

November 2024

EGGSELLENT WORK

PC Jed Raven, our force Wildlife Crime Officer and Rural Engagement Team member swung into action when reports of illegal bird egg smuggling were brought to his attention.

The team work closely with the National Wildlife Crime Unit to tackle wildlife issues, often nationally or even globally.

An international wildlife smuggling ring had been identified with rare birds eggs being illegally traded across Europe.

One suspect lived in the Essex area.

PC Raven quickly obtained a warrant from a court to allow officers to enter the suspects home and search for evidence.

Warrants were co-ordinated across the country with other forces also searching addresses at the same time.

A huge number of eggs were located at the Essex address, along with various offensive weapons and other items of interest.

One man has been arrested and released on police bail

whilst enquiries continue.



A recent report from the UN explains how some of the species most affected by wildlife crime—like rare orchids, reptiles, fish, birds and mammals—receive little public attention, though wildlife trafficking appears to be a major role in their local or global extinctions.

Beyond the direct threat to the population of species posed by wildlife trafficking, this crime type can also disrupt delicate ecosystems and their functions and processes – including their ability to help stabilize the climate and mitigate climate change.



**Domestic abuse is all about control.
If you notice that someone seems to
be controlled in all areas of their life,
it could be a sign they are being abused.**

SETDAB.org

Now there's a quick
online alternative to
calling 101 or visiting
a police station:
DIGITAL 101



Do it online at:
essex.police.uk

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

MORE COURSERS CAUGHT

RET were quick to respond to reports of hare coursers on land in Braintree.

A local farmer saw people on his land without permission with dogs and called the team for help.

Officers from RET and local policing attended the scene and swiftly detained two people with dogs of a breed used for coursing.

A car was located nearby.



RET interviewed both at scene, searched them and seized several items and also seized their car as it was suspect of being used for coursing activity.

The males have been released and enquiries continue.

Meanwhile in Saffron Walden another suspected hare coursing vehicle was found abandoned in a farmers field.

The teams had it recovered to stop it being used again by hare coursers.



So far this season we have caught five suspects and issued 3 Community Protection Warnings. We are also looking at criminal prosecutions wherever the evidence exits.

Hare coursing remains a focus for the team over the winter and into spring.

The team use intelligence, heat mapping and local knowledge to identify locations that are being targeted by coursers then patrol them.

The team maintain close links with various Farm Watch schemes, parish councils and rural land owners to ensure we can respond quickly to hare coursers changing tactics.

There has been a noticeable change to poaching and coursing offences after dark, with 4x4's being driven on fields. This may be due to RET's success catching coursers during daylight hours, particularly when the police helicopter is deployed.

However, the team are fully equipped to work at night, using our advanced drone with night vision and thermal capability, alongside hand held night scopes.

WORKING TOGETHER

RET joined forces with Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team to tackle cross border criminals.

The regular joint operation also see's other agencies, such as the DVLA, National Construction and Agricultural Theft Team and others come together and deal with any offences found on major roads that cross out boarders, such as the M11 motorway.



The team were based at the Imperial War Museum Duxford for the day.

Several drivers were prosecuted for driving offences and items of stolen plant were recovered.

BOWSER RECOVERED

RET have continued to successfully track down and recover stolen items of plant and vehicles.

A water bowser was stolen from an Essex building site. The team quickly established likely locations it may be hidden and attended several places before they found it hidden in bushes in Chelmsford.

The team used our specialist 4x4 vehicles to pull the bowser free so it could be recovered and returned to its lawful owners.



KEEPING DOGS SAFE

RET are responsible for tackling dog theft and reviewing all reported incidents.

PC Luke Jones ran a very well attended dog theft awareness event at Braintree's Great Notley country park.



The team offered dog theft prevention advice, as well as free dog microchip checks.

The team carry hand held microchip scanners and have access to the various dog databases so we can check dogs are registered to the correct owner and owner details are up to date.

DNA MARKING

RET have continued to roll out our free DNA marking system to farmers and rural business owners.

The Selecta DNA marking solution was purchased by RET using money seized from criminals.



The unique paint on solution, which enables officers to identify the legitimate owner at the roadside, is proven to reduce theft.

If you are interested in receiving a free kit please email-
Rural.Engagement.Team@essex.police.uk

AGRICULTURAL MEETING

We were delighted to be invited to talk to the Essex Agricultural Society meeting in Little Waltham.

Over 100 members of the rural community from across Essex attended the meeting, alongside the National Farmers Union national president Tom Bradshaw.



The team presented on the RET's role, and our recent Selecta DNA property marking scheme.

We were able to answer lots of questions on various rural crime matters and reassure attendees that Essex Police take rural crime very seriously.

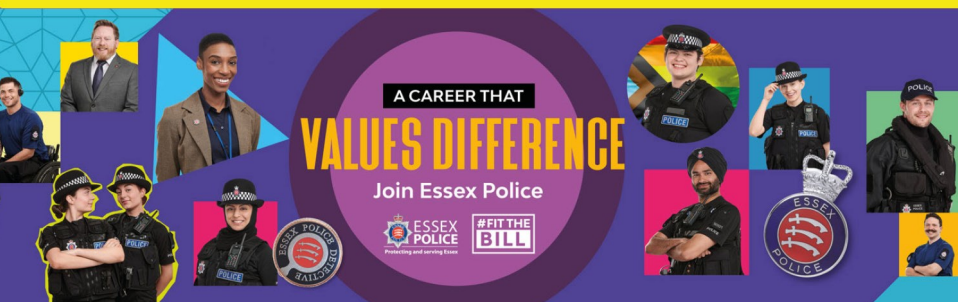


Digital 101

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



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



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