



East Devon: Rural Policing Newsletter

August 2023



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Devon & Cornwall Alert



Is a two-way community messaging system covering Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly that helps us to connect with our communities. It tells you what is happening in your area.

You can choose what information you receive, from whom, and when.

D&C Alert plays a significant role in our rural crime prevention activity. We utilise the platform to circulate key prevention messages and crime appeals. Messages will be tailored to your specific location and interests, so you can ensure the information you receive is always relevant.

To find out more, you can register for free at
alerts.dc.police.uk

RESPECT EVERYONE

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

FOLLOW ADVICE AND LOCAL SIGNS



For further information, please visit:
[gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code#full-publication-update-history](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code#full-publication-update-history)

2023	THEMES
JANUARY	Rural road safety
FEBRUARY	Illegal off-roading
MARCH	Livestock worrying
APRIL	Agricultural plant, vehicle & machinery theft
MAY	Equine crime
JUNE	Heritage crime
JULY	Agricultural plant vehicle & machinery theft
AUGUST	Trespass & rights of way
SEPTEMBER	Livestock theft
OCTOBER	Fly tipping
NOVEMBER	Poaching
DECEMBER	Fuel and battery theft



03000 111 999

7am - 11pm



The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

0800 188 4444

MONTHLY FOCUS:

TRESPASS & RIGHTS OF WAY

Who deals with trespass?

Trespassing on land is largely a civil matter, and often complex - so, advice should be sought from a solicitor, where appropriate. As such, the Police largely have no jurisdiction. There are only very limited circumstances whereby the Police may become involved in such a matter - for example, if there are a large group of trespassers and/or damage has been caused.

If the Police do attend incidents involving trespass, they are usually only there merely as observers for any criminal offences committed by either party. The Police cannot assist in the removal of the trespasser or their property from the land in question; however, the Police do have some removal powers against larger groups of occupiers - any damage caused to the land or the property on the land by a trespasser, or use of threatening, abusive, or insulting behaviour may amount to a criminal offence and should be reported to the Police. Additionally, if trespassers have multiple vehicles on the land, the Police can then direct the trespassers to leave. Failure to leave when directed to do so by the Police can amount to a criminal offence.

Ejection of a trespasser is fraught with danger for the landowner. Initially, the landowner should ask the occupier to leave the land - if they do so, then all is well. However, if they refuse, problems may arise. The owner of the land could commit several offences if they try to remove the occupier and the occupier's property from their land. The best and safest course of action is to obtain a court order, which if breached may then turn into a criminal matter.

If there are trespassers in a car park/a piece of council land, you should contact your local council so that they can take appropriate steps to remove the trespassers. Contact your local authority for further information.

MONTHLY FOCUS:

TRESPASS & RIGHTS OF WAY

RIGHTS OF WAY

You have the right to access some land for walking or certain other leisure activities. You can use public roads and pavements, or public rights of way - for example, footpaths or bridleways. You can use your right to roam on open access land, including mountains, moors, heaths, downs, common land, and some land around the England Coastal Path.

If neither of those apply, you may still be able to access private land if the land was used as a public right of way in the past (you can check old maps and documents), the land was accessed by the public for at least 20 years and nobody has asked them to stop, or if the landowner has given permission (permissive access - look for signs). You can search for land of outstanding scenic or scientific interest, including land with permissive access, in the HM Revenue and Customs directory.

You can walk on all public rights of way. Some public rights of way are also open to horse riders, cyclists, or motorists. You can use:

- **Footpaths** for walking, running, mobility scooters, or powered wheelchairs.
- **Bridleways** for walking, horse riding, bicycles, mobility scooters, or powered wheelchairs.
- **Restricted byways** for any transport without a motor, and mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs.
- **Byways open to all traffic** for any kind of transport, including cars - but they are mainly used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders

Public rights of way are marked with signs or coloured arrows - for example, yellow for footpaths and blue for bridleways. You can find the route of public rights of way on Ordnance Survey or other maps, and on some council websites.

MONTHLY FOCUS:

TRESPASS & RIGHTS OF WAY

If there are any problems with a local right of way, such as obstructions, poor maintenance, or misleading signs, contact your local council. Additionally, you can contact your local council about adding, changing, or removing a public right of way, either temporarily or permanently.

For further information please visit either <https://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land> or <https://www.devon.gov.uk/prow>



Follow advice and local signs
The arrows show the legal and recorded rights of way for different user groups

<p>Footpath</p> 	<p>Bridleway</p> 
<p>Restricted Byway</p> 	<p>Byway open to all traffic</p> 

 <p>Permissive Path Follow advice on local signs as landowners voluntarily provide access to these paths and choose who can use them. Some open access areas are also made available in the same way.</p>	 <p>National Trail National Trails are created for walking, with horse-riding and cycling possible on some trails or trail sections. www.nationaltrail.co.uk</p>	 <p>Open Access You can walk and explore away from paths. www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk</p>
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For further information visit www.countryside-code.org.uk



By Alert Officer Linzi Berryman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

PROTECTING LOCAL HERITAGE SITES

Devon & Cornwall Police, in partnership with Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association (DACCWA) and Historic England, have launched Heritage Watch in Devon and Cornwall.

The counties of Devon and Cornwall contain over 35,000 designated heritage sites, both on land and in the sea, and together they represent the chronological story of people, places and events that have shaped our regional identity.

Heritage Watch is a national scheme for landowners, custodians of heritage assets and people who live near heritage sites or those who are simply interested in the history and culture of Devon and Cornwall. It encourages proper reporting and sharing of information on crime or suspicious behaviour around our heritage assets. Through the scheme, members can also receive invitations to crime awareness events run by DACCWA and Devon & Cornwall Police and receive information regarding heritage crimes or suspicious behaviour in their area through systems such as Devon and Cornwall Alert.



By Alert Officer Linzi Berryman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

PROTECTING LOCAL HERITAGE SITES

PC Julian Fry, Rural Affairs Officer, Devon & Cornwall Police said- “Heritage crime is any offence that harms the value of heritage assets and their settings, such as ancient archaeological sites, churches, historic shipwrecks, stately homes and castles. It can include arson, criminal damage, theft, unlawful salvage from historic shipwrecks and the trade in illicit cultural objects. With around 35,000 designated heritage assets in Devon and Cornwall and many more remaining undesignated or simply waiting to be discovered, we want protect the past for our future and by joining the scheme, people can do that.”

Duncan Wilson, Historic England Chief Executive said, “We welcome our colleagues from Devon and Cornwall Police and Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association as the newest Heritage Watch area in England. By working together with communities and partners across the law enforcement and heritage sectors we can help protect our historic buildings and archaeological sites from the threat of crime and anti-social behaviour and ensure their preservation for future generations to enjoy.”

Members of the public can sign up for alerts at <https://alerts.dc.police.uk> and choose ‘Heritage Watch’ under ‘Community Groups’.

More information about designated heritage sites can be found at the online database provided by Historic England at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

This is the only official, up to date register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England including listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, registered parks and gardens, and battlefields.

**Thanks for reading! Stay tuned
for the September issue...**