



Neighbourhood News

From Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

Protect our Countryside

Over recent months, and more so during lockdown, our rural areas have seen more people, enjoying their local surroundings, with an increase in visits to beauty spots, woodland and moorland. It's good for us, to get outdoors, and away from it all.

Unfortunately, not everyone shares this love, or respect, of our beautiful and stunning countryside, and we have seen an increase in anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, and arson, often at a cost to others.

These images were taken in the wooded area between Lamb Hall Road and Outlane Golf Course, Longwood. This land is not publicly owned.

Off-road motorbike riders, are using some woodlands as a track, in areas where it is not permitted, causing damage, and churning up pathways. Damage has also been caused to walls, where ramps have been built, by mountain bike riders, so you should always check first, to see if it is permitted.

The police have off-road bikes, that carry out patrols, off the beaten track, so please report any incidents of nuisance motorbikes. (Tel: 101 or webform submission).



Dry stone walls and fencing has been damaged or removed, in order to gain access to land, giving little regard to livestock contained in fields, allowing them to escape, resulting in injury, or death, (a calf had ventured onto the road, and was struck and killed by a vehicle, only recently), and at a cost to the land owner, to repair the damage.

Please act responsibly, and use the designated footpaths, and walkways, closing gates behind you. Be guided by signage, including those that state 'Private Property', 'Keep Out', 'Loose Animals' etc.

We urge people to follow the **countryside code:**

- Consider the local community and other people using the outdoors
- Keep dogs under control
- Leave no trace of your visit, take your litter home
- Don't have BBQ's or fires
- Use gates, stiles or gaps in field boundaries if you can, climbing over walls, hedges and fences can damage them and increase the risk of animals escaping
- Follow footpaths and signs



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Litter and harmful items, including broken bottles, are being discarded, and these can cause injury to others, enjoying the countryside, and can also cause injury to animals, (including your beloved dog, that you have taken for a walk). If you can take items with you, you can take them home.

Officers are finding empty Nitrous Oxide containers, which are illegal to supply or import, under the Psychoactive Substances Act, and any person/s found in possession of these, will be dealt with accordingly.



Nitrous Oxide, also known as "Laughing Gas" and "NOX", is becoming a trend amongst young people, unaware of the many dangers and health risks, it presents:

- Loss of consciousness
- Possible suffocation
- Can lead to Vitamin B12 deficiency (a form of anaemia)
- Increases risks from other drugs and intoxicants like alcohol

A note from our Wildlife Crime Officer PC Newsome - As Wildlife Crime Officer, I have dealt with a number of incidents, where young people have built ramps and tracks, in woodland, filling in gaps in the natural landscape, some of which have been the entrance to badger setts, meaning the young person/s have inadvertently committed a wildlife crime, as badgers and their setts, are protected in law.

I would urge people to keep their dogs on a lead, when around livestock, having dealt with some horrific attacks on sheep, where a dog or dogs, have badly injured, or killed one or several sheep. This is distressing for both the farmer, (who could shoot your beloved pet), and the entire flock, and a dog worrying sheep, is criminal offence.

All reports of wildlife crime are taken seriously, and I would ask that you report any suspicious activity, or if you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Your local Neighbourhood Officers can be contacted at -

rural@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Your local Crime Prevention Officer is -

Sophie Burns, Holmfirth Police Station,
HD93JL

Email:
Sophie.burns@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk



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0800 555 111