



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY



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RURAL, WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE CRIME

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Legal Basis

Legislation specific to the subject of this policy document:

- Animal Welfare Act 2006 ([sections 4, 8 and 19](#))
- Game Act 1831
- Animal Health Act 1981
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Badger Protection Act 1992
- Deer Act 1991
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

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- Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953
- Theft Act 1968
- Ivory Act 2018
- Treasure Act 1996
- Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003

Other relevant legislation which you must check this document against (required by law)

- [Human Rights Act 1998 \(in particular A.14 – Prohibition of discrimination\)](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated Regulations](#)
- [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) and Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Freedom Of Information Act 2000](#)
- [The Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)

Other documentation which you must check this document against:

- [College of Policing – Code of Ethics](#)
- [Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies' Standards of Professional Behaviour](#)
- NPCC Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2022-2025
- College of Policing Wildlife Crime APP
- Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime
- Dangerous Dogs Policy
- Dogs Coming into Police Possession Policy

1. Statement of Policy

- 1.1 This policy has been formally agreed via the approved policy development/review process. It will be maintained by the Constabularies' Rural Crime Teams, County Policing Command in conjunction with the Central Policy Unit.
- 1.2 The policy is intended to promote equality, eliminate unlawful discrimination and actively promote good relations regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, economic or family status.
- 1.3 Managers have a responsibility to ensure this policy is applied fairly, and unless otherwise stated, all policies and procedures are non-contractual.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 There are many Acts of Parliament that provide protection for animal, wildlife, specific offences committed in rural locations and against heritage sites. There are also several charities and authorities that are willing and able to offer expert assistance with this task.

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- 2.2 The purpose of this document is to provide guidance in dealing with incidents and offences within those categories. It is not the purpose of this guidance to detail all offences under this legislation. Details of local procedures are given where appropriate.
- 2.3 Both Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies work with the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) and the National Rural Crime Unit (NRCU) to understand national trends and maximise opportunities provided from a wide base of information. The Constabularies will also ensure WCOs and Rural Crime Champions (Norfolk) are aware of the current UK priorities and objectives for wildlife and rural crime, set yearly by the Strategic Tasking and Co-ordination Meeting for combating wildlife and rural crime in the UK. A list of the current priorities can be found [here](#).
- 2.4 The police are often the first point of contact for the public and are often able to assist by putting them in contact with another agency. There are numerous agencies and charities, that deal with and can support offences detailed within this document. Contact numbers for these are available within and via the CCR. If uncertain as to which is the appropriate agency to contact, or which policy and procedure should be followed, advice should be sought from:
- **Norfolk:** The Op Randall Team, consisting of officers within the Community Safety Department and Rural Crime Beat Managers.
 - **Suffolk:** The Rural and Wildlife Policing Team (RAWPT).
- 2.5 In Norfolk, assistance can also be sought from the Wildlife Crime Officers (WCO) and Rural Crime Champions (RCC).
- 2.6 It is important to note that wildlife crime offences are the responsibility of the police to investigate and prosecute and not that of other agencies, such as the RSPCA or RSPB.

3. What constitutes Rural, Wildlife and Heritage Crime?

- 3.1 This document looks to broadly set out the areas of crime categorised as rural, wildlife or heritage related, however, it is not exhaustive. For further clarity and advice, contact can be made with Op Randall or RAWPT. Further guidance can be found within this policy on:

Poaching, Hare Coursing, Hunting with Dogs, Livestock Offences, Fishing Offences, Badgers, Bats, Birds of Prey, Other Bird Offences, Traps, CITES, Offences Involving Protected Species and Plants, Agricultural Theft, Chemical Offences, Fly Tipping, Rabies, Oil Polluted Birds, Illegal Metal Detecting, Churches/Listed Building/Scheduled Monuments and Treasure Offences.

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4. Wildlife Crime Officers

Norfolk

- 4.1 When dealing with an incident involving wildlife, advice may be sought from a WCO or Rural Crime Champion, but the Op Randall Team should be the first port of call.
- 4.2 Norfolk has a small dedicated rural crime team working under Op Randall that can investigate some wildlife crime and provide expert advice.
- 4.3 The Op Randall Team/WCOs have expert knowledge of laws concerning wildlife and maintain contacts with local and national agencies that are able to give assistance to the police. They may be able to take on more serious and protracted enquiries regarding wildlife.
- 4.4 There is a WCO risk assessment which can be viewed on the W drive here.
(File Path: W:\Collaboration\Human Resources \ Health & Safety \ Org \ Governance \ Risk Assessment)
- 4.5 WCOs can be contacted through the Norfolk CCR.

Suffolk

- 4.6 When dealing with an incident involving wildlife, the Rural and Wildlife Policing Team should be the first port of call.
- 4.7 Suffolk has a small Rural Crime team dedicated to investigating wildlife crime.

5. Poaching

- 5.1 Poachers tend to act in groups with a number of dogs and weapons. They generally have little regard for the countryside, wildlife or the farmers' land that they damage or destroy.
- 5.2 Poachers often pursue animals such as hares and species which fall under the heading of 'Game' and deer.
- 5.3 Under the Game Act 1831, game refers to hares, pheasants, partridges, grouse, heath or moor game and black game.
- 5.4 When dealing with a poaching incident, Operation Randall or the RAWPT should be contacted for advice and guidance.
- 5.5 The Poaching CCR Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is a useful reference tool.

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6. Dogs

- 6.1 Dogs and other domestic animals are not classed as wildlife. However, Op Randall or the RAWPT may assist in liaison with other agencies, such as the RSPCA.
- 6.2 Stray dogs are the responsibility of the Local Authority; not the police.
- 6.3 Dogs worrying livestock is a police responsibility and the Rural and Wildlife Policing Team or an on-duty WCO should be contacted for advice.
- 6.4 Officers dealing with an incident involving a dangerous dog should seek advice from a trained Dog Legislation Officer (DLO) within the Joint Dog Section of Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies and refer to the Dangerous Dogs policy.
- 6.5 If a crime has occurred involving a dog which does not fall under the Dangerous Dogs policy or the Hunts policy, the animal can be seized under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, however this should be as a last resort given the cost of logistics in relation to storage space and resources. The Duty Inspector must be consulted before a decision is made to seize a dog, and the RAWPT or Op Randall updated. The Property Seized Subject to Enquiry policy should be referred to.
- 6.6 Officers dealing with dogs coming into police possession, should refer to the Dogs coming into Police Possession policy.
- 6.7 The Dogs CCR SOP is a useful reference tool.
- 6.8 For guidance on dogs or other animals left in vehicles, see Appendix C.

7. Horses

- 7.1 Upon receiving notification of one or more stray horses on a public carriageway, officers should:
 - If safe, try to secure the animal where possible in order to prevent danger to road users. If it is not possible to secure the animal, they should take whatever action is necessary to reduce the danger to themselves and other road users.
 - Once the animal has been secured and the danger to the public has been removed, officers should make enquiries with surrounding properties to attempt to identify and contact the owner so that the horse(s) can be removed to safety. A decision will then be made whether or not to prosecute. Details of local farmers can be obtained via the CCR or Rural and Wildlife Policing Team (Suffolk) or Op Randall Team (Norfolk).
- 7.2 Norfolk Constabulary works in partnership with the horse charity, Redwings. If an owner cannot be located and leaving the horse at the incident location would be a danger to the public, Redwings can be contacted in order for the horse to be recovered and taken to a safe place.

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The call out of Redwings must be conducted by the CCR and must also be authorised by the Duty Inspector. The procedure in Appendix A should be closely followed.

- 7.3 It must be emphasised that recovering the animal is a costly option and should only be used as a last resort when all other options have failed. If any offences have been disclosed, positive action is recommended against the owners of such animals so that efforts can be made to recover the costs through the courts.
- 7.4 This scheme should not be used when assisting enforcement agencies such as the RSPCA as they will have their own systems in place.

8. Other Lost/Found Animals

- 8.1 There is no legal requirement for the police to deal with lost or found animals. Finders of lost/stray dogs should be referred to the Local Authority.
- 8.2 Some Norfolk stations have microchip readers and the Op Randall Team has access to some microchip databases. Alternatively, a local vet should be able to help locate chip owner details.
- 8.3 Finders of animals other than dogs should be referred to the RSPCA or local Animal Rescue organisations. Most local vets would also be able to advise on persons/organisations who take in animals other than dogs.
- 8.4 The ownership of found racing pigeons bearing registration rings can be traced through the Royal Pigeon Racing Association website.

9. Dead, Injured or Diseased Animals

- 9.1 Unless an offence is suspected, dealing with dead, injured or diseased animals generally falls outside of the Op Randall, WCO and RAWPT remit.
- 9.2 However, if a diseased or injured animal is found and it is not possible to quickly trace the owner, a registered veterinary surgeon can be called to the scene. If, in the opinion of the vet, the animal should be destroyed, the vet can be asked to do this with or without the consent of the owner (N.B. with the exception of deer, badgers and foxes when the services of a Humane Animal Destruction (HAD) Trained officer should be requested - see section on 'HAD' below).
- 9.3 Some diseases of animals are 'notifiable' under the Animal Health Act 1981. Any suspected cases of these diseases must be reported to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The vet should be able to advise on which diseases are notifiable.
- 9.4 If the services of a vet are necessary, a report should be submitted to the Finance Department with details of the owner if available. When an invoice for veterinary services is received in these circumstances, every attempt should be made to recover the costs from the animal's owner.

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- 9.5 The Local Authority can be contacted to dispose of any animal carcass where required.
- 9.6 Professional advice must be sought where an animal being dealt with appears to have any infectious or contagious disease. Medical advice must be sought where officers/staff come in contact with an animal suffering from a zoonotic disease (transferable to humans). An 'Injury on Duty' form must also be completed.
- 9.7 Where an offence is suspected, any evidence should be secured, and the matter investigated. Seek advice from CSI and/or Op Randall/RAWPT.

10. Deer

- 10.1 If a deer is injured, a Humane Animal Dispatch (HAD) trained officer or ARV can be deployed to dispatch the injured animal. Oscar 1 will make that decision on a case by case basis based on the overarching strategy to prevent unnecessary suffering, and in line with the APP for Armed Policing.
- 10.2 The CCR will contact the most appropriate resource (HAD officer or ARV) depending on the location and type of the deer.
- 10.3 Injured large deer that are still mobile should be referred to the force incident manager/Oscar 1, who should consult a firearms TACAD to determine the most appropriate method of destruction.
- 10.4 Where all initial options have been exhausted, i.e. HAD, ARV, the services of a vet can be requested (see section on Dead, Injured or Diseased Animals above) if appropriate. Due to cost, this should be a last resort option. If it is necessary for a vet to euthanize a deer, it must be removed immediately to avoid poisoning of other animals which may eat it.
- 10.5 The Deer CCR SOP is a useful reference tool.

11. Humane Animal Dispatch (HAD) Trained Officer

- 11.1 There are officers in both Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies who are trained in Humane Animal Dispatch who can dispatch injured deer, badgers and foxes.
- 11.2 HAD trained officers can dispatch animals on dual carriageways without the need to close the road (other than the lane they are in) as there is no ricochet risk.
- 11.3 The control room will contact a HAD trained officer if one is required.
- 11.4 HAD trained officers can assist the RSPCA should a large number of injured livestock require destruction urgently, e.g. a road traffic collision involving a vehicle transporting animals. The RSPCA would contact the relevant police force and the HAD officers would assist under the RSPCA's direction and supervision.

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11.5 The protocol for HAD trained officers is included at Appendix B.

12. Dangerous Animals

12.1 If dealing with an animal in circumstances which may be a danger to any person, e.g. an escaped zoo animal or bull, full details must be passed to the CCR and consideration given to requesting the attendance of a vet.

12.2 The Control Room Inspector should consider the deployment of the Rural and Wildlife Policing Team (Suffolk) / Op Randall Team (Norfolk) alongside the deployment of a Supervisor and Armed Response Officers (AROs). The AROs may dispatch the animal in accordance with guidance given in Authorised Professional Practice (APP).

13. Hare Coursing

13.1 Both Norfolk and Suffolk's response to hare coursing is managed under the policy document for hare coursing as part of Operation Galileo. The Hunts policy should be referred to.

14. Hunting with Dogs

14.1 Norfolk's response to reports of Hunting with Dogs is managed under the policy document for Hunting incidents via Operation Swordtail. The Hunts policy should be referred to.

15. Livestock Offences

15.1 Livestock worrying is the offence of allowing dogs to worry livestock on agricultural land and is an offence under Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953. Normally involving sheep, but includes cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses, or poultry. For the purposes of this definition, cattle means bulls, cows, oxen, heifers or calves, horses includes asses and mules, and poultry means domestic fowls, turkeys, geese or ducks.

15.2 Agricultural land is defined as land used as arable, meadow or grazing land, or for the purpose of poultry farming, pig farming, market gardens, allotments, nursery grounds or orchards.

15.3 Livestock worrying has a significant impact on the animals involved but also the owner/stockman and should be taken seriously. The use of dog incident forms can be suitable outcome but should not be the default option. Consider the harm caused prior to a disposal decision.

15.4 A dog does not have to kill livestock for the offence to be complete; simply entering the field and causing distress completes the offence.

15.5 The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 provides a power for officers to seize a dog if no person is present to ascertain who the owner is. Police can detain the dog until the owner has claimed it and paid all expenses incurred. Detained dogs can be disposed of after seven days if unclaimed.

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Seizing dogs should be a last resort consideration and they should be dealt with as strays if they are no longer worrying livestock.

- 15.6 Theft of livestock is covered under the Theft Act 1968. Within the industry it can be called sheep rustling which generally is referred to when persons steal a large number of sheep overnight.

16. Fishing Offences

- 16.1 Fishing offences vary from theft of fish to theft of fishing rights. These offences are covered under Operation Traverse, which is the National Operation tackling these offences. Guidance can be found via the [Fishing - Illegally CCR SOP](#).
- 16.2 When dealing with fishing offences, Operation Randall or the RAWPT should be contacted for advice and guidance.
- 16.3 'What Three Words' should be used for the exact location as this can be difficult to describe.
- 16.4 Officers should, whilst on scene with the suspected illegal fisherman, obtain all details, ask for rod licenses, photograph the suspects fishing gear and bait that is being used. These details should then be passed to Op Randall or the RAWPT who will then liaise with the Environment Agency Enforcement Officers for prosecution.

17. Badgers

- 17.1 Badgers remain the most persecuted wild mammal in the UK despite being one of the most protected.
- 17.2 Crimes involving badgers include; badger baiting (baiting badgers to fight with dogs either in pits or putting terrier dogs into setts), killing of badgers, badger sett destruction and disturbance.
- 17.3 Badgers come into conflict often with landowners due to the destructive nature of their sett building undermining roads, agricultural fields and the risk of badgers carrying TB which threatens domesticated cattle.
- 17.4 Badgers are fully protected under the Badger Protection Act 1992 and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as a schedule 6 species. There is no lawful reason to kill badgers in Norfolk or Suffolk.
- 17.5 Offences involving the destruction or disturbance of badger setts must be investigated immediately due to the need to prove the sett is active at the time of offending. Operation Randall/RAWPT should be contacted to assist in finding an expert witness to come to scene immediately if a sett has been found to have been disturbed or destroyed.
- 17.6 Should domestic dogs get down a badger sett, under no circumstances should the sett be dug out by the owner, Police, Fire Service or other organisation as there are no exemptions in law for this. RSPCA should be

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contacted in these circumstances as they have some inspectors with a relevant licence to deal.

18. Bats

- 18.1 All bats are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 18.2 Bats cannot be killed or disturbed unless a relevant licence issued by Natural England is in place.
- 18.3 Bat roosts are protected whether they are in use or not, conflict with bats often occurs in re-roofing of properties and developments. Licences can be issued by Natural England to carry out the work legally.
- 18.4 Should officers be called to a report of bat persecution, they should secure as many details as possible including who is conducting the work, who owns the property, work being carried out and any relevant planning details. Full details can then be sent to the Op Randall Team to make further enquiries with relevant authorities and Bat Conservation Trust.

19. Birds Of Prey

- 19.1 All birds of prey are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it an offence to kill, capture any live bird, destroy or damage their nest.
- 19.2 Birds of prey persecution falls into three main categories: killing of birds of prey (by shooting and poisoning), wild taken birds of prey (for falconry) and egg collecting, all of which are illegal.
- 19.3 Should birds of prey be found dead by members of public, they should be advised to not touch or remove the bird due to the risk of poisons and avian influenza. Officers should attend (where possible seeking advice from CSI) and seize the bird (at least double bag) and place in a property store freezer. Notification is to be sent to Op Randall/RAWPT so further investigations can take place.
- 19.4 All birds of prey which come into Police property will be processed by Op Randall/RAWPT and contact made to get them registered on government funded projects where appropriate for post mortem (Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS)) or Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS).
- 19.5 Individuals may legally keep birds of prey, but they must be registered correctly and not taken from wild stock – as such, any concerns please contact Op Randall/RAWPT who will be able to make relevant enquiries.

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20. Other Bird Offences

- 20.1 All wild birds are protected from being killed unless a relevant licence is in place from Natural England or an authorised person is acting under a General Licence.
- 20.2 General licences generally cover common pest species, not exclusive but include wood and feral pigeons, rooks, magpies, and many others. The use of General Licences are heavily legislated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- 20.3 General Licences are complex and further advice should be sort from Op Randall/RAWPT who will be able to advise appropriately.
- 20.4 A list of general licences and conditions that must be met to act under them can be found here.
- 20.5 Nest destruction/disturbance is a common issue during spring and summer months. It is an offence to damage or destroy any wild bird nest whilst it is active. Advice should be sort from Op Randall/RAWPT.
- 20.6 It is also an offence to take eggs of any wild bird.

21. Traps

- 21.1 When dealing with traps or traps related offences, Operation Randal/RAWPT should be contacted for advice and guidance.
- 21.2 CSI should be consulted for their attendance to document and photograph the trap. If this is not possible, when on scene, officers should take images of the trap whilst in situ, before moving or getting the trap moved.
- 21.3 'What Three Words' should be taken for the exact location of the trap. Along with the landowner/Gamekeeper details if possible.
- 21.4 The trap should be seized and retained for evidence/forensics where possible.

22. CITES/Ivory Offences

- 22.1 CITES is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and is an international agreement between governments around the world to protect the world's most endangered species.
- 22.2 It legislates the importation and trade of dead, live and parts of certain species (including 'traditional' medicines also known as Chinese medicines which include protect species parts).
- 22.3 The list of all species and what is covered is available here.

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22.4 Cases involving CITES species is generally dealt with by Border Force and specialist teams. If officers come across potential offences involving CITES species, they should contact Op Randall/RAWPT for further advice

22.5 The trade in ivory (elephant ivory) is also legislated under the Ivory Act 2018.

23. Other Criminality Involving Protected Species and Plants

23.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 also protects many other wild species and plants.

23.2 These can include commonly persecuted species such as Otters, Water Voles, Great Crested Newts among many others, which are listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.

23.3 Species are given a varying degree of protection under the legislation including; protection from being killed, taken from wild, offered for sale and destroying resting or breeding place.

23.4 Any incidents believed to involve protected species should be notified to Op Randall/RAWPT who will be able to provide advice and guidance.

24. Agricultural Thefts

24.1 This relates to all agricultural machinery and thefts from agricultural machinery. Op Huff is the operation name for Tractor GPS / Operating Systems (also known as Op Walrus nationally).

24.2 For Op Huff incidents, please refer to the Op Huff POP held by control.

24.3 When attending such thefts, follow the basic principles of any investigation but include things such as serial numbers, indexes, make and model. Also ask if any trackers have been fitted to the vehicle(s). Once all this information is obtained and investigation placed, register an interest in the investigation to Op Randall or the RAWPT via Athena or email.

25. Chemicals

25.1 Agricultural and horticulture businesses will have a wide variety of agro chemicals and fertilisers often in large quantities stored on site.

25.2 The Theft/Disappearance of Hazardous Materials SOP is a useful reference.

25.3 These chemicals often have a very high value which makes them vulnerable to theft. When officers attend such incidents, a full list of stock and quantity stolen must be recorded.

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25.4 Any incidents involving fertiliser must be notified to Special Branch immediately.

26. Fly Tipping

26.1 Fly-tipping is illegal dumping of liquid or solid waste on land or in water. The waste is usually dumped to avoid disposal costs. The relevant Local Authority are typically the lead agency.

26.2 If called to fly-tipping in progress, then searches should be conducted, and this will include checking for a waste carriers licence. A waste carriers license is a legal requirement for all businesses in the UK that are transporting waste as part of their commercial activities.

26.3 The police and council environmental enforcement officers have the power to seize, impound and crush any vehicle used for fly-tipping. Both the driver and the owner of the vehicle can be prosecuted for the offence.

26.4 Fly tipping should be reported to the council via the GOV.UK website.

27. Rabies

27.1 If a report of a suspected case of rabies is received, the Animal Health Inspector, Trading Standards must be informed as soon as possible.

27.2 A copy of the Trading Standards Service Aide Memoir can be found here.

28. Oil Polluted Birds

28.1 Upon receipt of a report about oil polluted birds, the RSPCA must be contacted.

28.2 Oil and chemical pollution incidents must be reported to the Environment Agency (24 hours emergency number: 0800-807060).

29. Illegal Metal Detecting

29.1 Generally referred to as Nighthawking. Illegal Metal detecting is when an individual uses a metal detector on any land without permission of the landowner. All land is owned by someone, and even public council land cannot be detected on without first gaining permission from the relevant party or organisation. The exception is beaches that are considered Crown Foreshore which can be checked here: Foreshore and Estuary Map (arcgis.com).

29.2 Consider standard offences under the Theft Act, including Going Equipped, utilising PACE search powers.

29.3 Magnet fishing can be considered in the same way as metal detecting.

29.4 It is illegal to use a metal detector on a scheduled monument within a licence from the state.

30. Churches/Listed Buildings/Scheduled Monuments

- 30.1 Listing means there will be extra control over what changes can be made to a building's interior and exterior.
- 30.2 Church thefts incorporates roofing lead theft, collection boxes and historical objects and items of value from inside the Church. Theft and damage to any part of the Church or contemporary outbuildings and curtilages should be recorded with a Heritage Crime tag on Athena.
- 30.3 Owners of listed buildings will need to apply for Listed Building Consent for most types of work that affect the 'special architectural or historic interest' of their home.
- 30.4 Scheduled monuments are areas of national archaeological importance that are offered protection and management to preserve them for all. A full interactive map of sites can be found here: [Search the List: Map Search | Historic England](#)
- 30.5 Criminal damage, theft and other general recorded offences at Scheduled Monuments should be given the Heritage Crime tag on Athena.
- 30.6 Reports of Anti-Social Behaviour at Scheduled Monuments should also be given the Heritage Crime tag on Athena.

31. Treasure Offences

- 31.1 Treasure is any object at least 300 years old when found which is not a coin but has metallic content of which at least ten per cent by weight is precious metal, i.e. solid gold ring with no hall mark is probably over 300 years old. More than one precious metal coin from the same find which is over 300 years old. i.e. scatter or buried hoard of medieval silver/gold coins. This is defined within the Treasure Act 1996.
- 31.2 There is a legal obligation for all finders of treasure to report these to a coroner within 14 days of making the find, or realising the find was treasure.
- 31.3 In Norfolk, reports should be made to the Portable Antiquities Scheme on the following email: coroner@norfolk.gov.uk. In Suffolk, the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service should be notified on sccasfinds@suffolk.gov.uk and/or 01284 741230.
- 31.4 If the coroner confirms the item/s are treasure, the museum services will have to value the item and offer a fair market price to purchase the item/s from the finder and landowner at a 50/50 split. If not, they will disclaim the item to the finder and landowner to split themselves.
- 31.5 Beyond items considered "treasure", the Dealing in Cultural Objects Offences Act 2003 covers the selling, buying or dealing in tainted cultural objects, which includes items of historical, architectural or archaeological interest, which was excavated or removed after the end 2003.

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31.6 Contact the Op Randall/RAWPT team for further advice and support.

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Appendix A – Recovery of Stray Horses via Redwings (Norfolk only)

Norfolk Constabulary has a partnership with the horse charity Redwings with regard to the recovery of stray horses found on the public carriageway. While this does not change the way in which such incidents are initially dealt with, it does provide the option of removing the animal if an owner cannot be located and where leaving the horse at the incident location would be a danger to the public. However, this is as a last resort after all other options have been exhausted.

In the event of a call from a member of public that a stray horse(s) is on a public carriageway, the following procedure should be followed.

Officer(s) dispatched to the scene should try to secure the animal where possible in order to prevent danger to road users. If it is not possible to secure the animal, they should take whatever action is necessary to reduce the danger to themselves and other road users.

Once the animal has been secured and the danger to the public has been removed, officers should make enquiries with surrounding properties to attempt to identify and contact the owner so that the horse(s) can be removed to safety. A decision will then be made whether or not to prosecute. CCR should contact Farmwatch and the local PEO for details of local farmers.

If all efforts have failed to identify the owner and the horse is likely to continue to be a danger to the public, then authority must be sought from the Duty Inspector to have the animal recovered by Redwings.

It must be emphasised that recovering the animal is a costly option and should only be used as a last resort when all other options have failed.

The call out of Redwings must be conducted by the CCR, who will provide the following details:

- the CAD number;
- Command District;
- the reason for recovery, with a brief description of the incident and service required;
- full details of the OIC so that Redwings have a point of contact if they are approached by the owner at a later date;
- the name of the Authorising Inspector;
- the location, type and approximate size and mental state of the animal(s);
- the Dispatch desk contact number (and if possible a contact number for the officers on scene).

Redwings will confirm an ETA to the scene with the Dispatch desk.

Officers must remain with the animal until Redwings have attended and completed recovery.

Details of the animal should be entered onto the CAD.

Once the animal has been recovered, the authorising Inspector must ensure that the OIC's Sector Inspector is made aware of the recovery.

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The OIC should ensure that full enquiries are conducted to attempt to identify the owner. This should include door to door enquiries in the area, checking the crime system in case the animal is stolen and issuing a press release. They are to liaise with Redwings who will examine the animal for possible identification features such as freeze marks or micro-chips.

If the OIC is due to go on annual leave or rest days, the enquiry should be handed to their supervisor for allocation to another officer in their absence.

If at any time during the incident the owner of the animal is identified, their full details should be taken and consideration to prosecute them for any offences that have occurred should be given. Positive action is recommended particularly if this is an ongoing problem.

If a decision is made to prosecute the owner, any costs incurred should be formally claimed back via the judicial process.

If it is decided not to prosecute the owner and callout costs have been incurred, then the owner should be advised that they will be invoiced for the callout service used.

In the event of difficulty in recovering costs from owners, liaison with the Legal Services department is advised.

In the event of the owner not being traced, disposal of the animal under the Police Property Act 1997 should be considered.

Redwings Contact Telephone Numbers:

- General Enquiries (Office Hours): 01508 481 008 / 7 / 6
- General Enquiries e-mail address: welfare@redwings.co.uk or rangell@redwings.co.uk

Redwings are happy to be contacted by CCR for advice on dealing with horses at any time free of charge. They will also provide advice to officers via the General Enquiries number during working hours.

This scheme should not be used when assisting enforcement agencies such as the RSPCA as they will have their own systems in place.

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Appendix B – Humane Animal Dispatch (HAD) Officer Protocol

Only Officers trained in the use of the HAD will carry and load the device and dispatch animals.

The captive bolt stunner will only be removed from its secure location when required for an operational purpose.

HAD officers are responsible for signing out and signing in the apparatus and recording the number of blank rounds drawn, returned and used.

HAD officers are responsible for ensuring the cleaning of the apparatus after each use.

In Suffolk, the Firearms Admin Dept. will be notified after each use by a short email detailing the time, place of the use, the discharging officer and whether the use was successful and the number of blank rounds used. This will allow the replacement cartridges to be ordered and forwarded onto the station.

In Norfolk, a HAD discharge form is completed and sent to the HAD SPOC.

HAD officers are responsible for ensuring the successful dispatch of the animal.

If the HAD officer feels it is unsafe to approach the injured animal, due to its size or mobility, they should call for assistance from the Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) for the dispatch of the animal.

The HAD officer will wear the appropriate PPE, i.e. eye glasses and gloves/gauntlets and hearing protection in line with their training.

The HAD officer is responsible for briefing the officers on scene as to their requirements and ensuring the road is closed if required and members of the public are removed from the working area while the destruction takes place.

The animal carcass will be moved to the side and of the road and left on the verge well away from the road.

The HAD officer will be responsible for making a detailed pocket note book entry for rationale for the use of the captive bolt stunner detailing the condition of the deer when located, the injuries in their opinion would not be survivable, the destruction was necessary to prevent suffering to the animal, the fact the deer was dispatched in accordance to the training provided, the number of blank cartridges used and the PPE provided was also used.

The captive bolt stunner will be cleaned after every use and returned to the HAD Safe (Norfolk) / Taser Safe (Suffolk) and the Log Sheet completed.

If there are concerns around the safe working of the captive bolt stunner, the stunner will be removed from use by attaching an unsafe label to it. The other HADs in the station will be notified by email and a line added to the Log Sheet. The relevant Force Armourer will be notified by email. Arrangements will then be made to transport the stunner to OCC/PHQ Firearms for servicing.

Appendix C – Animals Left in Vehicles

In an event of a call from a member of public that an animal has been left alone in a vehicle, the following should be considered:

Section 4 Animal Welfare Act 2006 states that it is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to a Protected Animal (an animal that is commonly domesticated in this country). It would have to be proved that the animal was caused unnecessary suffering rather than mere inconvenience.

'Unnecessary Suffering' is defined under the legislation and includes whether the suffering could reasonably have been avoided or reduced.

Section 18 Animal Welfare Act 2006 states that if a Police Constable reasonably believes a Protected Animal is suffering, they should take immediate steps to alleviate suffering.

Section 19 Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides a power of entry. If there is reasonable belief that there is a Protected Animal on premises (other than a private dwelling), and that the Protected Animal is suffering, or is likely to suffer if its circumstances do not change, entry can be obtained to search for the Protected Animal or to exercise Section 18 powers (to alleviate the Protected Animal's suffering). If force is to be used, justification must be given as to why a warrant was not applied for first.

"Premises" includes any places and includes vehicles, vessels, etc.

Entry to the vehicle can be made if done so with the intent, for example, to take the animal in possession to remove it to a place of safety, or take such steps as immediately necessary to alleviate suffering. Justification would be required as to why it was a necessary and reasonable step to take (exhausting all other options to locate owners of the vehicle and assist the animal would help evidence that the action was necessary and reasonable).

Any forced entry to a vehicle has to be deemed a last resort, only when absolutely necessary following the exhausting of all other avenues and only when the animal is reasonably believed to be clearly suffering to a justifiable degree rather than being merely inconvenienced. This is something that the attending officer will determine and justify when taking in to account all of the available circumstances pertinent to that specific case. (See Section 18(1) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006).

In Suffolk, PCSOs have a standard power of entry that a constable has under their designation under the Police Reform Act 2002. They can only do what is designated to them so the specific powers under the Animal Welfare Act are not applicable.