



January 2012

A New Year and time for January Newsletter.

Of the 85 rural crimes we have recorded in January, theft of metal (29) was once again the highest.

There were 6 recorded burglaries or thefts in which tools and power tools were taken. A reminder that you can record serial numbers of these items onto "Immobilise". This database is checked by police forces nationally, against items that we come across when dealing with the sort of person who steal them.

<http://www.immobilise.com>

We have a further 9 incidents which have damage only, be it fences cut, gates smashed, or padlocks cut and nothing believed stolen. Please report these offences to us, as in many cases it can be a precursor to a burglary. I will talk more of quad bikes later, but in most cases where a quad bike or landrover is stolen, there has usually been a suspicious event in the days prior, be it fences cut, visits or whatever.

We have had 15 cases of fuel theft reported, this predominantly being heating oil. In relation to the Tisbury heating oil thefts I mentioned last month, arrests were made and that series has now stopped. These were large amounts of fuel, in the thousands of litres.

We have had 21 calls in January in relation to hare coursing and poaching. This is occurring all over County at the moment. There were seven arrests for hare coursing/poaching offences. Nearly 50% of calls gave us a registration number to work on, so keep the calls coming in please. We will send our nearest available units as our highest response. If it is happening now, call 999 – it is a crime, in progress.

Quadbikes are still our biggest problem when looking at thefts or non dwelling burglaries in rural areas. In January, eight quadbikes/ATV's were reported stolen. Two of these were from Swindon, and likely not part of the ongoing series. The remainder went from Malmesbury, Marlborough, Trowbridge and Warminster areas. There have also been several "attempts" south of A303 where quadbikes would appear to have been the target. We have arrested four persons who had stolen a tracker equipped quadbike this month.

If you own one of these items, please consider how and where you are going to secure it when not in use. Consider strengthening that location, locks, lights, alarms etc. Make it difficult for them!

You can also consider protective marking. CESAR (Construction Equipment Security and Registration) can be used for plant, quadbikes, and even trailers with serial numbers. This will provide uniquely coded warning triangles, microchips and other security devices. This sort of protective marking will greatly improve the chances of stolen items being recovered and identified, indeed with plant, it has changed the recovery rate from around 5% to around 30%.

www.cesarscheme.org

And finally, tracker devices. There are several devices on the market, some that will ring your mobile phone if an item moves, others that will tell you where they are, and some that will transmit a signal which can be picked up by police vehicles and helicopters when activated. The prices will vary depending on what you are after. We have said it before, but all the quadbikes that we have recovered, have been through a fitted tracker device.

And yes, the above items will cost, but some can lead to significant discount with some insurance companies. Irrespective of the financial value of your machines, generally in the thousands of pounds, these security devices are in the low hundreds! If anyone would like any advice on crime prevention, CESAR, or tracker devices, contact us at the Rural Crime Team.

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