



Rural Crime Action Team

RCAT – meet the team





Make-up of the Team

- ▶ Establishment – 1x Police Sergeant and 6 x Police Constables (Currently holding x2 vacancies) +1 x Wildlife Crime Officer. Small size dictates shifts.
- ▶ Current Breakdown:
 - ▶ 1 x PS
 - ▶ 4 x PC with specialisms. Vehicle examiner, drone pilots, heritage, wildlife etc.
 - ▶ 1 x DC Force Wildlife Crime and Dog Legislation Officer

Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT)

SPECIALIST OPERATIONS



**LINCOLNSHIRE
POLICE**

**RURAL CRIME
ACTION TEAM**

AGRICULTURAL

- Theft of agricultural GPS systems and devices
- Criminal damage and arson to crops and agricultural production
- Theft and criminal damage of agricultural and plant machinery
- Theft of trailers and UTVs
- Dealing with identified rural organised crime groups



WILDLIFE

- Badger crime
- Bat crime
- Bird of prey crime
- Fishing crime
- CITES
- Hare coursing
- Lamping
- Poaching
- Fox hunting
- Equine crime
- Livestock crime



ENVIRONMENTAL

- National infrastructure metal thefts (cable)
- Policing of anti-social behaviour on by-ways (off road bikes)
- Fly tipping (supporting the council)
- Illegal waste disposal (supporting environmental agency)
- Illegal scrap collectors
- Offences on sites of special scientific interest



HERITAGE

- Theft of lead from historic places of worship
- Criminal damage to historic places of worship
- Theft of cultural property
- Illegal metal detecting

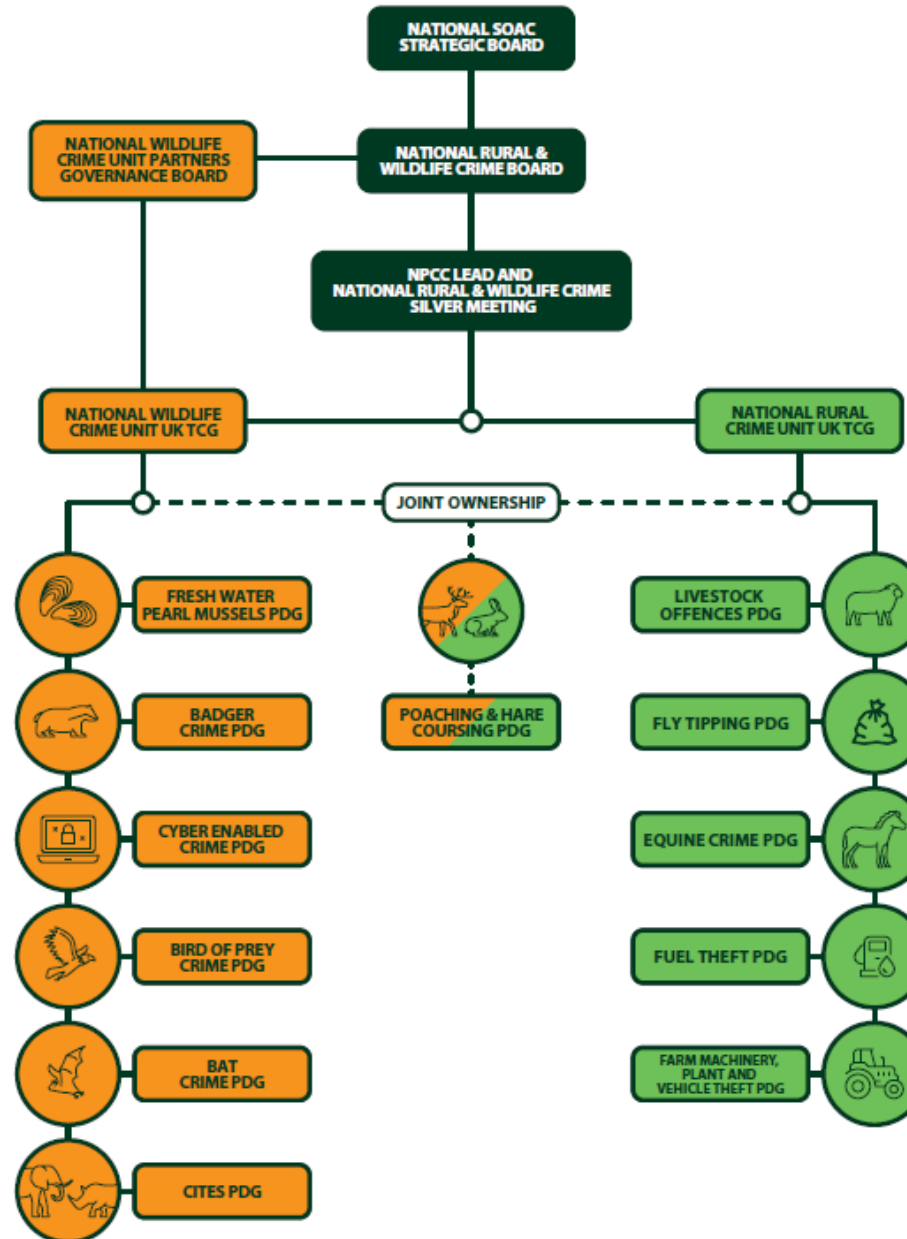


Priority Delivery Groups

(PDG's)

We have one
single point of
contact for
each PDG
which discusses
good practice
Nationally.

National Rural and Wildlife Crime Governance Structure



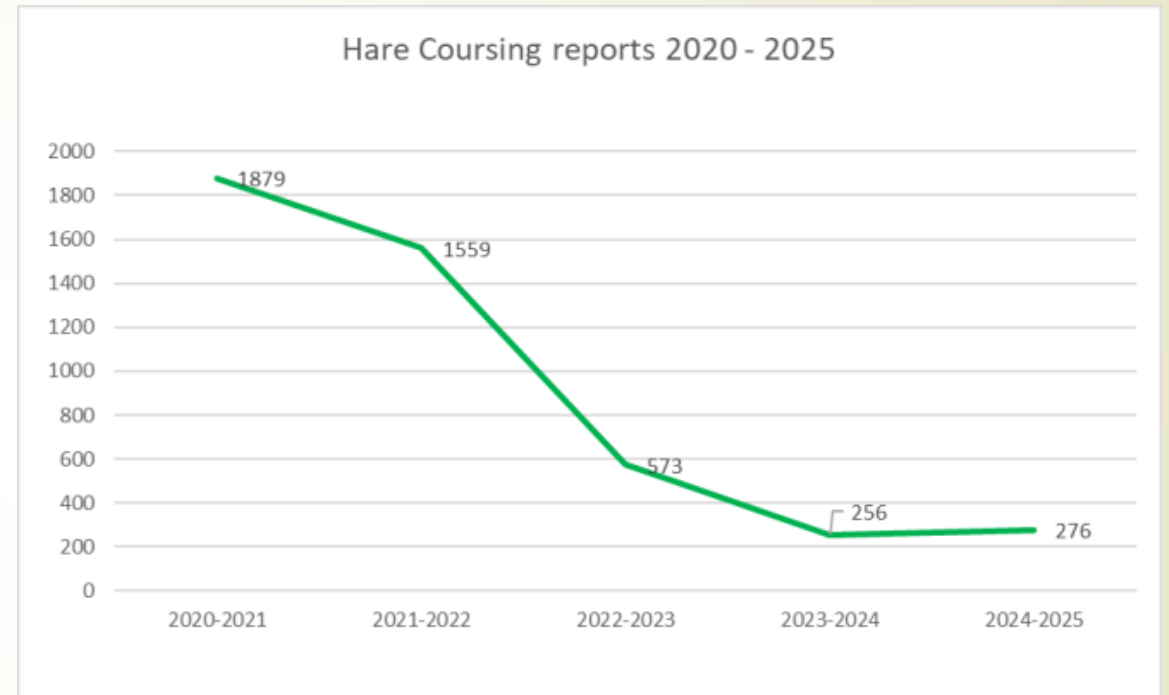


Cross Border : brief overview – One Team

- The focus for the RCAT remains working regionally and nationally for Agricultural / Plant Thefts and Op Galileo
 - We maintain the wider specialist operations approach to preventing criminals the use of our roads and continue to identify rural thefts of vehicles and trailers that are being taken out of county/country, ensuring follow-up contact where possible.
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Current Picture

- Op Galileo
 - Calls for service up 8% (256 to 276)
 - 10 case files for season 2024-2025
 - 29 offenders released under investigation (RUI)
 - 14 vehicles seized
 - 12 dogs seized
 - 3 cases are already summonsed to court



Current Picture

- Op Close. Theft of BT underground cable. Offender identified and ongoing investigation
- Op Liquids (now Op Sunfire). Theft of agricultural/plant equipment and machinery has been linked with nominals from out of force, items located and recovered May 2024 to May 2025.
 - Circa £300k of vehicles
 - Circa £150k of plant
 - Circa £70k of trailers
 - Circa £50k of farm equipment (ATV's, bowser, etc)
 - Circa £80 of caravans
- Boston and South Holland, and The Kestevens are currently the area where we are seeing an increase in the theft of tools and smaller machinery. Security measures such as padlocks have been cut and removed from the scene, fencing cut and gates broken offenders approaching across land behind addresses, potentially using drones to scout the area.
- Op Firefly. Theft from wind turbines. A team working Nationally has been identified and regions are working together to build a case file. Op Firefly has been adopted as the National name
- Op Crowned. Heritage crime, awaits sentencing.
- Op Gunpowder, Overhead powerline thefts – team involved arrested and on bail, offences stopped.



Court Results

- Bird of Prey Poisoning - Defendant found guilty of Bird Poisoning and trap offences, West Ashby – multiple birds of prey including Red Kites and Buzzards Total court costs £7449. A good multi-agency job.
- Op Galileo – Policy of arrest and seizure of dogs, vehicles and equipment – numerous good results with court costs and compensation enforced payment with court orders. Result includes forfeiture of Dogs, Vehicles and Equipment and also CBO's banning them from the region with long dogs, in some cases total bans on keeping dogs.



Under reporting and analysis

As a Police Force we understand that not everything is reported to us

- How to contact us when it is not a '999' call
 - Call 101 by phone
 - On-line reporting via the Lincolnshire Police website
[Report | Lincolnshire Police \(lincs.police.uk\)](https://lincs.police.uk)
- Information can also be given to Crimestoppers anonymously

Every piece of information that is given to Lincolnshire Police informs our Analyst who can then inform of trends, series and the threat and risk to the people living and working in Lincolnshire. Resources can then be deployed to the right place at the right time with the right resources



Property and identification

- When property is stolen it can be placed on the Police National Computer (PNC). This allows all the agency, not just Police Forces to be able to identify found/seized stolen property
- It is essential when placing this on PNC that we can record
 - Vehicle Registration Marker (VRM) / number plate
 - Serial numbers
 - Fleet numbers
 - Any identifying marks ie: scratches/dints
 - Unique marking that have been added ie: letters/numbers on the roof of a tractor to assist in identification when using a police drone or helicopter
 - Photographs of equipment and machinery



Remember:-

- ▶ Mark It – Use of tagging systems CESAR, Data-Tag etc. Cheap Tags online, UV markings or personal markings, welds, etched, grinded etc.
- ▶ Record It – Photograph the item, ensure ID Plate visible along with any markings specific to your vehicle (that dent that only you know of), keep a list of serial numbers, markings etc somewhere safe, use your phone to photograph all of the above.
- ▶ Secure it – Relevant security for your plant / machinery, ground bolts, isolators, secure locations, CCTV, alarms etc.

What is fly-tipping?

"The illegal deposit of any waste on to land that does not have a license to accept it"

It is a serious offence for which a person can end up with a criminal record, an unlimited fine and up to five years in prison.

What are the effects of fly-tipping?

The most immediate effect of fly-tipping is it's unsightly appearance, blighting areas of Lincolnshire.

Depending on the type of waste dumped, fly-tipping can also lead to the pollution of watercourses and land as well as being harmful to wildlife, livestock and the public.

In 2022/2023 there were **12,382** fly tips reported in Lincolnshire!

What are we doing?

In 2020, the **Environmental Crime Partnership** was set up.

This includes all Lincolnshire councils who are committed to working in partnership with other relevant bodies and organisations such as the police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Environment Agency, National Farmers Union and others. Information and resources are shared through this partnership, increasing the likelihood of identifying those responsible.

LINCOLNSHIRE
Environmental
Crime
Partnership



We need your help!

Act as our eyes and ears and report fly-tipping

If you see fly-tipping, assess the incident

Without going through the waste yourself, gather as much information as you can about:

The circumstances

Did anyone witness the fly-tipping? Do you know the date and time it happened? Can you describe the vehicle involved?

The location

Was it a highway verge, back alley, railway embankment or river? What3Words can help you provide a precise location.

The waste

How much waste has been fly-tipped? What type of waste is it?

Fly-tipping investigation and clear up is the responsibility of each district council.

If you see any fly-tipping or witness it taking place, contact the relevant district council using the contact details provided in this leaflet.

Tip-off!

Stop fly-tipping in
Lincolnshire

A guide to reporting
and preventing illegal
dumping in
Lincolnshire

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How can I stop my waste being fly-tipped?

As a householder, you have a duty to ensure that your waste is only given to an authorised waste carrier to dispose of or is taken to a licensed waste site. You must take all steps reasonable to ensure your waste isn't illegally dumped. You can be prosecuted if you pass your waste to an unlicensed waste carrier which is then fly-tipped.

The best way to stop organised fly-tipping is to make sure that only authorised waste carriers take your waste away.

Follow the **S.C.R.A.P** code:

Suspect all waste carriers

Do not let them take your waste away until they have proven themselves to be legitimate. A professional waste carrier should happily answer reasonable questions.

Check their waste carrier's registration details

Verify them by searching on the Environment Agency's website. Note down the registration number of the vehicle used to take your waste away.

Refuse unexpected offers to have rubbish taken away

If you do not trust that someone will be disposing of your waste legally, report their vehicle registration and name to the Environment Agency.

Ask what will happen to your rubbish

Seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately.

Paperwork should be obtained

Make sure you get a proper invoice, waste transfer note or a receipt. This should give a description of the waste and provide the waste carrier's contact details.

How else can I dispose of my waste?

Lincolnshire Recycling Centres

There are eleven recycling centres in Lincolnshire, operated by Lincolnshire County Council. Check the council's website for opening times and restrictions www.lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Bulky waste

Many local authorities provide a bulky waste collection service, taking away and disposing of items such as furniture and white goods for a reasonable cost.

Garden waste

Most councils operate a reasonably priced garden waste collection, often in separate bins. Otherwise, take your garden waste to your local recycling centre for composting.

Commercial waste

If you run a business, you must have a contract with a registered waste carrier to ensure that your waste is being taken away and disposed of correctly. You will also need to keep a record of waste transfer notes/receipts.

Someone has fly-tipped on my land

If you are a private landowner, it is your responsibility to safely dispose of the fly-tipped waste.

However, you should still **report the fly-tipping to your local authority** as they can still investigate where relevant evidence is found (e.g. name and address).

Think about why your land has been targeted.

Is the area easy to access?

Is the area out of public sight?

Once you have established this, you may want to make steps to make your land **less vulnerable**.

Local authorities in Lincolnshire

Boston Borough Council

01205 314200
www.boston.gov.uk



City of Lincoln Council

01522 881188
www.lincoln.gov.uk



East Lindsey District Council

01507 601111
www.e-lindsey.gov.uk



North Kesteven District Council

01529 414155
www.n-kesteven.gov.uk



South Holland District Council

01775 761161
www.sholland.gov.uk



South Kesteven District Council

01476 406080
www.southkesteven.gov.uk



West Lindsey District Council

01426 676676
www.west-lindsey.gov.uk



This leaflet is a guide to the law. It does not constitute legal advice and may be misleading if relied upon as a complete explanation of the legal issues involved.



Any Questions?