

Rural Task Force



**Kent
Police**

Please find attached the CRAG Report for the last 2 months. You will see that the Rural Task Force (RTF) have been active across the County dealing with the core business for which we are responsible in addition to supporting local colleagues with a broad spectrum of Police activity.

RTF are still committed to supporting other Police demands and an example of that during the period of this report were the Police operations to manage traffic as a result of Brexit and also other unforeseen incidents such as the tragic murder of PCSO James. However despite this operational abstractions we continue to cover our core responsibilities with the support of our Rural Task Force Specials local Community Safety Units and Community Policing Teams.

Rural Task Force underpinned the Kent Police operation to support the National Week of Action for Catalytic Converters Thefts – Op Goldiron. This was a targeted intelligence led partnership initiative led by the RTF but including local policing teams and the CSU Problem Solving Task Force as well as KCC and Local Council Environmental and Licencing Enforcement Teams. Details are within this report but in summary 4 arrests were made, 104 vehicles stopped and 18 were seized during the week. The good news is that Catalytic thefts have decreased in Kent from that experienced in the County at the start of the year but there are still some offences. One preventative measure is to mark your Catalytic Converter so next time you have your vehicle serviced it would be prudent to see if your dealer or garage can do this.

It is the time of year when we see an increase in the reports of nesting bird disturbance and the RTF are often asked what the law is in respect of this. All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and CountrySide Act 1981. The legislation in respect of wild bird nests is to intentionally take, damage or destroy a nest while it is in use. If a person is carrying out any maintenance or removing a tree, hedgerow or vegetation that could support nesting birds, they are to check the area and if an active nest is found are to stop any work until the chicks have fledged the nest or apply to Natural England for a licence to continue the work. RSPB do recommend that any such work should not take place from the 1st March to 31st August as this is the peak bird breeding season in the UK but this is only guidance and not legalisation. RTF will investigate any report where there is evidence that an active nest site has been destroyed.

Doug Robertson – Rural Crime Co-Ordinator

Here is a snapshot of the work carried out by the Rural Task Force over the last eight weeks.

Rural Theft

RTF attended an address to arrest a male suspect in relation to Handling Stolen Goods following a Tracker activation in his yard in February. Several stolen vehicles were located at the time and he was arrested. Due to further evidence it was requested that Officers reattend and arrest him again. North Kent CPT Officers located male suspect prior to him getting home, whilst the RTF remained at his home address and conducted a further search of the address. The RSPCA was contacted due to several Dogs located at the address with possible welfare concerns and attended, giving a Warning notice for some identified welfare concerns. During the search at the address a female at the location received a Cannabis Warning, following a small amount of Cannabis being located. Several stolen tools were in a barn and identified as being stolen from a company in Ashford. These items were seized and will be returned to the company.



On 15th March a galvanised steel water trough was stolen in Ash and overnight the victim has found fresh tracks suggesting that he may be subject to a new theft. He is also aware of similar offences being committed in neighbouring farms in the Sevenoaks and Dartford area. **Consider marking your water troughs so they can be easily identified this would make them less desirable to steal.**

Theft of quad and garden equipment from driveway of property. Offenders have cut the rear fencing of the garden and pushed quad away, property still outstanding.



The RTF were requested to assist MET Police & NAVCIS for multi-agency warrant in Essex in relation to conspiracy to commit theft of CAT Converters. Those involved are thought to be responsible for organised CAT converter crime around the South East of England including Kent. Twenty plus warrants executed, lots of caravan storage facilities checked where the nominals are storing their motor homes all of which have been searched. The RTF using their specialist equipment assisted in identifying around 300 caravans. More than 20 phones seized, large quantity of tools, 18 CAT converters, 11 vehicles including 2 caravans seized and over £50K in cash. Suspected Class A drugs, HMRC seizure, and a shipping container with stolen CATS.



KCC reported a stolen camera from layby near Maidstone. The camera captured the index and vehicle used in the theft which was a sign written Ford Transit. Area search conducted and vehicle was located outside an address in Faversham. House to House enquiries conducted and the driver, was located. He stated his passenger picked up the camera and provided his details. Attended the home address of the identified suspect and interviewed him at his address for the offence of theft by finding and this was dealt with by means of a community resolution and the camera recovered.

RTF team were made aware of a suspected stolen Bulldozer located in West Malling. The victim is the owner which was hired out via his business at a building site to which the victim was also delivering soil. When the victim has delivered a further load of soil the bulldozer was missing from the site with the initial customer claiming he thought the victim had collected the bulldozer back. The victim called RTF in the morning of the 26th March stating that he has gone to check if his bulldozer is still at Aldon Lane and seen a number of males surrounding it in the field and looking like they were grinding off the serial numbers. The victim provided numerous details of the bulldozer which only the owner would know such as repair work, parts and functionality. Once this was established the vehicle was believed to be the same and was seized as suspected stolen.



Tracker activated on a Stolen Road roller from Bexley Heath at a site near Hextable. Patrol attended and located roller valued at £55,000. The Roller was located within part of the extended site that is under construction. Road Roller collected by owner.



Attended at Farm at Aylesham, after an Ifor Williams HB511 Horse Box was stolen (Valued at £7,000), following contact from the Land Owner. Offender (s) have driven through the field at the side of the farm and through two fences in a 4x4 vehicle with substantial off-road tyres.



RTF attended a livery yard at Southfleet following concerns the land is storing stolen property. Site was checked and located near to some overgrown brambles was a Twin Axle IFOR Williams which on one of the chassis plates was recorded as stolen from West Mercia in 2015. This was seized for a full vehicle examination, but the examination revealed the Horse Box was not stolen.



RTF contacted by Leeds Castle via RTF Farmwatch in relation to a theft and offending vehicle details obtained. Vehicle was stopped on Whitstable Road, Faversham by RTF officers with 3 occupants. Full Section 1 PACE search conducted, and large amount of cooking oil located in the rear of the vehicle. Also located was a Hammer in the passenger side door and a Fake business ID for Recycle Cooking Oil Company. All 3 occupants arrested on suspicion of theft, going equipped and no insurance and vehicle seized. Victim has spoken to his Catering Manager of the Company to which the fake ID referred who stated there have had issues over the past few months around persons impersonating their staff. It is suspected that these males have used false documents to gain entry to Leeds Castle to commit the Theft.



Sheldwich Game Keeper reported two cocker spaniels stolen. CCTV shows vehicle arriving at scene and then two occupants cut a hole in the kennel. Suspect vehicle drove off towards Ashford. RTF have identified suspect vehicle and mapped its movement to Ashford area. RTF have also linked vehicle to another suspicious incident in the Marden area. One dog has since been recovered by the owner.



OP GALILEO (POACHING)

On Wednesday 17th March, whilst off duty, an RTF officer received a call directly from a local Game Keeper reporting torch light in the trees on Snode Hill near his Pheasant Pens. The officer called colleagues who attended the area and located a red Vauxhall Corsa, at the side of the road opposite the Wooded area containing the Pens. It is out of season however Birds are still roasting in the trees. Admissions were made that they had Pheasants in the boot and an Air Weapon in the vehicle. The vehicle and occupants were searched under the Poaching Prevention Act and two dead Pheasants, along with an Air Rifle and Ammunition were recovered. Two of the group were issued with COVID fines, the remaining three were advised due to age. Interviews were carried out on the three males, who were reported for the poaching offences disclosed.



Known Poaching vehicle was spotted and stopped near Aylesham, driver and sole occupant was the owner of the vehicle and the known Hare Courser. Checks were carried out on the driver and the vehicle. It was established that the vehicle had no MOT, so the driver was dealt with for this offence and he also taxed the vehicle at roadside.



Op Traverse/Fish Poaching

RTF Specials have been patrolling during darkness Mote Park, to an area where a group of males has been reported to have been fishing out of hours overnight.

RTF Specials attended Castle Lakes to conduct Op Traverse patrol's after recent ASB incidents at the location. 3 males were stopped for fishing. All Rod licence checks were carried out. 2 of the 3 males Rod Licences and were all in order, however 1 male was unable to provide his Rod Licence but did provide his details to officers at scene. Male's details have been passed onto EA for further checks to be carried and male was told to leave.



Wildlife

Informant contacted RTF directly reporting potential disturbance to badger sett. The sett is on the boundary line of her garden and a neighbouring field. A grain store has recently been built in the field and access to this is via a new track that runs directly alongside the sett. The informant stated that large vehicles regularly travel along the track and she believes this would disturb the badgers that occupy the sett. Enquiries are on-going to establish whether any offences have been committed.



Investigation to a Swan nest disturbance at Marine Parade, Sheerness. It was reported that a male completing works on site had destroyed a swan nest by putting a ladder over it. This resulted in a Facebook Post which has attracted nearly 250 comments and issues on Social Media. Rural Task Force officers attended the location and spoke to those involved. It transpires that the swan nest was never disturbed, that a ladder had been put over the nest and not in it and the Swans were not present at the time. Officers spoke to two independent witnesses who confirmed this. Words of advice has been given to all parties involved.

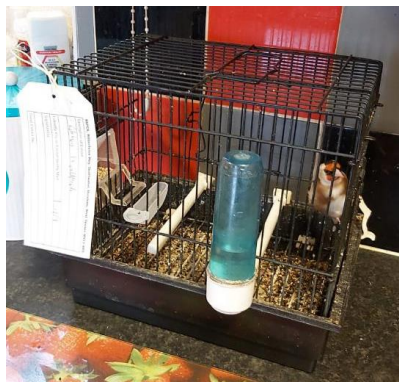
Report of habitat destruction at Farningham following removal of a hedgerow. RTF officers attended and no offences disclosed and advice given to Farm Manager.



Report received from Ecologist that destruction work had commenced on a barn development at Headcorn which they had previously inspected and found protected species. No Natural England licences had been granted and the mitigation work not completed. Offences of protected species habitat destruction under Wildlife and Countryside Act now being investigated.

Report of wildlife being illegally trapped in Chatham. RTF Officer attended and spoke with the homeowner who had installed a spring trap to catch grey squirrels. The trap had unintentionally caught a pigeon which had then been killed by a fox. The homeowner had already removed the spring trap and has been given advice around the use of traps in the future.

Rural Task Force Officers attended an address in Greenhithe and executed a Warrant under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with the RSPCA following information received that the occupant of the property was illegally trapping Wild Birds, namely Goldfinches. In total nine Wild Birds were located and seized. During the execution it became apparent that occupier is also involved in Breeding and Studing Dogs. Kennels were located at the rear of the property with several Dogs (Cockapoo's, Shih Tzu, Dachshund Dogs). Numerous pieces of paperwork were located confirming her involvement in the trade. Investigation with partner agencies for the dog breeding at the location on-going.



Call received from daughter who had been clearing out her Deceased Father's House and located several Wild Birds Eggs which she found in his shed. Some of the Eggs date back to 1920. RTF took possession of the Eggs which were in seven containers that were signed over to the RTF to be used for Display and Educational Purposes.



Report of potential habitat destruction Higham where it was claimed a reservoir was being filled with building waste and Great Crested Newts were present. Ecology Report relating to the site was checked and a site visit by RTF confirmed no offences.



Reports of persons with air rifles suspected to be shooting illegally on farmland at Meopham. Witness unable to confirm any offences other than trespassing with the air weapons. One male identified and has been spoken to in relation to the incident and confirmed that he was in the woods with the intention of shooting squirrels. He has been verbally warned regarding his behaviour and the law in relation to air weapons.

Member of the public called in to state a male was seen using a catapult to shoot at ducks in the pond and then returned to his vehicle when challenged by informant. The home address of the keeper of the vehicle was attended and the male party was given words or advice with his mother and father present. The parents where supportive of police course of action and it was felt this was sufficient.

A fence has been erected around a Primary School and the informant has stated a large amount of hedge has been cut back for this to have occurred and is now causing disruption to the wildlife. The area was attended and whilst there is a new fence installed, there is sufficient gaps underneath for the local wildlife to pass though. There is no evidence of any nests in the hedge row and the informant was met with and understand there is no offences requiring police involvement.

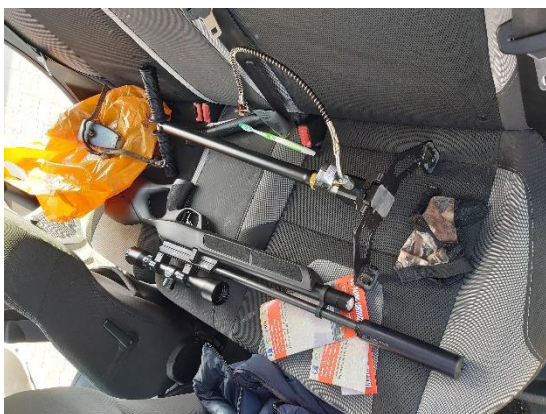
Animal Welfare

RTF carried out a Search Warrant at an address in Meopham, under Section 23(1) Animal Welfare Act 2006 following an ongoing RSPCA investigation into Puppy Farming from the address. This warrant was attended by officers from Rural Task Force, RSPCA Investigators, and officers from Gravesham District Council for Planning and Animal Welfare. There was a total of 6 plastic and wooden sheds set up in the rear which was either housing dogs or has housed Puppies previously with lamps and Straw bedding. Male at the address was issued 3 Section 9 Notices under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to make improvements to the welfare of the Dogs before consideration was made to seize the dogs.

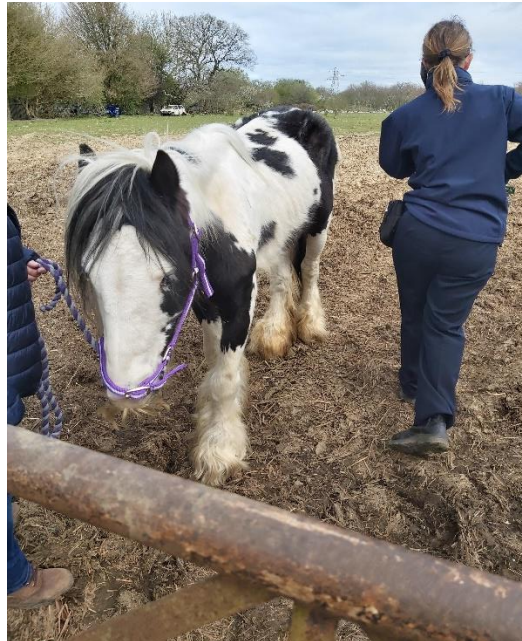


RTF officers attended an address in Gravesend with an RSPCA Inspector following a concern for welfare. The occupant of the address had been taken to hospital and sadly died. Three days later information was received that cats had been left in the property and concerns raised by neighbours to RSPCA around Animal Welfare and damage caused within the property by the animals. Officers gained under Section 17 with RSPCA present, and the cats were recovered alive and well.

RTF arranged and executed with RSPCA a Search Warrant at a small site near Rochester for an investigation into Animal Welfare and Badger Baiting offences. Large number of Items seized including 3 dogs, 1 mobile phone, 4 Spades (some had blood on it), 1 Tracker and Locator, 1 Axe and Cannabis Cultivation also located so large amount of Cannabis seized to the value of £10,000. Council also contacted whilst on site due to Large Waste being dumped on land. Significant injuries located on 2 of the dogs.



RTF supported RSPCA at a site in Sevenoaks with welfare concerns for a horse. This horse was seen by a vet and was subsequently seized by Kent Police.



Livestock

Report received to a Sheep Worrying Attack at a Farm at Cliffe, Rochester. Rural Task Force Officers attended the location and spoke to the farmer. He stated that this is the 9th Sheep attack he has had in the past 4 months. This is due to public footpaths going through his land and also a large increase in footfall due to Coronavirus Restrictions. No sheep were physically attacked on this occasion however a number of Pregnant ewes were chased. Unknown at this time how much damage this will cause. The dog owner was identified and suitable words of advice given. The dog owner who was extremely apologetic and had moved from London 5 days ago and was not aware of the Legal Aspect.

Livestock worrying at Aldington, Ashford with four sheep killed and a further four have been injured. All ewes currently in lamb. The field in question does have a public footpath running through it and it is believed possibly caused by a local dog being walked through the field. No forensic opportunities as the farmer has already disposed of the sheep carcasses. Victim asked to update RTF should any further sheep miscarry. Email sent to Neighbourhood Watch to send out for an appeal for any information and a reminder to keep dogs on leads around livestock.

Livestock Worrying at a Farm near Loose. Report from farmer that he found a Staffordshire Terrier attacking an adult ram. The dog was locked onto the ram's face and despite the farmer's best efforts he was unable to get the dog off the ram. He was forced to shoot and kill the dog. The ram has extensive injuries to its lower jaw and at this stage it is unknown if it will survive. Dog identified through data chip. Dog Owner was fully aware of the incident and accepted the circumstances fully justified the farmer's actions. The dog escaped from the garden through gap under her fence caused by digging badgers. This is the second sheep attack incident from her dog in the past twelve months. Dog Owner has agreed to pay for the farmer's losses.



Livestock worrying report at Easting. Suspect dogs have been identified and owner has agreed to deal with the incident by restorative practice and compensate the farmer.

Heritage

2 local males were arrested following reports of criminal damage to church property owned by Ospringe Parish council, Faversham. Church notice board plastic cover had been smashed and broken. Wooden plinth surround. A white wooden post been broken. Anti-social behaviour included overturned waste bins smashed bottles of beer and spittle on the floor of the graveyard. Both males admitted the offence and were dealt with by way of community resolution.



Heritage Crime Dover Castle; security reporting that damage has been caused to gain entry to the Esplanade tunnels. The tunnels extend for many miles and being advertised on Facebook groups for attendance by Urban Explorers. Dover CSU and the Port of Dover Police haven been made aware due to the proximity to the Port.



Night Hawking (Op Chronos)

Officers from the Rural Task Force were called to A299 Thanet Way just off Brenley Corner by local landowner reporting he had two metal detectorists on his land. On arrival one male had already left another was stopped on the field and brought back to the vehicle. A section 1 PACE search was conducted on the male and his vehicle. Several items were located including Shovel and Metal Detector and some finds. Offence of Going Equipped to Steal was identified and the male was issued a Community Resolution, after taking into account the wishes of the landowner.



Fly Tipping (Op Assist)

Joint visit to illegal waste transfer site with Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) to land at Knatts Valley, Sevenoaks. SDC are investigating a report that the land is being used as an illegal waste site. Drone footage appears to support this. Whilst at the site two skips lorries turned up that were stopped by RTF . Enquiries are ongoing by Sevenoaks District Council and the Environment Agency with support from RTF.



Report of fly tipping in progress. Vehicle seen on land and stopped by RTF. Driver issued £300 fine by Maidstone Borough Council. 2 Persons Searches and vehicle Search conducted under section 23 of Misuse of Drugs Act. One male issued a PND for possession of Cannabis



Joint operation with Swale Borough Council tackling fly tipping and the illegal transportation/storage of waste. Swale Borough Council officers from the Rural Task Force stopped numerous vehicles. Traffic offence reports were issued for various offences. Swale Council issued several producers for waste transfers notes and waste carriers. Officers also completed a joint visit to a location suspected of illegally burning waste. Waste was being burnt and landowner dealt with by SBC for this. 1 vehicle seized due to the driver having no insurance and an expired driving licence.



Joint operation with Maidstone Borough Council tackling fly tipping and the illegal transportation/storage of waste. Multiple vehicles stopped. 1 Traffic offence report issued, 2 vehicles seized, 2 £300 fine issued and 1 Stop Search under Section 1 PACE.



Stop Check. Dover Road, Northfleet on a white Mercedes Tipper. The rear was full of waste wood and scrap metal. There were 4 males' occupants who stated the waste was being taken to Erith Scrapco. They had an expired waste carriers' licence and no waste transfer notices. This information was passed on to Medway Council for enforcement.



RTF Specials Patrol located vehicle on the A2 at Dartford after a ANPR Activation that vehicle linked to waste carrying offences. Vehicle was also reported near a recent property theft in Kent however no known offences were disclosed. Vehicle was stopped in Bexleyheath with the assistance of Metropolitan Police. Vehicle had a large amount of waste in the rear and driver admitted to not having a waste carrier's licence. Driver stated he collected scrap from Kings Hill as a favour to a friend. Driver has been reported to Kent County Council for carrying waste. Vehicle was seized as the driver was unable to produce a current UK driving licence.



RTF assisted with a fly tipping investigation by Thanet District Council for an identified vehicle involved in a large-scale fly tipping in Broadstairs. Vehicle was located and enquires to locate the owner were unsuccessful so the Vehicle that was not taxed or insured and was seized used in crime.



Attended a Site near to Faversham with Swale Borough Council Officers after they received reports of large bonfires emanating from the Site. They are said to be burning in between the mobile homes closest to the A2, which is creating smoke drifting across the Dual Carriageway

Waste carrier vehicle stopped in Reims Court, Canterbury. Driver covered by company's waste carriers' licence but had no waste transfer notices. Vehicle had no MOT and driver only had provisional licence. Driver issued Traffic Offence Report and advised regarding transfer notices.



Citroen Relay Van linked to Multiple Fly-tipping's in Kent and under Investigation by Maidstone Borough Council was stopped in Hever Avenue in West Kingsdown and seized by RTF Officers.



Rogue Trading

RTF attended a report of a fraud in progress in Dover. An elderly female being conned out of £3500 for roof repairs and damage caused to roof in the process. A vigilant neighbour phoned police prior to money being exchanged. Suspect vehicle a White Ford Transit Tipper was spotted by RTF Officer and with assistance of other units subsequently stopped. All 3 occupants were arrested on suspicion of Fraud by False Representation and Criminal Damage.



Other Business

Ford Transit sighted diving down a farm track near to Minster. Driver was from Thanet area. Expired licence and no insurance so vehicle seized, and driver reported for No Insurance, No MOT and No Tax since 2019

A silver Ford Focus was picked up travelling Crockenhill towards Well Hill, Swanley along Daltons Road, the driver took evasive action and drove in a complete loop around St Mary's Cray and Crockenhill. One of the rear side passengers were using a mobile phone and recording police behind them. The vehicle was stopped on Chelsfield Lane in Metpol. Front passenger decamped and made off on foot down an alleyway towards housing estate. Driver and three passengers detained and searched under Misuse of Drugs Act. Vehicle was seized for not having Vehicle Tax and Driver Report for several driving offences.



Kent Police - rural @kentpolicerural · 4m

This evening, this vehicle tried to evade the team in #Crockenhill It was stopped & its occupants detained. The driver was reported for vehicle related offences & having no MOT. The vehicle was also seized because it hadn't been taxed since January 2021. NL #Fatal5 #EnjoyYourWalk



A white van was seen acting suspiciously within the Hadlow area of West Kent. The vehicle was reported via Farmwatch group to the RTF. Officers spotted the vehicle heading towards Bluebell Hill and stopped it. The vehicle was shown notified off road (SORN) and MOT was also expired since 2018. Vehicle was seized and the driver was reported for the offences shown above.



RTF along with Shepway CPT and Local resources attended a report in relation to Pony and Trap racing on the A2070. This is a problem area which has caused local traffic issues. Several members of the travelling community stop checked at the Snave junction and sent on their way.



On the 9th March three male occupants of a white Ford Transit drove onto a farm in Headcorn and were looking around. They were spoken to by the farmer. The occupants then made their way around to a unit on the farm which is rented by another Business. The occupants of the van started to engage with Business Owner. The male on the passenger side was extremely aggressive so much so that the farmer feared for his safety and the passenger was being restrained by others in the van. The Farmer then made his way over due to the commotion. The driver of the Transit van made threats to come back with his family and caravans and would set fire to the farm buildings. RTF stopped this vehicle on the 12th March on the Thanet Way. There were 3 males' occupants and these were all arrested on Suspicion of Threats of causing Criminal Damage. They were all conveyed to Margate Custody.



Stop Check Birling Avenue, Rainham on a Grey VW Golf. Males stated they were working as builders on a new housing development on Lower Rainham Road. Vehicle shown uninsured and untaxed since August 2020. Vehicle seized and Driver reported for summons.



Stop check A2, Rainham on a Silver Renault Scenic. Vehicle had an ANPR marker as seen in suspicious circumstances in rural Ashford. Driver admitted having a provisional licence and no insurance. Vehicle seized and Driver reported for summons. There was a strong smell of cannabis in the vehicle and Driver admitted having just smoked a joint and that it was still in the car. He passed a drug swipe and the cannabis was seized and he was issued with a Penalty Notice.

Stop Check. Vehicle seized for No Road Tax. Blue Vauxhall Vectra located abandoned in Cobhambury Road, Cobham. Vehicle was insecure and located inside was several ball bearings and air pellets. Whilst waiting for recovery the owner returned and was reported for offences.



RTF stopped a white transit van just off the A20 at Ashford which has been acting suspiciously around farms in East Kent. The driver had no licence or insurance so has been reported for these offences. Cannabis also seized from the vehicle and driver failed drug wipe so arrested and sample provided. Passenger in the van confirmed he was the owner and has been reported for permitting its use without insurance. The occupants were collecting an old cement mixer for scrap at an address, this was checked, and they had asked for permission.



RTF assisted Thanet CPT and Trading standards in relation to the selling of counterfeit tobacco and potential issues around modern day slavery in the Thanet Area. Officers attended the shop and conducted a search a large quantity of tobacco seized and an amount of cash. Shop keeper and only person present details obtained with livescan. Investigation ongoing.



RTF officers attended Dungeness to assist with drone search for occupants of a boat illegally entering the UK. 12 people were seen on the boat and 11 were located and detained for entering the UK illegally and are being processed by Border Force.

Attended Charing Point to Point race regarding concerns of possible Covid Breaches. Engagement conducted with race organisers and no concerns identified. Several visits were made during the day and on all occasions the race meet was conducted lawfully.

A red Vauxhall Combo was seen acting suspiciously in Faversham held at a junction and appeared to waiting for marked patrol to leave the area. The vehicle eventually pulled out and was stopped on A299, Whitstable. Driver admitted he had drunk 7 cans of lager and also had smoked cannabis during the day and taken cocaine the previous day. Failed a breath test and drug swipe and was arrested for EBA/Drug Driving.

Stopped in a blue Suzuki Alto on the A2 at Bridge, Canterbury, following ANPR activation in Canterbury. Arrested the Driver for two outstanding Warrants relating to Breach of Non Molestation Order.

RTF Officers came together to work an Op Farm in the West Division focusing on Cranbrook, Goudhurst, Brenchley, Lamberhurst, Horsemonden and Paddock wood. This resulted in several vehicle checks and a seizure for no insurance.



Officers seized a Ford Transit for no tax at Green Tree Green, Dartford.



Blue Volkswagen Polo stopped in Herne Bay. Female driver admitted No Insurance and No Tax, so the vehicle was seized and was reported for the offence.



Ongoing issues with vehicles driving off road across farmland at Wouldham, Rochester. Farmer has provided images of some of the offending vehicles to which S.59 warning notices have been issued to the registered owners, both from Medway.



RTF Specials supported Local PSCOs who had come across a young male aged 16 who had been stabbed in the back of the thigh after a verbal altercation with 2 friends. Initial first aid carried out and a tourniquet to the upper thigh applied to the male due to the amount of blood lost and saturation of the trousers. Local Patrol attended and took over the scene. Injuries transpired were not life threatening or life changing.

A Light Green Peugeot Partner which was being driven on Canterbury Rd (A252) nr Chilham Canterbury in the direction of Challock was stopped due to the erratic manner of the driver. The driver smelt of intoxicating liquor and the officers immediately formed the opinion Driver was drunk. Driver was arrested for Driving Unfit through Drink and vehicle seized for no tax.



A Silver Ford Fiesta showing No Insurance, No Tax, No MOT and notified off road stopped on A299. Driver fully aware of no insurance. Reported for 2 offences vehicle seized.



A Blue Peugeot failed to stop on the A2 at Upchurch a Blue Peugeot but later found inside nearby car park. Male driver and female front seat passenger. Male on a Court Warrant and the female also wanted for an outstanding warrant and an outstanding shoplifting. Both arrested and conveyed to North Kent Custody.



Vehicle sighted in West Kingsdown and shown as no insurance. Vehicle was stopped and subsequently seized for no insurance and Traffic Offence Report issued to driver.



Vehicle sighted Near Forge lane Headcorn with the Driver not wearing his seat Belt. Officer followed the vehicle where it came to a natural stop in the Sainsburys car park access road. The Vehicle had a marker in relation to a robbery. There were two occupants in the vehicle. Several items used in the offence were still outstanding and officers search both males and the vehicle under Section 1 of PACE. Whilst passenger was being search a small amount of Cannabis fell from his person. He was issued a cannabis warning in relation to the Cannabis possession. Driver was drug wiped and failed and showed a positive for Cannabis was arrested and conveyed to Maidstone custody where an evidential blood sample was obtained.

Kent Police received several calls regarding male driving a Hyundai Getz was punching a female in the head. Vehicle activated ANPR on Broadoak Road, Canterbury. RTF was able to intercept the vehicle and stop it in Wincheap. Male was taken from the vehicle and detained. Female had swelling and a cut to her right eye. LPT officers arrived shortly after and arrested the male for Assault

Mercedes C220 was stopped in the car park of King George V Playing Field, London Road, Faversham. It had been seen earlier travelling along the A2 from Rainham towards Swale. As soon as the vehicle stopped the rear seat passenger quickly got out and started to walk off. He was detained and refused all details but was later identified. There were two females in the driver and front passenger seat. Also, in the vehicle was a female child aged approx 18 months. Driver provided evidence that the vehicle was insured and taxed. Due to recent intelligence linking the vehicle to multiple shoplifting offences it was searched with a negative result. The male who tried to leave the scene was shown as outstanding for a shoplifting offence and was arrested by LPT officers who attended to assist.

Off Road Vehicles

Three off road bikes stopped in woods off of Cobhambury Road, Cobham. Two bikes initially made off but returned when the third bike was stopped. All three persons issued with S59 Warnings and warned regarding Covid Breaches.



OP Gurka Joint operation with Tonbridge/North Kent/Medway CSU tackling ASB and other criminality associated to the use of off road vehicles. Patrols attended various hot spot location and engaged with a number of off road bike users.



Motorbike witnessed riding dangerously on MOD land at Kitchener Road, Chattenden. Rider nearly collided with members of the public walking and stopped by PCSO's. RTF attended and dealt with the rider. He was reported for careless driving/riding. He was also issued with a Covid Breach FPN and his bike was seized as he was already subject to a S59 warning.



At Common Road, Chatham 3 stopped off roaders using the byway. One male on his own from a local address, vehicle all insured and in order, advice provided to go home in relation to covid rules as not deemed a form of exercise. 2 males together also insured, and vehicles registered to them, covid rules explained and advice to return home.



At Terrys Lodge Road Wrotham, 2 riders stopped on a byway and vehicles all insured and registered to them. Covid rules explained and advised to return home.



At Wrotham Road, Instead Rise a Group of riders sighted, 2 off road motorcycles and 3 quad bikes. Only 1 quad bike stopped and stated he did not know the rest of the group. Vehicle wasn't muddy and did not appear to be used off road. Road legal insured and registered to rider. Advised to return home.

Officers from the Rural Task Force stopped an Off Road Motorcycle on grassland on Marine Parade, Sheerness. The rider was a juvenile, his mother was spoken to on the phone and it turns out she was at work and he had gone out without her permission. A section 59 was issued on the bike and words of advice given to Mother and Son.



RTF deployed to OP Rio to West Kent Sevenoaks district as planned work with local CPT patrols to tackle off road nuisance bikes and vehicles. Areas covered were Shoreham, Polehill, Eynsford, Farningham, West Kinsdown.

Three off road illegal trails bikes sighted travelling on grass verge towards Farningham Hill with no helmets. Sighted police vehicle and made off on the grass verge. Pc Lingham managed to stop one of the riders off his bike to which the rider has subsequently ran off on foot and jumped on the back of one of the other 2 bikes. All at that point were on the A20. Bike seized for vehicle exam and no insurance.



Catalytic Converter Week of Action 19-15 April – OP GOLDIRON

OP Goldiron is a National Week of Action targeting the theft and movement of stolen Catalytic Converters. The Week was planned by the National Lead on Metal Thefts where Police Forces were invited to participate. Police Officers and Partner Agencies were briefed on the current legislation and were tasked to develop a local intelligence and programme to support the week. Kent Police/RTF worked closely with some Council Environmental and Licensing Enforcement Teams to visit Waste Metal and Vehicle Reclaim Sites and to carry out stop checks and mobile patrols to stop those persons and vehicles suspected to be involved in this offence type.

Officers from Rural Task Force stopped a white Ford Transit Tipper on Bonham Drive in Sittingbourne linked to OP GOLDIRON and potential Catalytic converter thefts in Kent. Checks were carried out against the Driver and vehicle. Vehicle was showing as untaxed since Oct 2019, so vehicle was seized. Driver was verbally abusive to officers and warned about his conduct otherwise he would be arrested. Whilst waiting for the recovery of above vehicle, Officers stopped a Blue Ford Transit. Checks on the Driver and vehicle showed vehicle was SORN so was also seized.



Canterbury – 19th April

Team deployed to Canterbury area along with Canterbury CPT and Problem-Solving Task Force PCSO's targeting waste offences and Catalytic Converter thefts with officials from Canterbury District Council. Multiple vehicles stopped during day of action. Numerous warning notices issued by Canterbury Council Staff. 1 vehicle seized for no Tax and 1 vehicle seized for No Licence or Insurance.



Swale - 20th April

20 vehicles stopped. £400 FPN issued for fly tipping offence, 2 producers for transfer notices, 1 TOR for no insurance, 2 CLE/26 for taxation/registration offences and 2 stop searches under control of pollution amendment act.



Dover - 20th April

6 vehicles stopped and checked all with correct licences.

Tunbridge Wells – 20th April

13 vehicles stopped and checked. 1 vehicle sized for no tax, 1 £300 FPN no waste carriers licence.



Maidstone – 21 April

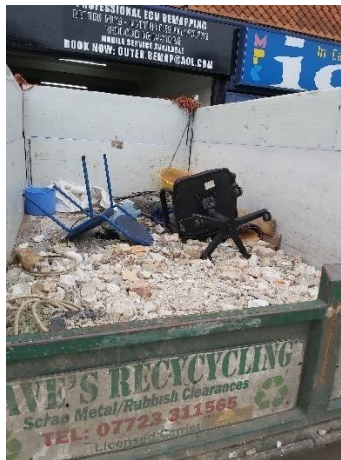
7 vehicles stopped and checked. Honda Civic seized in connection with a fly tipping investigation where black sacks of rubble in a communal waste bin in Tonbridge. Another vehicle was stopped that was full of garden waste. Driver did not have a Waste Carrier Licence and Driver walked off and refused to engage with police. The vehicle was also recorded as SORN. Vehicle seized by MBC.



Medway – 21st April

10 vehicles were stopped and checked. All were carrying the correct paperwork.

4 Waste Scrap Sites were visited, and their records checked. No offences disclosed.



Ashford – 22nd April

10 vehicles stopped. 1 vehicle had no waste carrier licence or scrap metal licence and details were passed to Ashford Council (ABC) with another vehicle not having a scrap dealer licence that was also passed to ABC.

North Kent Dartford & Gravesham - 23rd April

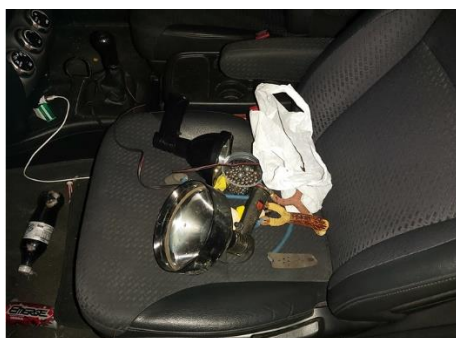
30 vehicles stopped. 8 vehicles seized, 5 for no insurance and 3 for no tax. 9 Traffic Offence Reports issued for traffic offences and two traffic summons files to be submitted. 1 £300 FPN issued and 3 producers issued by Dartford Council for waste offences. In one vehicle seized was a suspected stolen DVLA clamp. This has been seized for further enquiries to be made with the DVLA. ANPR activation on Metropolitan Police Ford Transit suspected to be

cloned and linked with theft of cat converters. Vehicle located on A2 at Kidbrooke and stopped on Blackheath. Vehicle was found to be the genuine and no items found in the vehicle to suggest it was involved in cat thefts. Whilst RTF were deployed to Op Goldiron they responded to a theft from motor vehicle (TFMV) report on Burnham Road, Dartford. Offender found trying to lever open a car door with a garden tool. Arrested for attempt TFMV. Garden tools found to have been stolen from a shed in a rear garden of neighbouring house. Suspect further arrested for BOTD.



Court Results

Following a poaching incident on 22nd August 2020 following a report of poaching to the RTF. The Offender Scott Metcalf pleaded guilty at court to trespass on land at night to take/destroy game, and to killing game out of season. He was fined a total of £310 following the investigation by Rural Task Force officers. The following images relate to the stop of Metcalf.



An Eastchurch resident carrying scrap metal in Minster has been prosecuted by Swale Borough Council for carrying controlled waste without a waste carrier licence, scrap dealer licence or waste transfer notes. Keith Hodgson, 57, of Warden Road, Eastchurch, was found guilty of all charges at Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court on Monday, 15 March and ordered to pay three fines, a court levy and prosecution costs totalling £7,697.54.

The fines included £4,000 for failing to provide waste transfer notes, £1,000 for failing to have a waste carrier's licence and £500 for failing to have a scrap metal licence. A £170 court levy and £2,027.54 prosecution costs were also awarded. Mr Hodgson had previously received a £500 fine and £200 prosecution costs in 2018 after being prosecuted for similar offences.

After being pulled over by police (Rural Task Force) during a joint taskforce day with the council's environmental enforcement team on 17 May 2019 for carrying scrap metal, Mr Hodgson was given a £300 fixed penalty notice (FPN) and a producer after he was unable to produce a valid waste carrier licence or waste transfer notes. Claiming to be driving the vehicle on behalf of an employer and using their waste carrier licence, it was later found that neither the driver nor alleged employer were licensed scrap metal collectors.

Cllr Julian Saunders, cabinet member for environment at the council, said:

"This is a fantastic result for our environmental team.

"Mr Hodgson has shown repeated disregard for the law and has now received a fine of more than £7,500 after being prosecuted for a second time for similar offences.

"We issued Mr Hodgson with a £300 FPN when he was pulled over by police for not carrying the correct documents, so when that was left unpaid, we wasted no time in prosecuting.

"After being found guilty and paying £700 in 2018 for similar offences, it was clear that it wasn't a sufficient deterrent, so we're pleased the judge was tougher this time around.

"It is a legal requirement for waste carriers to have the appropriate licence and waste transfer notes, without these, there is no way to prove that waste has been disposed of properly and can end up being dumped along our roads and countryside."

To check if someone is a licensed waste carrier visit www.environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers.



Kind regards, Rural Task Force

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

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

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