



Rural Crime - Operation Artemis

Poaching takes many forms, from hare coursing, shooting deer at night, to using catapults to take pheasants. This type of offending is unique to the countryside and tends to be seasonal. The image of the poacher taking 'one for the pot' has long since gone, and poaching often involves groups or gangs who are members of Organised Crime Groups involved in all levels of criminality affecting all communities. Poaching tends to peak when the harvests come down at the end of the summer, reaching high levels between October and December. This year, the harvests have been early, meaning that access to fields is earlier than usual, so we are likely to see a longer sustained peak from September to December.

Operation ARTEMIS is Wiltshire Police's proactive operation to counter all forms of poaching, and sits within the national operation Project POACHER. Project POACHER aims to coordinate action across England and Wales through:

Prevention – Offering best advice to farmers, landowners, gamekeepers, and shooting and land management organisations regarding measures to prevent poaching, and proactive disruption procedures.

Intelligence – To allow the police to target offenders.

Enforcement – With good intelligence, the police can target poachers through the various rural and poaching based operations run throughout England and Wales.

Reassurance – By working together with communities, and by publicising activity such as operations, arrests, seizures and convictions.

Operation ARTEMIS is the word to be used when reporting all incidents of poaching, except fishing, within Wiltshire.

Officers from South CPT with support from Hampshire, Dorset, Special Constabulary and the Rural Crime Partnership have conducted 2 night time operations in recent weeks and we have seen 3 persons arrested between Salisbury and Amesbury for hare coursing resulting in Police seizing their dogs and car. We will continue to take positive action where opportunities present.

PCSO Recruitment – please share with any local person interested in a career in Policing

PCSO recruitment continues, could you do the job?

Wiltshire Police is recruiting for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Applications are open until **5pm on Sunday 15th October 2017**.

PCSOs provide a visible patrolling presence, acting as an effective crime deterrent, especially with regard to anti-social behaviour and are the eyes and ears of our community.

Visit our website to find out more details –

<http://www.wiltshire.police.uk/jobs/psco>

Report for Parish Councils – Downton Rural Beat - October 2017

(Britford, Coombe Bissett, Downton, Odstock and Redlynch)

Recent Crime reports

- 26/09/17 – Theft – Church Hill, Lover – 3 x large pots containing shrubs stolen from o/s house
- 23/09/17 – Criminal Damage – Squarey Close, Downton – catapult damage to vehicle windscreen
- 23/09/17 – Criminal Damage – The Sidings, Downton – deep scratches caused to parked car
- 19/09/17 – Theft – Salisbury Rd, Coombe Bissett – fuel siphoned from horse box on farm
- 17/09/17 – Criminal Damage – Rockbourne Rd, C/ Bissett – cut fence and dumped waste in field

Current Policing priorities

- **Increased patrols following recent damage/ ASB - Downton**
- **Patrols to target Rural crime and Poaching**
Patrols by Police officers and PCSO's to target both daytime and night poaching at identified hotspots.
PCSO Matt SMITH will continue to run targeted rural operations with support from our Rural Crime Team, Rural Special Constables and local farmers and landowners

Local Police Contacts

PCSO **Matt SMITH** – matthew.smith@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Pc **Matt HOLLAND** – Community Policing Co-ordinator

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Community Messaging – for emailed updates sign up at www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

