



## Sussex Countrywatch

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**Tuesday 23rd October 2018**

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### **Sussex Countrywatch foreword:**

Saturday saw me at Turners Hill talking at a fisheries enforcement workshop. I met anglers and fishery owners; some of whom are members of the Angling Trust and Environment Agency voluntary bailiff scheme.

I heard about a variety of issues from the angling world including issues surrounding the investigation and control of notifiable aquatic diseases such as koi herpesvirus disease (KHV) and spring viraemia of carp (SVC). These diseases generally brought into the UK via the illegal importation of course fish from Europe where they grow larger.

I heard how an illicit importation has been detected at one of our ports by a Border Force officer. The truck was stopped and a number of tanks were found hidden inside. The tanks contained carp which had been bought in France for £20,000. They were expected to have a market value of £250,000 in the UK where they would have been sold to fisheries. I also heard from fishery owners who had suffered thefts and burglaries of tools, equipment and the poaching of fish.

Angling crime in some ways can be linked to the poaching of Elephants and Rhino's. The European Eel (*Anguilla Anguilla*) is found in our waterways and is legitimately caught under specific licence by fishermen. The young of this species, known as elvers, are caught for the food industry in a heavily regulated system. The species is listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as critically endangered. This is the same listing as the Black Rhino and a higher listing than African Elephant and Tiger. The similarity between all of these and elvers is that criminals exploit these living creatures for huge sums of money. On the illicit market elvers have been known to be worth £4000 per kilo. Click [here](#) to find out about Europol and Guardia Civil disrupting a gang smuggling Elvers out of Portugal and Spain making an estimated earning of EUR 37 million.

I mention these here as we have Eels in our Sussex tidal rivers and by reporting strange behaviour on the river bank you could help us disrupt organised criminal activities. Please report suspicious activity to the Police on 999 or 101 or to the Environment Agency incident hotline on 0800 807060.

**What's been happening?**

The Sussex Countrywatch volunteer has reported that this week we have had numerous reports of animals escaping onto the roads. In total 28 animals have been reported as loose on the highways of Sussex. It is an offence to allow an animal to stray on a highway and is a serious road hazard. Please ensure that fields are suitably fenced and secure and if you are out walking ensure that you close gates where required to keep animals off the road. If you use electric fences please ensure that batteries are charged up and checked regularly. Report stolen batteries to the Police and please consider etching the batteries with your post code and painting them pink to deter thieves.

St Johns Church in Hammerpond Road Horsham has been targeted for the lead roofing. Please be vigilant around churches and old buildings as older lead is highly valuable for its purity. Ref 503 14/10/2018. The damage to old buildings from lead theft go far beyond the damage to the roof. The ingress of rain water from the damaged roof can have devastating consequences to the fabric of the building and any interior items. If you care for a church or old building please consider fitting alarms and CCTV cameras. There are also products available to mark your lead to make it identifiable if stolen. Hit reply below if you want more information about this.

An outbuilding in Walcrouch in Rother has been broken into and riding equipment and horse rugs stolen. Ref 383 14/10/2018. Consider security marking tack and equipment with your postcode and a serial number. Register your property on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) so that the Police can return stolen items when they turn up. For more information on marking tack and riding equipment get hold of me by pressing reply below.

In North Street Hailsham a metal storage container has been broken into and power tools stolen. A Stihl petrol cutter, a Nikita radio and a Pasload nail gun were stolen. Ref 212 12/10/2018. Mark power tools with UV pens, etching or forensic marking. Please press reply below if you want more information.

Also in the Hailsham area a barn has been broken into and a large quantity of copper and lead stolen. Ref 414 14/10/2018. Consider fitting cameras, security lights and alarms to barns to deter opportunistic thieves.

There have been 22 incidents of wildlife being hit by cars on the Sussex roads in the past week. Please ensure that you drive with care and slow down at night. If you hit an animal please report it to the Police and if it is still alive please call on 999 and a suitable response will be provided to appropriately manage the welfare of the injured animal.

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### **Help us keep Sussex Safe**

As the eyes and ears of our rural community, if you have any information about an incident in this message please [contact us online](#) or call 101, quoting the reference number provided.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on their dedicated rural crime reporting number 0800 783 0137 or [online here](#)

**Wildlife Officers can be contacted via local email addresses**

Please only contact your local Wildlife Officers for any general enquiries or questions, not to report a crime. Report all crimes and incidents to Sussex Police [online](#) or call **101**.

**Adur and Worthing:** [adurandworthing@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:adurandworthing@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Arun:** [arun@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:arun@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Brighton and Hove:** [brightonandhove@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brightonandhove@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Chichester:** [chichester@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:chichester@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Crawley:** [crawley@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:crawley@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Eastbourne:** [eastbourne@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:eastbourne@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Hastings:** [hastings@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:hastings@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Horsham:** [horsham@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:horsham@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Lewes:** [lewes@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lewes@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Mid Sussex:** [midsussex@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:midsussex@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Rother:** [rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**Wealden:** [wealden@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:wealden@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

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Sussex Police

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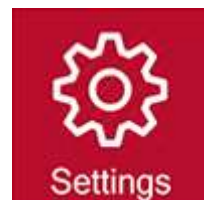
**Links and attachments:** Sussex Police will only ever link you to secure websites we trust. We will only send you attachments where we believe it is absolutely necessary.

***Message Sent By***

Tom Carter (Police, Sergeant, Rural, Wildlife, Heritage and Environmental Crime)

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