice in relation to Trackers \*\***



# Preventing Agricultural Vehicle Theft

**It's not just Tractors, cars, 4x4's, Quad bikes, Horseboxes & Trailers ARE ALL TARGETS FOR THIEVES OPERATING IN RURAL LOCATIONS**

It's imperative to put measures in place to safeguard your vehicles as this is big business for organised crime gangs, both domestically and internationally.

## General advice for all vehicles

- Where possible, vehicles should be housed in a lockable garage or building, ideally with security lighting installed to the perimeter.
- Vehicles should always be locked when not in use, with the keys kept hidden and locked away in a secure location.
- Keep recordings or photographs of serial numbers and vehicles as these can be crucial in recovery, should the worst happen.

It is also important to be wary of crime even when selling a vehicle and check any prospective buyer is genuine before giving out your address details. Equally, it is just as important to protect yourself when buying used vehicles and machinery too. For further information visit <https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/news-and-stories/rural-crime-tips-to-avoid-buying-stolen-farm-vehicles/>

## Quad bikes / ATVs

Quads / All-Terrain Vehicles are the top target for thieves in the UK as they are easier to steal and sell-on than larger farm vehicles. As well as being simple to jump on and drive off when they're left standing, thieves also take them from workshops and barns.

- Invest in a bespoke quad security device, such as Quadvice or a quality padlock and chain, such as those approved by [Secured By Design](#) - a police approved product scheme. Securing to a fixed point on the ground or something that takes time to remove will also act as a deterrent.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition, even if you only briefly leave your ATV unattended.
- Keep gates to yards closed as open gates can be an open invitation to thieves.

## Tractors

Although large, expensive tractors may seem the obvious target, thieves are now also targeting smaller and older, vintage models, which are less conspicuous to move around. The kit inside tractors, such as satellite navigation equipment, is also a major target for theft.

- Machinery should be security marked with DNA marking devices and [SmartWater](#) tools, enabling tractors and their parts to be traced back to their rightful owners.
- Sign up to [CESAR](#), an agricultural equipment registration scheme, which increases the chance of recovering stolen goods by helping police identify stolen machinery. This provides chips and data dots that can enable machines to be identified, even if they are victim to the common criminal practice of cloning and modifying stolen vehicles.
- Have the Vehicle Identification Number etched on windows. This makes the vehicle more detectable and less appealing to thieves because they have to grind out the numbers. Autoglass carry out etching free of charge for [NFU Mutual tractor insurance](#) policyholders for example.
- Install immobilisers, chip keys and trackers as these are a simple way to deter criminals or track vehicles and can be fitted easily by an experienced agricultural engineer. [Thatcham immobilisers](#) are quality tested and allow greater piece of mind for a one-off cost. Fitting a tracking device will provide a 24/7 location of your vehicle and can possibly lower your insurance premium.

## Trailers and horse boxes

Farmers often have no choice but to store trailers outside, but there are still precautions they can take to limit the risk of theft.

- Fit locks and wheel locks when the vehicle is not in use; these can also be marked to identify who they belong to.
- Paint your postcode on the roof to enable police helicopters to spot it; chances are the thieves won't know it's there.

## Fuel

Fuel for tractors and ATVs is an increasingly expensive resource and therefore should also be safely guarded.

- Store fuel tanks within secure buildings or cages, keeping them locked and alarmed.
- Install an anti-siphon device on vehicles.
- Protect fuel tanks by equipping them with an alarm that will sound when fuel levels drop.



Contact your Rural & Business Crime Officer (RBO) who will provide you with totally free advice and guidance on how you can reduce the opportunities for crime at home, work and online.....in fact anything to do with people, places or property. There is an abundance of good generic advice but the RBO will tailor that to your particular needs and location.

### CASE STUDY

A Herefordshire Farmer who had been a victim of crime in the past, was worried by suspicious activity around his property and thought he was going to be broken into again. The sort of things that had been happening were strange vehicles driving into his yard and there were signs that people had been on his land. He had taken some security advice from a commercial company and others and then recalled reading about the Rural & Business Crime Team.

Rural & Business Crime Officer Paul Crumpton visited the farm and gave an assessment of the sorts of appropriate, realistic and cost effective measures that could be taken to reduce the opportunity for crime which were implemented by the farmer.

Feedback from the farmer was

*Paul, Thank you for your visit to view security arrangements at \*\*\*\* Farm today. I thought that your suggestions were more suitable compared to others that I had been given.*

*Thank you for the signs for the gates too. Many thanks, Mark \*\*\*\*\**



# County Lines

Some of you may have heard of a phrase called County lines and wondered what it is and how significant it is? **I urge you to read on** County Lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market towns using dedicated mobile phone lines. It often involves child criminal exploitation as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion.

The response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations.

County Lines **are here** in Herefordshire and we need your help in identifying it and protecting those most at risk.

This poster is from 'fearless.org' who provide anonymous support and reporting for young people. The poster indicates some of the signs that a young person may be involved in this activity.

If you have anything to report around County Lines activity or are concerned for someone who may be involved please contact us via 101 or alternatively use Crime stoppers or Fearless.org or me !



## Meet the Rural & Business Crime Team who say, “A little bit of info goes a long way.”

Sarah Smith, John Meek & Paul Crumpton work across Herefordshire as part of a larger dedicated problem solving team and are supported, not just Special Constables and volunteers, but also by members of the public.

Report suspicious activity, people or vehicles. No matter how insignificant you might think it is, if it is suspicious to you, it probably is.

For a confidential conversation with either Sarah, John or Paul direct contact them on

WDBC RBO Pc John Meek	07773 044234	<a href="mailto:john.meek@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">john.meek@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>
WDBC RBO Pc Sarah Smith	07773 047243	<a href="mailto:sarah.smith@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">sarah.smith@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>
RBO Paul Crumpton	07773 044781	<a href="mailto:paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>

Also, REPORT CRIME! We know not all crime is reported to us, and we know the many reasons for that which include frustration.



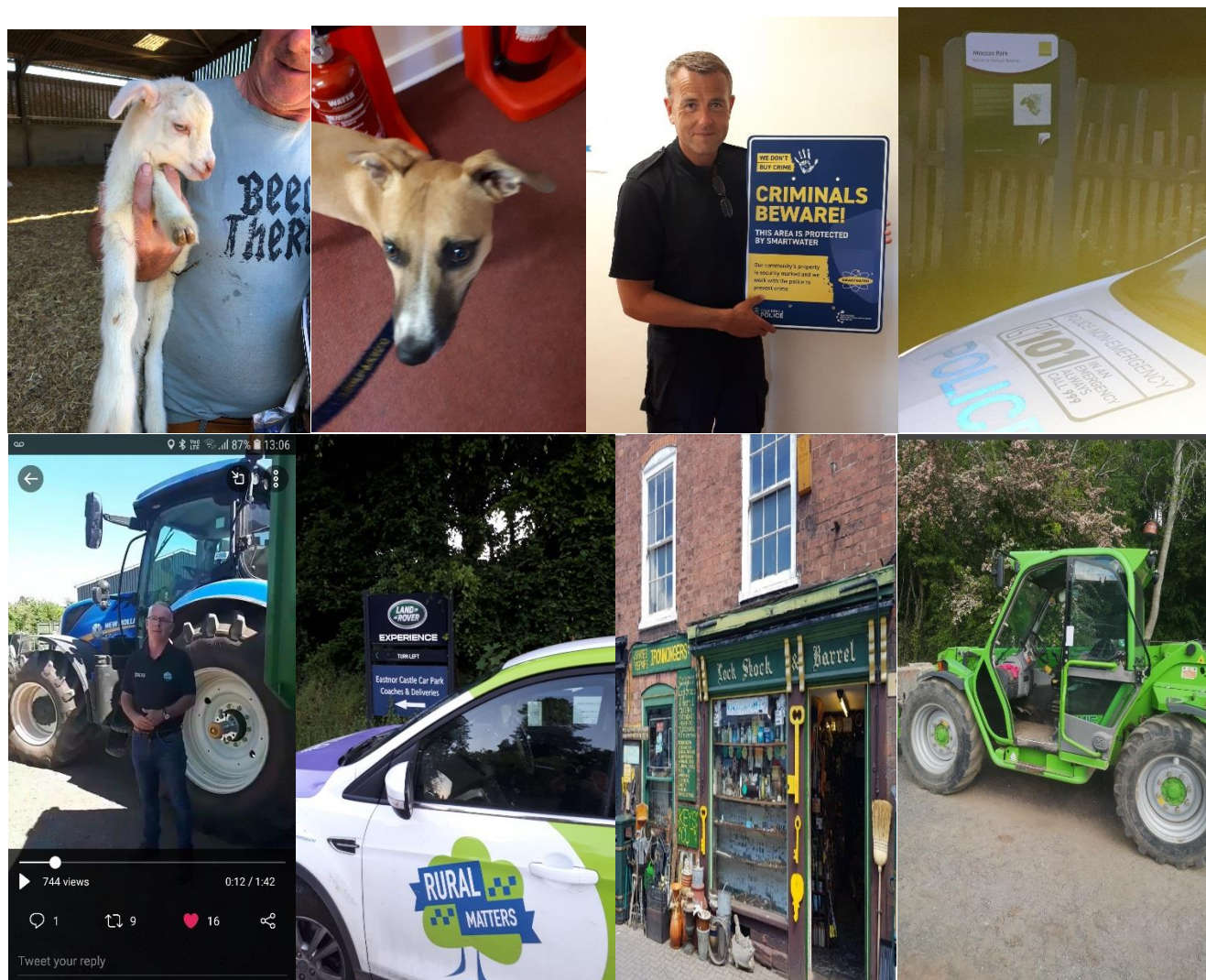
You can now report non-emergency crimes on the **West Mercia Police website** as well as 999 or 101

(Click on the word 'website' and it will take you straight to it – you may need to hover and press CTRL + CLICK together)

**If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999.**

You can also contact Crime stoppers on **0800 555 111** to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.

# So, what sort of things were they up to in May?



Clockwise from the top left, providing crime prevention advice to a farmer at Credenhill, rescuing a dog from a hot locked car, promoting the award winning WeDon'tBuyCrime scheme, patrolling rural communities at night, finding an unattended tractor with keys in for a grateful farmer, providing crime reduction initiatives to businesses, supporting business who have been victims of crime/poaching, using social media to promote safety.

These are just a glimpse of the activities (when they remember to take a picture!) that the team have been involved with and you can follow some of their exploits on Twitter & Facebook. Look for them at

Twitter: @WMPRuralMatters or @WMPBusinessMatt and Facebook: Your Rural Matters & Your Business Matt

A summary of other activities in May include

- 4 arrested for Burglary (quads stolen from barns), going equipped and drugs offences
- Providing COVID-19 support/advice & guidance
- Dealing with livestock & quad thefts & illegal fishing
- Providing Cyber Security advice to victims
- Giving crime prevention advice
- Working with local businesses to join the We Don't Buy Crime scheme to reduce criminality.

and a lot more (whilst respecting social distancing)

**If you run or work for a charity or organisation that supports Victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence please read on as the West Mercia PCC John Campion has secured additional funding from the Government.**

Victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence across West Mercia are to benefit from strengthened support.

**To meet the additional costs that charities and organisations have faced as a result of adapting their services during the pandemic, and to cope with the associated increases in demand, they have the opportunity to apply for a total of £434,000 for the following:**

- Domestic abuse services that are already commissioned by the PCC
- Sexual violence services that are already commissioned by the PCC, and those that are not currently funded by the PCC
- Domestic abuse services that are not currently commissioned by the PCC

PCC John Campion said: "This additional funding is fantastic news for the communities of West Mercia and those that are dependent on the vital support these services provide. It also further bolsters my commitment to ensuring victims and survivors get the right help to cope and recover at every point of their journey.

"This funding will help strengthen these charities that have had to adapt during these challenging times to make sure that the support victims need continues."

## Business Update



### £1.58m LEP injection to support region's recovery

The [Marches Local Enterprise Partnership](#) is to inject nearly £1.6m into the regional economy to support tourism and businesses affected by flooding and the coronavirus.



It will be allocated to the LEP's partners, councils in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, to use as grant support for strategic tourism and business initiatives following consultations with the area's business boards.

LEP Chair Mandy Thorn MBE DL said: "Businesses and the tourism sector have been amongst the hardest hit in 2020. First we had the devastation of the floods and then we have a national emergency as we fight coronavirus and its impact on our economy.

"The LEP Board has voted to use £1.58m of Marches Investment Funds (MIF) to help support those hardest hit over the next six months. We have a duty to support the regional economy and this will be just one step on the road to its recovery." [Full story...](#)

**WE DON'T  
BUY CRIME**



**WE DON'T  
BUY CRIME**



**WE DON'T  
BUY CRIME**



**A record number of homes and businesses are better protected from would be thieves as almost 20,000 join the We Don't Buy Crime scheme in the last 12 months alone.** Between April 2019 and April 2020 18,643 SmartWater forensic property marking kits were registered across the cities, towns and villages covered by West Mercia Police taking the total number of SmartWater registrations to more than 54,000

Earlier this year We Don't Buy Crime won a national award for its work to reduce demand and prevent crime in partnership with local communities and continues to go from strength to strength, utilising innovative and effective crime prevention.

Chief Superintendent Tom Harding has been behind We Don't Buy Crime since its first launch.

He said: "Independent academic research has found that there is a significant reduction in crime in We Don't Buy Crime areas and just as importantly residents feel safer and more reassured."

We Don't Buy Crime, which looks to tackle acquisitive crime and associated harm, also works with second-hand stores to help prevent the resale of stolen goods and fuel stations to prevent motorists driving off without paying for fuel, those who do are often involved in wider criminality with staff working with police to spot those who may be criminally exploiting vulnerable people.

The award winning initiative also utilises the latest in covert technology leaving criminals exposed and catching them committing crime.

Ch Supt Harding added: "Being a victim of a crime such as burglary can have a significant impact on victims, often leaving them to feel unsafe in their own home. With all of our measures we are seeking to increase the risk to criminals that we will be caught. Quite simply I want our work to put criminals out of business and make our communities safer."

For more information about We Don't Buy Crime follow @WeDontBuyCrime on Twitter or visit the We Don't Buy Crime facebook page.



**NEXT MONTH WILL FEATURE A CASE STUDY ON WE DON'T BUY CRIME .....NOT TO BE MISSED**



# Online Criminality

## NHS test and trace - fraud awareness

If NHS Test and Trace calls you by phone, the service will be using a single phone number 0300 0135 000. The only website the service will ask you to visit is <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>.

Contact tracers will never:

- Ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to us (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
  - Ask you to make any form of payment
  - Ask for any details about your bank account
  - Ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
  - Ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
  - Ask you to purchase a product
  - Ask you to download any software to your device or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet
  - Ask you to access any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS
- If you think you have been subjected to, or a victim of, a scam or attempted fraud using Track and Trace or any other fraud please call 101 or contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. If you or someone else is in immediate danger or risk of harm dial 999 now

At last! There is now one email address you can report suspicious emails too

## Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

Please be aware and remain vigilant of phishing emails. One of the many scam emails currently in circulation purports to be from the TV Licensing advising to cancel direct debits. These messages may look like the real thing but are malicious. Once clicked, you are sent to a dodgy website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords. The criminal's goal is to convince you to click on the links within their scam email or text message, or to give away sensitive information (such as bank details).

If you receive an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

For further information and advice please go to:

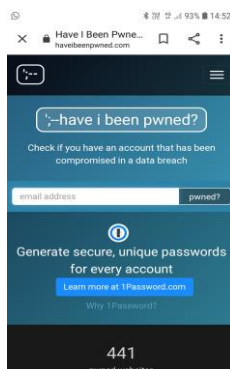
<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-ncsc/what-is-cyber-security>

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

<https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>

**Stay Safe. Stay Connected. Stay Cyber Aware!**



**haveibeenpwned.com** is a trusted website where you can check to see if your email address has been breached anywhere in the world, by who and will indicate what has been what has been compromised, for example, password, mother's maiden name etc... It will also advise on how you can protect yourself. As a matter of course, change your password for your email account. Go to <https://haveibeenpwned.com>

Social Media users may wish to view this short clip on YouTube, either click on the link below (you may need to hover over it and press Ctrl + Click together) or type it into Google or whatever search engine you use.....



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7pYHN9iC9I>

Social networking is a global revolution, enabling billions of people worldwide to stay in touch with their friends, share experiences and photographs and exchange personal content. In many ways it has replaced the phone and email. For many users, it has become a way of life.

Various social networking sites are also valuable tools used by many companies and individuals to extend their contacts and deliver marketing messages.

The nature of social networking – having such a massive base of users who are unknown to you – means that using it unfortunately carries a degree of risk including becoming a target for cyber-criminals.....so here are just some of the things you can do to protect yourself and not fall victim to Cyber Crooks.

### Safe Social Networking

You can avoid these risks and enjoy using social networking sites by following a few sensible guidelines:

- Do not let peer pressure or what other people are doing on these sites convince you to do something you are not comfortable with.
- Be wary of publishing any identifying information about yourself – either in your profile or in your posts – such as phone numbers, pictures of your home, workplace or school, your address or birthday.
- Pick a user name that does not include any personal information. For example, “joe\_glasgow” or “jane\_liverpool” would be bad choices.
- Set up a separate email account to register and receive mail from the site. That way if you want to close down your account/page, you can simply stop using that mail account. Setting up a new email account is very simple and quick to do using such providers as Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail or gmail.
- Use strong passwords.
- Keep your profile closed and allow only your friends to view your profile.
- What goes online stays online. Do not say anything or publish pictures that might later cause you or someone else embarrassment.
- Never post comments that are abusive or may cause offence to either individuals or groups of society.
- Be aware of what friends post about you, or reply to your posts, particularly about your personal details and activities.
- Remember that many companies routinely view current or prospective employees’ social networking pages, so be careful about what you say, what pictures you post and your profile.
- Don't post your holiday dates - or family photos while you are away - as social networking sites are a favourite research tool for the modern burglar.
- Learn how to use the site properly. Use the privacy features to restrict strangers’ access to your profile. Be guarded about who you let join your network.
- Be on your guard against phishing scams, including fake friend requests and posts from individuals or companies inviting you to visit other pages or sites.
- If you do get caught up in a scam, make sure you remove any corresponding likes and app permissions from your account.
- Ensure you have effective and updated antivirus/antispymware software and firewall running before you go online



TOP

GET SAFE ONLINE is an EXCELLENT website to help you at home or in business to understand the internet and how to utilise it safely, how to protect your devices and thereby yourself from Cyber Crime. If some of the language in the World of the Internet and Computers is gobbledegook to you, GET SAFE ONLINE puts it into to “ Janet & John” language (that's my description by the way ☺) Really, Really good. <https://www.getsafeonline.org/social-networking/>



# Things to look out for

This section is designed to ask you to help us with ongoing investigations or issues of interest to us that may form part of a bigger picture. Its value to us is massive as you know your area and you will know what is suspicious so please do let us know.

1. There are a continuing number of incidents of livestock theft (sheep etc.) Particularly those in lesser populated areas could you keep your eyes peeled for vehicles with trailers or livestock transporters that you don't recognise? The crooks doing this need an outlet so if you have suspicions of livestock being slaughtered at a particular place we would also like to know.
2. Quad bikes are also a continuing item of choice for the thief. If you are unsure of anyone messing around with a Quad or loading one onto a trailer we would prefer to follow up 1000 good intention calls and establish it's the owner than have more and more stolen. Here are a couple to look out for.

One like this a HONDA QUAD TRX420FE1 in RED from Preston Wynne



And this actual bike a QuadZilla CF 500 -2 in Blue from Lower Bullingham



# Crime Prevention Tactics

This final section will feature a series of articles to help you help yourself in preventing or reducing the opportunity for crime.

It begins with a basic Routine Activity theory which simply states

For any crime to happen you need just 3 things

- A suitable target ( something to steal, something to damage or someone to hurt)
- A motivated offender (A crook!)
- The absence of a capable guardian (someone to stop it happening, something to stop it happening)

So if you remove just one of those 3 things, you have no crime.

To understand how we can all help each other in preventing or reducing crime, we are going to use something called the 10 Principles of Crime Reduction. The first newsletter focussed on Surveillance and this month we are going to look at **ACCESS CONTROL**

**Access control** in the World of Crime Prevention is about preventing the criminal gaining access to the target, which might be a building, a person or a place.

If you can control the **access** you can control who enters the space whether that be at home, work or online. (Which is why in next month's issue I will go on about effective passwords) but at home or work it might include some of the following amongst many, many others

- Having a 1.8 metre fence around the garden complete with trellis and climbing prickly shrubs and a well locked gate of equal height
- Making sure you lock your doors and windows
- Making sure that car doors and windows are locked
- Adding an access control system to the main entrance
- Employing a security guard and barrier at the entrance to an industrial estate
- Putting up gates at the entrances to back alleys that run to the rear of houses

For some of you reading this who have had a crime prevention survey from me or have been subjected to one of my presentations in a village hall! You will know I go on and on about ACCESS CONTROL. If we can make it more difficult for the crook to operate in your space, where ever that is, because of the measures controlling access, we put one more crook out of business and have one less victim.

**Take a look at the picture below and what can you see?**



In this example I am showing the entrance to a Business Park in Herefordshire, but if it were the driveway to a house, the principles are the same. From this position you can see buildings, vehicles and other equipment.....so if you can see that, so can the crook.

Now think about your own situation.

### What else can you see?

Hopefully the picture is clear enough to show the multiple tyre tracks in and out of this site indicating a regular vehicular traffic.

Would you want to know and/or regulate who is accessing your space?

### Thinking ACCESS CONTROL what might you consider?



My advice, (and the owner has done this) is to restrict & regulate the access where possible.

In this example the owner installed a substantial electric gate with perimeter fencing. The gates also have an Access Control system fitted.

Now the view is very different and the crook cannot so easily see in. This is referred to as Situational Crime Prevention which attempts to dissuade potential offenders by altering the situation.

Always consider your perimeter security measures first, deter them from entering your space in the first place.

This location is also going to become a WE DON'T BUY CRIME Smartwater Protected Business Park.



Well that's it!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you have any feedback good and bad or suggestions for articles or information you would like covered please contact me on the details below.

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Twitter: @WMPRuralMatters @WMPBusinessMatt  
Facebook: look for us at Your Rural Matters and Your Business Matt

I will respond to your email as soon as possible.

If you are contacting me in relation to an emergency please call 999 or the alternative emergency number 112; for the deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired call 18000 to use [Next Generation Text Service](#); or use [emergencySMS](#); or please visit our website to report crime and other matters online [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk).

On our website you can

- Report a non emergency incident [www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/)
- Find about your Safer Neighbourhood Team and what's happening in your area [www.westmercia.police.uk/a/your-area/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/a/your-area/)
- Find advice and information [www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/)
- Submit compliments or complaints [www.westmercia.police.uk/fo/feedback/tc/thanks-and-complaints/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/fo/feedback/tc/thanks-and-complaints/)



