

Buntingford & East Herts Rural Crime Report August 2026

**Does not include reports for domestic incidents, child protection investigations, or sexual offences. Not all reported incidents end up being recorded as crimes and will therefore not appear on the report.*

BUNTINGFORD	• 4x Harassment – 1x Neighbour dispute, suspect interviewed, victim unsupportive of further action; 1x Suspect interviewed; 1x Under investigation; 1x No evidence; • 1x Theft from Shops – 1x Vehicle identified, under investigation; • 1x Business Burglary – 1x No suspects identified; • 2x Public Order Offence – 1x Under investigation; 1x Victim unsupportive of further action; • 2x Burglary/Theft of Motor Vehicle – 1x Under investigation; 1x No suspects identified; • 1x Theft of Motor Vehicle – 1x Unconfirmed; • 1x Residential Burglary – 1x Under investigation; • 1x Theft from Motor Vehicle – 1x Number plates stolen, under investigation; • 1x Acquisition, use & possession of criminal property – 1x Suspect arrested and interviewed; • 2x Common Assault – 1x Suspect arrested and bailed to court; 1x Under investigation; • 1x Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control injuring any person – 1x Suspect interviewed, Community Resolution issued; • 1x Theft (bilking) – 1x Vehicle identified, under investigation;
DANE END	• 1x Burglary – under investigation • 1x Theft – No Suspects identified
DATCHWORTH	• 1x Attempted Burglary – Under investigation • 1x Theft (of number plates) – No Suspects identified
GILSTON	• 1x Theft – No Suspects identified • 1x Criminal damage – Under investigation
HORMEAD	• 1x Burglary – Under investigation
HERTFORD HEATH	• 3x Criminal damage – Under investigation • 1x Residential Burglary – Under investigation
HERTFORD RURAL NORTH	• 1x Theft (of number plates) – No Suspects identified
HERTFORD RURAL SOUTH	• 1x Criminal Damage to crops – No Suspects identified • 1x Criminal Damage to lock – No Suspects identified •
LITTLE HADHAM	• 1x Theft – Under investigation • 1x Residential Burglary – Under investigation
MUCH HADHAM	1x Theft – No Suspects identified
STANDON	

	• 2x Theft (of number plates) – No Suspects identified • 1x Attempted Burglary – Under investigation
	THUNDRIDGE • 1x Criminal damage – No Suspects identified
	WALKERN • 1x Theft – No Suspects identified
	WARESIDE • 1x Theft – No Suspects identified • 1x Fly Tip – Under investigation
	WATTON-AT-STONE • 1x Theft (of number plates) – No Suspects identified • 1x Business Burglary – Under investigation

Neighbourhood Policing Update – Buntingford & Rural East Herts

Local Priorities

The Local Priority Setting Forum met earlier this month to agree neighbourhood policing priorities for the next four months. The agreed priorities are:

- **East Herts Rural & Buntingford:** Hare Coursing & Poaching – All East Herts areas with focus in Hunsdon, Widford and Wareside.

This priority will remain in place until **December 2026**, with new priorities due to be reviewed and set in **January 2027**.

Recent Operational Activity

With the early harvest this summer, the team have looked at extra visibility to prevent and detect rural crimes such as hare coursing, poaching, theft and anti-social behaviour. Operation Galileo, a nationally recognised initiative related to rural crime, will continue through to December, with a programme of proactive and targeted operations planned across our rural communities. Some related positive results for the past month include:

- ✓ Arrests – 3
- ✓ Out of Court Disposal – 5
- ✓ Stop Searches – 17
- ✓ Vehicle Seizure – 6
- ✓ Intelligence Submissions – 2
- ✓ Traffic Offence Reports (TORS) – 3

A notable incident occurred in Wareside, where officers located two males in a field who were strongly suspected of scouting land and monitoring hare activity with a view to future hare coursing. Following robust checks, they were:

- ✓ Issued a 7-force Community Protection Warning (CPW) and Community Protection Notice (CPN).
- ✓ Issued 2 x Section 59 warnings.

- ✓ Conducted 2 stop/searches of the males and vehicle.
- ✓ Located and seized a lock knife.
- ✓ Seized 1 vehicle.

Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Jonathan ASH-EDWARDS, joined East Herts Rural and Ware Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT), supported by our partners from the Environment Agency and HMRC, at Ware Recycling Centre, for one of our Op Agrarian events. These operations tackle cross border offending and criminality by stopping vehicles of interest using East Hertfordshire's key routes. In one particular vehicle, officers noted the driver appeared nervous and could smell cannabis coming from the vehicle. A search under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act was conducted, resulting in:

- ✓ Small bags containing white powder found in the driver's door pocket.
- ✓ A substantial block of white powder located under the driver's seat.
- ✓ Scales, two mobile phones and a tablet recovered.
- ✓ Approximately £700 in cash located.

The driver was arrested on suspicion of Possession with Intent to Supply Class A drugs. A further search of their van uncovered a large bag containing 37 boxes of Codeine Phosphate, and a subsequent Section 18 search at the suspect's home address led to the recovery of a small amount of cannabis.

Following a number of reports in recent weeks relating to anti-social behaviour, illegal off-road bikes, and suspected drug activity in Buntingford, all of the East Herts Rural NPT officers came together to act on intelligence regarding a specific address in Buntingford believed to be responsible. The results:

- ✓ 4 illegal bikes seized.
- ✓ Numerous stop searches conducted.
- ✓ Cannabis seized.
- ✓ NOS canisters recovered from the property.
- ✓ Two offenders dealt with out of custody for driving offences.
- ✓ Two offenders dealt with by CR for possession of drugs.
- ✓ A significant amount of intelligence gathered.

Whilst visiting a local industrial estate, two of our officers encountered three vehicles parked up out of view. One vehicle failed to stop and made off at speed, clearly up to no good. Fortunately, the vehicle registration was captured and the driver was detained when they returned to the registered owners address a short while after, leading to:

- ✓ 2 arrests for drug-driving offences.
- ✓ 2 Community Resolutions for possession of small quantities of drugs.
- ✓ 4 people and 3 vehicles stop searched.

Sergeant MILLER also got in on the act when he located a small car transporter whose driver had no driving licence. Another vehicle seized and taken off the road.

Other news and updates:

Despite the exceptionally warm and dry weather throughout the school holidays, we received very few reports of anti-social behaviour. The team continued with engagements in local communities, including Bicycle Security Marking in Buntingford, attending the annual Herts & Essex County Show in Brent Pelham, and Street Meets in Aston and Waterford to discuss local concerns and deliver crime prevention advice.

With the start of the new school term this month, the coming weeks will see us engaging with local young people, popping into meet students and teachers, and carrying out patrols around our local schools, particularly in regard to considerate and safe vehicle use during school run times.

Thank you for your continued support. Working together with our communities helps us keep East Hertfordshire a safe place to live, work and visit. If you need to report a crime in progress, please call **999**, for all others please use **101** or online reporting <https://www.herts.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

The Herts Connected system delivers Hertfordshire police's crime alerts. Registered local residents can receive the latest crime or emergency updates and alerts, as well as information about policing events in your area. Local residents can get involved in helping to make their local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in their area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe, and tell us what matters are causing local communities harm.

The more residents that register, the better informed and safer our communities will be. We would be most grateful if you could continue to share the link below in any parish communications, and especially on social media, to encourage as many local residents as possible to sign up.

<http://www.hertsconnected.co.uk>

The constabulary are particularly keen for local people to give us feedback on policing via the Herts Connected surveys. We will be looking to set our policing priorities for the upcoming quarter and would very much appreciate if you could share the link and QR code below on social media:-

<https://bit.ly/hertspolice-psf>



Additional Crime Prevention Advice can be found via this link: <https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>
Thank you

East Herts Rural Highlights Video 2024-25
<https://youtu.be/bnf6PE4uuvvc?feature=shared>