

2026 – 2030



Heddlu • Police

**DYFED-POWYS**

# Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy



## Introduction

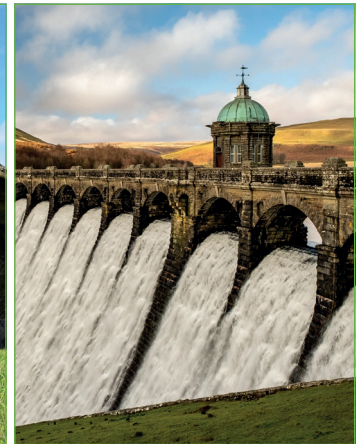
**We know that Rural and Wildlife crime can cause disproportionate harm to our communities, landscapes and livelihoods that define Dyfed-Powys.**

As the largest and most rural police force area in England and Wales, we recognise that crime affecting farms, smallholdings, coastlines, uplands and wildlife has a profound emotional, economic and environmental impact.

This strategy sets out how Dyfed-Powys Police will prevent, reduce and respond to Rural and Wildlife crime between 2026 and 2030. It aligns with national policing direction while remaining rooted in the lived experience of our rural communities across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys.

Our approach is grounded in prevention, partnership and problem-solving, reflecting our wider force commitment to fewer victims, fewer offences and less demand on policing. We will deliver this in line with our Welsh policing context, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act principles, and our commitment to neighbourhood policing in rural communities.

**By working with our communities and partners, we will protect our countryside, safeguard wildlife and strengthen confidence in rural policing.**



## Our Strategic Objective

To reduce harm from rural and wildlife crime by preventing offending, protecting vulnerable communities and environments, and pursuing offenders through intelligence-led, partnership-based policing.

### This will be achieved through:

- Fewer victims of rural and wildlife crime
- Reduced repeat victimisation of farms, landowners and rural businesses
- Increased confidence in rural policing – Stronger protection for wildlife and the natural environment.



## Strategic Context

**This strategy has been developed with regard to:**

- The National Police Chiefs' Council Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy
- Evidence from Dyfed-Powys Police data and operational learning
- Academic research and practitioner insight from the Aberystwyth University Rural Crime Survey involving residents across our force
- Other Community engagement, including feedback from farmers, landowners and rural residents
- The Dyfed-Powys Police Prevention Strategy 2024–28.

**Key themes emerging from all of our engagement include:**

- Livestock theft, agricultural machinery and vehicle theft as the most significant harm crime
- Perceptions of low visibility and delayed follow-up in rural policing
- Strong appetite for continued dedicated rural crime officers and use of technology
- Wildlife and environmental crime often being viewed as low-level despite high community impact.



## How We Will Succeed

Our approach mirrors that within our force-wide prevention framework.

### Primary Prevention

Preventing rural and wildlife crime before it occurs by reducing opportunity, increasing confidence and building resilient communities.



### Secondary Prevention

Targeting individuals, locations and networks at heightened risk of involvement in rural and wildlife crime.

### Tertiary Prevention

Reducing repeat offending and harm through enforcement, disruption and long-term problem-solving.

# Rural and Wildlife Crime Priorities 2026–2030

**Based on national direction and engagement with our communities, Dyfed-Powys Police will now have the following priorities for Rural and Wildlife Crime:**

## Rural Crime Priorities

- Organised agricultural and machinery theft (including ATVs, GPS units and plant)
- Livestock theft and livestock worrying
- Illegal off-roading and vehicle-related rural anti-social behaviour
- Fly-tipping and environmental harm (in partnership with local authorities and Natural Resources Wales)
- We will work with partners to address Heritage Crime, focusing on preventing damage to heritage sites and increasing the knowledge of staff and the public about such issues.

## Wildlife Crime Priorities

- Illegal hunting, poaching and hare coursing
- Bird of prey persecution
- Badger crime and other protected species offences
- Bat crime linked to development and land use
- Illegal wildlife trade and related criminality.

## Partnership Working

Effective rural and wildlife crime policing depends on strong partnerships.

### We will work closely with:

- Local Authorities
- Natural Resources Wales
- National Rural Crime Unit and National Wildlife Crime Unit
- Farming unions and rural representative bodies – Conservation and environmental organisations
- Community groups such as Farm Watch and Rural Watch.

**We will ensure partnership activity is coordinated, intelligence-led and focused on shared outcomes.**

## Governance & Performance

Delivery of this strategy and the associated delivery plan and performance framework will be overseen through the monthly Neighbourhood Policing and Prevention Tactical and Strategic Groups, which will subsequently report into the quarterly Operational Policing Board.

Progress will be reviewed regularly to ensure the strategy remains responsive to emerging threats.

Furthermore, we will hold an Annual Governance Meeting with all relevant partners and stakeholders listed above, which will be chaired by our Chief Constable. This will enable us to have a dedicated forum to share and escalate challenges and for us to report back to our key stakeholders on our progress against this strategy and our performance framework for Rural and Wildlife Crime.

Our BCU Commanders, will also hold a quarterly engagement meeting with key stakeholders within their policing area, to again understand and address each other's challenges.

## Delivery Plan & Performance Framework

We will deliver this strategy through our dedicated delivery plan and performance framework, which can be found within **appendix A**.



# APPENDIX – A

## 1. Delivery Plan and Performance Framework

### Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2026–2030

This appendix sets out the Delivery Plan and Performance Framework supporting the Dyfed-Powys Police Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2026–2030. It provides a structured overview of how the strategic objectives will be delivered, monitored and governed, and identifies clear, reportable performance measures to support assurance, inspection and public accountability.

Objective	Key Activity	Lead / Partners	Performance Measures
Improve visibility and accessibility of rural policing	Dedicated rural patrol plans and attendance at rural community events	Neighbourhood Policing Inspectors / Rural Crime Officers	Rural patrol hours delivered each month & number of engagement events attended each month. <b>Obtained from DPP Connects.</b>
Increase reporting and intelligence from rural communities	Expansion of Farm Watch and Rural Watch; promotion of reporting channels	Neighbourhood Policing / Communications	Number of active watch farm of rural watch schemes in BCU & volume of rural intelligence logs submitted each month. <b>DPP Connects and manual return from officers.</b>
Reduce opportunity for rural and wildlife crime	Crime prevention visits and promotion of property marking and security	Rural Crime Team / Partners	Number of prevention visits; uptake of security measures undertaken each month with rural premises: <b>Obtained from DPP Connects.</b>
Promote responsible access and wildlife awareness	Seasonal prevention and awareness campaigns	Rural Crime Team / Partners	Campaigns delivered; engagement and reach metrics. <b>DPP Connects.</b>

# Appendix A

## 2. Secondary Prevention Delivery Plan

Objective	Key Activity	Lead / Partners	Performance Measures
Reduce repeat victimisation	Identification of repeat victims and tailored prevention plans	Rural Crime Teams	Number of bespoke POP plans in place with RCT. <b>POP System.</b>
Disrupt organised rural criminality	Intelligence-led tasking against organised crime groups	Intelligence Department / Rural Crime Team	Number of OCGs identified and managed; disruption activity. <b>Manual return by each team on number of OCG's linked to Rural crime active in each BCU.</b>
Address persistent rural ASB such as motor vehicles being used off road.	Partnership-based problem-solving and enforcement activity	Neighbourhood Policing / Local Authorities	Reduction in repeat ASB locations. <b>Manual return by each team on number of ASB incidents with off road vehicles each month.</b>

## APPENDIX – A

### 3. Tertiary Prevention Delivery Plan

Objective	Key Activity	Lead / Partners	Performance Measures
Improve enforcement outcomes	Proactive operations and offender management	Investigations / Rural Crime Teams	Arrests and positive outcome rate. <b>Manual return by each team on number of arrests per month and outcome rate of each arrest.</b>
Disrupt criminal activity	Use of vehicle seizure, warrants and asset recovery powers	Rural Crime Teams	Number of seizures; value of assets recovered. <b>Manual return each month from each team.</b>
Reduce repeat offending	Management of prolific offenders through tasking processes	Tasking and Coordination Groups	Reoffending rates among managed offenders. <b>Manual return from each team, on the number of offenders dealt with who are repeat Rural Crime offenders in force.</b>

### 4. Governance and Review

Delivery and performance against this plan will be overseen through the Neighbourhood Policing and Prevention Tactical Groups each month, with quarterly reporting to the Operational Policing Board. An annual summary of progress will be produced to support transparency and public confidence.