

Rural Task Force



**Kent
Police**



This period has continued to be busy for the Rural Task Force, which has included the National Scrap and Waste Crime.

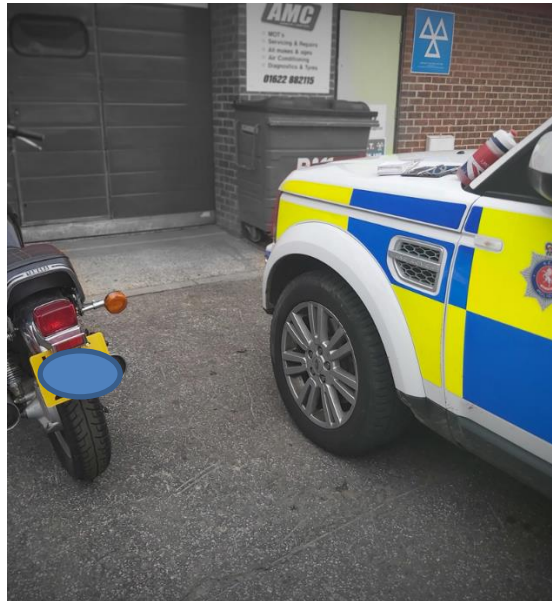
You will see from the below report the team have been working hard in relation to Op Galileo, which continues to be reported in relation to all poaching offences not just hare coursing. I met with some local farmers on the Marsh in October with the PCC to discuss OP Galileo and the police response. It was clear that this is still very much under reported and I encourage all incidents to be reported via 999 if in progress, 101 or online. There has been reports of considerable damage to crops, gates and grassland including Village Greens, any information about those involved is important to the team. The team prosecutions waiting within the court system and you will see at the end of this report a good court result from working in partnership with the RSPCA.

Theft of Machinery continues to be reported. I would like to remind machinery owners to please record all serial numbers, take photos consider additional markings such as DNA solutions and tracker devices. All of which will assist the police in recovering your property should it be stolen.

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

Rural Theft

RTF West officers located a stolen classic motorcycle at Aylesford that had been stolen from Northumbria. It was recovered by Kent Police and returned to the owner.



RTF officers attended the field behind a layby in the Dover area after contact with a member of the public reporting numerous patches of grass on the field near to the side of the layby where fuel cans have killed the grass. One can was located on the far side of the field where it appears the Offender(s) have walked the cans over to waiting vehicles. The area is clearly being used to attack Lorries in the layby to steal fuel. RTF monitoring.

RTF officers responded to a call to Wingham Fire Station, where a member of the public reported that two men had arrived in a car, smashed a window in the fire station door and came out with the following property; 1 x Hoolie bar, 1 Thermal imaging camera and 1 torch. Offenders had left prior to the arrival of patrols who secured the scene for CSI officers.

The West Kent area have had a spate of Tractor navigation units stolen and these kits are expensive and range from around £10 - £15 K each, with approximately 6 units being stolen. RTF Officers attended the two scenes and were able to ascertain the serial numbers and have reviewed CCTV which has identified a possible suspect vehicle. These details have been passed to the OIC.

RTF were made aware of a reported theft of a Roller vehicle overnight in the Fawkham area of Kent. Details passed out on FarmWatch WhatsApp.



RTF officers attended a farm in the Sandwich area of Kent, after a farmer had reported that their Komatsu PC30 3ton Digger and Indespension Plant Trailer was stolen from their farm overnight. The Digger was valued at £10,000 and the Trailer, £1,000.



RTF Officers on patrol in the Coxheath area identified a white Vauxhall Corsa Van, which had been reported as suspicious parked unattended in an orchard in the East Farleigh area of Kent. Officers conducted the necessary checks and were able to ascertain that the vehicle was reported as stolen and the officers recovered the vehicle and OIC updated.



Reported theft of Motorhome worth £30,0000 from the Canterbury area. RTF officers stopped a couple of vehicles but no links to the theft and enquires are still ongoing.



RTF officers received calls in relation to fuel theft along the A2 area of Kent. It's believed the offenders have been gaining access via the victim's fields. The offenders have been lifting the gate off its hinges to allow vehicle access across to a nearby lay by. RTF officers attended and with the victim have identified some measures to identify those responsible and target harden the area.

RTF officers received reports from a farmer in the Thanet area of male and female suspects attending the farm and entering the outbuildings and stealing items. Officers have identified a suspect vehicle from nearby CCTV and are actively looking for the vehicle.

RTF officers arrested a male whom has committed fly tipping offences during the early part of September 2020. The offender also stole a covert camera owned by Kent County Council deployed at the scene to record environmental offences. RTF officers were able to identify the offender from the images on the covert camera and arrested him at his home address for Fly-Tipping and Theft of the KCC Camera. Camera recovered and the suspect taken to custody where he was interviewed by local officers.

An RTF officer recovered a stolen Peugeot Motorhome which had been reported stolen on the 26th August from address in the London area. The vehicle has now been returned to the original owner.



RTF officers attended a Farm in Dover where the farmer had reported that their Dumper and Trailer; worth a combined total of approximately £13,000 had been stolen. RTF Officers using their local knowledge attended a wooded area in the Canterbury area and located the stolen property that were returned to the owner.



RTF officers attended a location in the North Kent area to execute simultaneous warrants with other Police Departments at various suspects home addresses. Suspects were arrested and detained on suspicion of the offence of Conspiracy to Steal Motor Vehicles. Located in the search was a suspected Stolen Wacker Plate and GPS/TRACKER equipment for vehicles.

The RTF were approached by their counterparts within the Metropolitan Police as they had received information that a known suspect was possibly going to attempt to sell a stolen Trimble NS995 GPS system for Plant Machinery and was going to do this from a car park at the Bluewater Shopping Centre. The GPS system was suspected to have been stolen from the Wembley area and was valued at £20,000. The suspect had advertised it on eBay for £10,000. RTF Officers attended Bluewater and found the suspect in their car. RTF Officers carried out a search on the vehicle and the stolen GPS system was in the boot. The suspect was arrested and taken into custody.



RTF received a report from a local farmer regarding a red moped found hidden up on the farm. The index displayed was no trace. RTF attended and the vehicle was located hidden down a bank and has been seized suspect stolen and tagged for a vehicle examination.



RTF officers found a stolen cattle trailer, which had previously been reported as stolen in the Cuxton area of Kent.



RTF officers received intelligence from users of Social Media regarding a stolen dog in the Sittingbourne area of Kent. The victim reported that a suspicious 4x4 vehicles was seen in the area around the time of the theft. ANPR work was carried out to identify the vehicle and during these checks the victim updated that the dog has been found in a nearby orchard and returned.



RTF officers stopped a Transit Flatbed style van in the West Kingsdown area of Kent. Initial checks showed no irregularities and a further check of the engine revealed that it had been reported as stolen in 2018 from London and the vehicle was recovered for examination.



OP GALILEO (POACHING)

RTF changed their shifts for the week beginning the 26th October to proactive policing of OP Galileo to cover the peak times for hare coursing. Local Community Policing Teams were also asked to support this initiative and members of the local community were approached to assist by reporting suspicious incidents and vehicles direct to the RTF.

An example of the work completed during this week was that the RTF stopped a Ford Mondeo in the Stalisfield area following contact from local Gamekeeper that persons had been seen in the area poaching. There were 3 occupants in the vehicle who with the vehicle were searched. Poaching equipment was located and seized and checks against those stopped revealed that one passenger was wanted by Hampshire Police and was arrested for a Fraud offence linked to £16,000 rogue trading offence.



RTF officers attended a Farm in the Lenham area of Kent following reports of poachers on their farm. Unknown offenders have gained access to farmland via a gate next to the local train station's bridge. The offenders removed multiple logs and smashed through a gate to access to the land, giving access to 250 acres of remote farmland to poach on. The estimated cost of damage is £400.



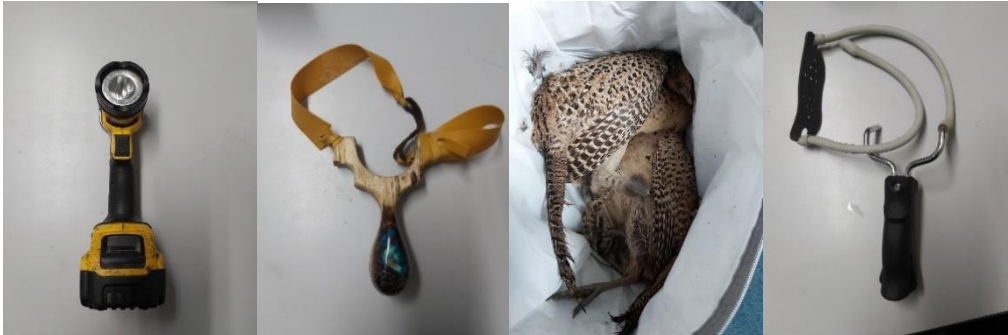
RTF officers attended a call made by a Game Bird supplier in the Ulcombe area of Kent, as they had found 12 dead Hares at the bottom of their farm track. The Hares had bite marks on their bodies, indicating that illegal Hare Coursing had taken place in the area. This is the second such incident in the space of one-week of mass hare dumping. Enquires are ongoing.



RTF officers received a call from a farmer in the Sandwich area of Kent, reporting four males with four lurcher type dogs in the fields in the Heronden area. RTF attended the location and four males were present in the far corner of the field, but subsequently made off and were not located. The vehicle was seized for no insurance.



RTF attended reports of poaching in the Faversham area and carried out a 'Stop Check' on a Black VW Golf. The vehicle had been suspected to have been catapulting game birds. RTF Officers searched the vehicle and the passengers. RTF found two catapults, a torch and two dead pheasants in the vehicle. Both males interviewed and reported for poaching offences.



RTF attended reports of a burnt-out vehicle located in field in Throwley with several dead hares next to it. It is suspected that the Hare Coursers got their vehicle stuck and then set fire to it to get rid of any forensic evidence. RTF Officers were able to recover the vehicle for examination.



RTF attended a report of an incident of illegal poaching in progress at a location in the Ashford. Officers were able to locate a vehicle which they believed to be linked to the offence and carried out a stop and search of both the vehicle and its occupants under the Poaching Prevention Act. Officers found 2 high powered lamps located inside the vehicle and also noticed that the vehicle was very dirty, which indicated towards recent off-road activity. RTF Officers interviewed all three occupants, who were reported for the offence of 'Poaching by Night'. The vehicle was also seized under the Hunting Act and the suspects' mobile phones were also seized by RTF Officers.



RTF responded to reports of Hare Coursing and Poaching in the Charing area of Kent. RTF Officers carried out a stop and search of a suspected vehicle and found several Catapults, ball bearings and high-powered torches. The occupants of the vehicle were all detained under the Poaching Prevention Act. Investigation ongoing.



RTF responded to a report of a Silver Jeep Cherokee on its roof, in a ditch in a field in Lenham. Officers carried out PNC checks, which revealed that the vehicle has links to illegal Hare coursing and had previously rammed gates and made off from police. Officers recovered the vehicle for forensic examination.



Op Traverse (Fish Poaching)

RTF attended Swanley Park due to reports of youths illegally fishing in the lake. A group of youths aged 12 and 13 years old were found at the lake and it was explained to them that they need to have rod licences and advised that the site operates a no fishing policy. The youths were polite and stated they would not return and left. No fish had been caught and the owner of the lake was updated and agreed with the course of action taken.



RTF Specials attended Lullingstone Castle and lakes due to further reports of incidences of illegal fishing (poaching) and criminal damage. Officers were able to speak to the local bailiff to provide reassurance and reinforce crime prevention advice.

CITIES

The RTF were contacted following a member of the public surrendering possession of a collection of Ivory pieces. The sale and movement of all Ivory objects is tightly controlled through Convention of Trade Endangered Species legislation. Enquires revealed the items were purchased in Lusaka in 1984 and then brought back to the UK when the purchaser finished working in Zambia. No offences were disclosed.



Wildlife

RTF received reports that trees had been cut down and a pond containing Great Crested Newts had been drained. Officers attended the location and spoke with a male, whom is renting a unit at the site. They advised that the emergency tree work had been carried out as several trees were dead and had recently fallen in strong winds taking down the power lines. The remaining trees had been removed as a precaution. They also advised that they were not aware of any Newts being present and provided the details of the landowner. The necessary checks were carried out and showed that there are no surveys on the planning portal indicating the presence of Newts. Currently, without any evidence to prove newts were present there is nothing for RTF to action but are aware of potential future issues.



Officers attended reports of the habitat destruction and blocking of a badger set in the Sutton Valence area of Kent. Enquiries were completed with Natural England, Planning Dept at Maidstone and the RSPCA and contact made with the owner of the site and the Ecology Company used by the owner and it was confirmed that all work had been carried out under the required licence and that no offences had been disclosed.



Officers received reports of a Buzzard being shot and killed in the Cooling area of Kent. RTF attended the location and met with RSPB officers who had video footage of the bird being shot. An initial site visit failed to locate the shot bird but RSPB staff re-attended the site in better weather and located an injured buzzard and the bird was recovered by RSPB reserve staff and taken to a local vet, who carried out an examination on the bird; including taking x-rays. The bird was found to have been shot and unfortunately due to the bird's injuries the bird had to be euthanised. RTF have identified a suspect and formally interviewed him, and case is currently being reviewed. A post mortem was completed on the bird and identified that the bird had previous injuries from being shot earlier in its life.



RTF made aware of a badger sett disturbance in the Horsmonden area. Following a site visit the owner of the land was subsequently identified and when spoken to stated that UK Power Networks were completing electrical cable works in the area. Natural England were contacted and confirmed that they were aware of the work and the RTF sighted the licences being used by the Ecologist undertaken the work on behalf of UK Power Networks. No offences disclosed.



Animal Welfare

RTF attending a report of a Horse straying in the highway at Swale Way, Sittingbourne. Officers located the Horse and with no owner coming forward or being identified at the scene the horse was seized and retained for 21 days. The horse has since been re-homed.

When RTF supported a series of search warrants in the North Kent area there were some concerns raised at a small holding site and the officers asked the RSPCA to attend to assess if any animal welfare issues were present. The RSPCA attended and carried out an examination of the whole site and subsequently issued 8 Improvement Notices.

Livestock

RTF attended a report of livestock worrying at St Margaret's At Cliffe, Dover. The flock had been attacked by unknown dog leaving three sheep dead, one with its head missing. Three other sheep were badly injured and had to be put down. Officers swabbed the sheep's injuries to secure potential DNA evidence should the offending dog be identified.

RTF attended a report of livestock worrying in Edenbridge. The farmer reported one of his ewes had been attacked and suspected it to be dogs from one of the neighbouring properties. A witness identified the property where the dogs came from. The dogs' owner was spoken to and accepted their dogs had attacked the sheep. They agreed to reimburse

the farmer for his losses and therefore farmer did not wish to take the matter further with the police.



Officers attended a report of a Sheep attack at a farm in the Cuxton area of Kent. RTF Officers had arrived on the scene within 5 minutes of receiving the call and found one sheep that had sustained 4 bite marks from which they believed to be from a domestic dog. RTF Officers witnessed 2 dogs jumping into neighbouring location. The 2 suspect dogs were identified by RTF Officers and swabs were taken. Investigation is ongoing.



RTF attended a joint visit with RSPCA to a location in the Sittingbourne area in relation to a crime reported that a cat had been shot in the street with an Air Rifle and the incident was captured on CCTV. RTF Officers assisted the RSPCA Inspector with identifying and then interviewing a suspect who denied the offence. Other supporting enquiries failed to provide further evidence and the case has been closed pending new information coming to light.

Heritage

Officers attended a report of illegal metal detecting in the Reculver area of Kent. The landowner chased the trespassers from his land. This field is next to the Church in Reculver. Enquires are ongoing.

Metropolitan Police passed a report to the RTF of that a scheduled monument was being subjected to unlawful metal detecting. Officers have attended the site to ascertain what disturbance has taken place. Enquires have identified the male responsible and it is intended to interview this male. Investigation on-going.



Op Assist/Fly Tipping

The RTF worked in collaboration with Maidstone Council on the 8th September to tackle Fly-tipping in the local area and RTF officers seized 2 vehicles for Fly-tipping offences in the Maidstone area of Kent and other Vehicles were dealt with by the Maidstone Enforcement Officers.





RTF officers attended a rural site near to Faversham, accompanied by members of the Swale Council's Environment team over concerns that the occupier of the land was having large amounts of waste dumped on the plot of land and then burnt. Another concern was that smoke was veering across the M2. Officers visited the land and it transpires that the occupier has also been cutting down trees and dumping rubbish without permission by the landowner. Contact has been made with the landowner enquires ongoing.



Officers have been working in collaboration with Dover District Council on the 29th September, tackling Waste Carrier offences and Fly tipping offences. RTF Officers stopped several vehicles and Dover District Council issued four producers in relation to documentation irregularities.



RTF stopped a Vauxhall Movano Van in Eastling. There were two male occupants who stated they have been working on a local Estate carrying out renovation work and had just left there. In the rear of the vehicle was an extensive amount of waste wood. Driver stated that they had been burning their waste on the Estate. They were reminded of their responsibilities about moving commercial waste.

RTF received a call direct from a Farmer in Thanet area of Kent to reports that a vehicle was driving across their fields and got stuck. Officers responded the vehicle contained lots of waste, which officers suspected was intended to be fly tipped in the local area. The vehicle was searched due to suspicious activity. The driver was reported for the traffic offences and the vehicle was seized.



The team worked in collaboration with Medway Council's waste crime team to carry out a site visit of a suspected illegal waste site on a farm in the Upper Stoke area of Kent. There had been reports of large mounds of wood, tree cuttings and general household waste at the location along with several large containers all full of waste. A metal container around 6 meters in length by 3 meters in width is being used to burn the waste in and this is loaded with a JCB grabber. The owner of the site was spoken to and confirmed that he owned the land but had no licences to carry out such activities on the land. Medway Council are carrying out further investigations.

Op Sealion

RTF collaborated in a joint operation aimed at tackling shellfish gathering and a possible link with Modern Day Slavery with Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority, Gangmasters and Licensing Authority at the Isle of Sheppey. 5 persons were stopped for illegal shellfish harvesting.



RTF Officers worked with Thanet CSU, Search and Marine Unit, IFCA and Border Agency to patrol the Thanet coastline in relation to several reports of cockle picking and immigration offences. RTF Officers stopped and checked numerous persons with no offences being identified on this occasion.



Other Business

RTF responded to a report in Faversham regarding a stolen vehicle. The vehicle had a marker that it was stolen from the London area. Rural Task Force and Swale LPT conducted an area search and the vehicle was sighted on A2 London Road, Sittingbourne heading towards the Town Centre. There was one male occupant. The vehicle was followed and subsequently stopped at West Lane Sittingbourne. The Driver was arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods, Disqualified Driving and Drug Driving by PC Southern.

RTF officers responded to a reported burglary in Maidstone. A vehicle wanted in connection to this incident was located by a plain clothed police officer with two male suspects. The offenders assaulted this officer and made off on foot. RTF Officers assisted with area search and 2 males were eventually located and arrested by police patrols.

RTF officers assisted an elderly person whom had had a fall in Faversham and sustained a head injury. Officers provided medical assistance until SECAS attended.

Misuse of Drugs Act Warrant was conducted in the Sittingbourne area. Also, in attendance at site with 40 partnering agencies including KFRS, Swale Borough Council Environmental Team, Environment Agency and RSPCA in relation to numerous concerns around the site. Officers found various weapons, including knives, swords and baseball bats. Multi items were seized including two Dogs for welfare reasons and numerous suspected stolen properties.





RTF responded to a report in the Maidstone area for a vehicle involved in a number of bilkings and theft offences. The vehicle was found in a car park of a local garden centre and the driver of the vehicle attempted to hide in the staff car park to avoid the Police. The driver was located, identified reported for offences and the vehicle was seized.



Officers carried out a stop check on an Audi A3 located in the Milsted area, due to an increase in reports of illegal hare coursing. Officers noticed the strong smell of Cannabis and carried out searches on both occupants of the vehicle under the Misuse of Drugs Act and found a Cannabis joint, small amount of herbal cannabis and 2 wraps of white powder (suspected to be Ketamine) located in vehicle.

One Offender was issued a 'Cannabis Warning' and the other Offender was interviewed and reported at scene.

RTF Officers have been deployed to enforce Operation Stack on the costal bound section of the M20 in Kent following security checks being implemented at Dover Docks.

RTF Officers saw a blue Ford Focus parked in a rural location in Eastling. There were two male occupants in the vehicle. Both were nervous with the driver stating he had been released from hospital the night before after being stabbed. Due to their behaviour the vehicle was searched. Driver had a small bag of herbal cannabis in his front pocket. A grinder was in the glove box containing herbal cannabis. Passenger stated that this belonged to him. Both were issued with cannabis warnings.

officers located a male at his home address in the Canterbury area who was wanted for a 'Fail to Appear' Warrant. The male had numerous officer safety warnings but was arrested without incident and conveyed to Custody.

An RTF officer attended a call received from a local game keeper who had seen a recent press release about a 'High Risk Missing' person from the Eastry area. The farmer had located the gentleman in woodland. He was suffering with depression. The male was taken to hospital; where a mental health referral was completed.

RTF attended a call out for a vehicle failing to stop on York Parade, Tonbridge where the driver of the vehicle had attempted to run over a Tonbridge Police Officer. RTF with other TAC Ops were deployed to the area. The vehicle failed to stop and went the wrong way down the M26 (London-bound). The vehicle was stung by PC Lingham at Junction 2A and the occupants then decamped from the vehicle. The passenger was detained and arrested by Surrey Police unit. Driver was located in nearby Country Park and arrested.

'Stop Check' on a Peugeot Partner van in the Maidstone area of Kent. The driver and the occupants of the vehicle were acting suspiciously, so RTF officers carried out searches of the driver and the passengers and found a small quantity of Cannabis on one of the passengers. As the person in possession of the Cannabis was under 16 he will be dealt with via the Youth Courts.

National Metal and Waste Crime Week 12-16 October

Monday 12th October

Working with Canterbury District Council.

Deployed to three Scrap Yards within the Canterbury District with Canterbury City Council Enforcement Officer, the Environment Agency Senior Environment Officer, and two Officers from the BT Security Team.



**Tuesday 13th October
Swale Borough council.**

- 1 x Fixed penalty notice for £300 issued by the council
- 3x Stop searches section 23 misuse of drugs
- 1x Stop search control of pollution act.
- 1x Arrest drug driving
- 1x Cannabis warning
- 2 x No insurance
- 1 x No Driving licence
- 3 x ANPR stops.



Also visit conducted Manor Way, Warden in relation to the reports of illegally tipping waste over the cliff edge into the sea. Environmental Agency are investigating and were updated with visit.





Op Assist with Maidstone Borough Council

Stop Check Detling Aerodrome, Detling. Ford Transit Tipper, VDRS issued for Defective Drivers Door. Penalty noticed for No Waste Carriers Notice. 1 x Stop/Search



Stop check Bobbing Services, Sittingbourne. Black BMW. Vehicle linked to fly tipping in Maidstone and seized. £400 fixed penalty notice issued. Driver has an expired driving licence and was not insured. Also issued with Traffic Offence Report for these offences.



White Ford Transit located in Oxford Gardens, Maidstone. Vehicle linked to fly tipping in Maidstone and seized by MBC. Owner issued with a £400 fixed penalty.



White Ford Transit. Vehicle located unattended at Detling Aerodrome and seized as linked to fly tipping in Maidstone. Owners will be issued with a £400 fixed penalty

Thursday 15th October

OP ASSIST: CANTERBURY (INC WHITSTABLE AND HERNE BAY).

ARREST.

Warrant Fail To Appear for Drug Driving.

A white Ford Transit Drop Side Lorry was located driving down Sturry Road. Driver arrested and conveyed to Canterbury Police Station for fail to appear warrant. The vehicle was examined and several defects were located resulting in the driver being issued with a Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme.

Stop / Check, Hever Place, Canterbury.

Silver Nissan Cabstar located driving around the Hales Place Estate off Broadoak Road. Driver was spoken too. Scrap Metal located in the back, resulting in Canterbury Council dealing with him for Waste Offences.



Stop / Check, A28, Ashford Road, Thannington, Canterbury.

A white Ford Transit Panel Van, which was known to Patrols, was stopped after it was witnessed coming out of the Thannington Estate.

The vehicle was checked and a load of scrap metal was located in the rear. Driver stated he had collected it from a Garden Clearance the day before. Canterbury Council attended and dealt with driver, for No Scrap Metal Licence and No Waste Transfer notices.



Yellow LDV van stopped in Whitstable, Station Road. The vehicle had various scrap metal items in the rear of the vehicle. Unable to provide waste transfer notes and given a producer by Canterbury council. Vehicle seized for no insurance .



OP ASSIST: THANET.

Various stops

X2 Waste Fines

X1 Traffic Offence Report

X1 arrest

X1 vehicle pace seizure



Located red Skoda Fabia in relation to overnight catalytic convertor thefts. Enquiries on scene revealed VRM had been stolen from original vehicle and CCTV obtained for correct vehicle. Stop check of male from Latvia following earlier interaction in day by Thanet district council.

Stop check of target vehicle. Wanted for numerous fly tipping offences. Driver was disqualified driver. Arrested for fly tipping and driving whilst disqualified.



Friday 16th October

Working with Dover District Council.

Deployed to four locations related to Metal Scrap Dealers on the Dover District with Dover City Council Enforcement Officer, the Environment Agency Senior Environment Officer, and two Officers from the BT Security Team.

Land of Chapel Lane Dover. Magistrate Warrant following intelligence that metal waste was being illegally transferred through site.



Also 3 Scrap yards were visited in the Dover area and 2 Improvement Notices were issued by Dover Council in addition to several stop checks in the area.



Court Results

RTF with RSCPA have been involved in a series of joint investigation against a group of individuals who are engaged in some horrific animal cruelty offences involving badgers amongst other animals.

One of the group; Harry Noble, was sentenced at Court on the 24th September. The DJ closing assessment is summarised below with the Sentence handed out.

I took into account not only that animals were killed but the way they were killed. You were going out killing animals gratuitously and for pleasure. You go yourself into a community that regarded that as acceptable behaviour – well, that is not acceptable behaviour. I do not accept what you say in your Pre-Sentence Reports about being dragged into it and minimising your involvement. I find that you did these offences gratuitously and because you enjoyed it and you publicised it to others, saying come to our area this is what we do for fun. These offences are so serious that only a custodial sentence can be justified.

- 120 days concurrent on each count.
- £2000 costs (reduced as not in work) (£20 pcm but to be increased when he starts working)
- Disqualified for life for owning dogs under s13 PBA 1992.

This followed the conviction of two co-suspect sentenced at Court in July. These suspects were Matthew McWilliam Jnr from New Romney and Jethro Smith from Ashford.

McWilliam was sentenced to a total of four months in prison and disqualified from owning any animal for life. He was deprived of dogs Poppy, Tia and Ollie - who will be rehomed by the RSPCA - and was ordered to pay £2,000 costs.

Smith was sentenced to four months in prison in July and was deprived of his dog, Biscuit. He was also disqualified from owning any animal for life and ordered to pay £4,450 costs.

An excellent example of partnership working with a positive disposal at Court.

Kind regards, Darren Walshaw

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