

Thame Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) is currently overseen by A/Inspector Lewis BOYCE. From 1st May 2022, there will be a new Inspector in this role, Inspector Adrian LEWIS. Sergeant Vicky BALL, PC Matt ELDRIDGE, PC Natasha DAVIS, PCSO Claire KEOGH and PCSO Tom ROGERS.

Thame NHPT cover 110 square miles, covering Thame, Chinnor, Wheatley, Chalgrove and surround villages. Within the neighbourhood area, we cover 39 parishes, 26 schools and approximately 350 farms. Although we are based in Thame, we are mostly out in the community either on foot patrol, vehicles or bikes, responding to incidents, and engaging with the community.

Review of crimes for Thame policing area in the last 6 months.

Crime reporting for Thame area (which also includes Chinnor, Watlington, Tetsworth) a summary of incidents are as follows;

139 calls relating to concerns for safety / mental health related incidents.

137 calls relating to domestic abuse reports.

91 calls relating to assaults – these include common assault where there is no injury through the serious harm. A number of these offences are domestic abuse case.

44 reports of theft from vehicles – these numbers include a number of thefts from beauty spots.

35 x rural crime related offences – these include theft offences, criminal damage to land and property, theft of plant and machinery as well as wildlife crime, hare coursing and poaching on land.

9 reports of burglary to dwellings.

6 reports of burglaries to sheds / outbuildings.

Community Concerns & Updates

We have regular community engagement events which are advertised on social media, held at different locations across the neighbourhood area. There is a regular event held at the Thame Town Hall which anyone is welcome to attend and speak to the local team. If you are unable to attend any of these engagement events, you can still make contact with us using the contact methods at the end of this document.

During our engagements, we are aware that some of the main concerns of the community are vehicles parking illegally, speeding and begging in the town centre.

Begging in the town centre

Thame Neighbourhood team have a firm policy in place around begging in the town centre. Any individual identified as begging will be spoken to when we are on duty. We obtained their full detail and carry out thorough enquiries as to their status. Part of these enquiries are to look into whether any of these individuals are subject to any exploitation and when required, safeguarding and welfare support is provided with details of emergency housing contacts. Upon enquiries, the majority of individuals begging are not in fact homeless and they are part of a wider organised group moving around different towns begging. We ensure that we log all the details of individuals, on the first occasion they will be given a warning that begging is an offence and they are not to return. We monitor closely any repeat individuals and will look at prosecute for the offence of Begging in a Public Place for persistent offenders. We are working closely with the Community Safety Partnership around this and keeping in regular contact with Thame Town Council.

Speeding

We know that speeding in towns and villages is of great concern to the community and have in place in various locations within the community a “Community Speed Watch” group who has the equipment to monitor traffic speeds and record the details of vehicles breaching the speed limits.

These operations are completed by members of the community who are trained to use the speed indicator device. The information gathered is then fed back into the police and any vehicle in breach of the speed restrictions will receive a letter from Thames Valley Police. When there are repeat offenders, we will take further action in visiting these individuals.

If any member of the community wishes to be involved in these operations, please speak to Thame Town Council who have a Community Speed Watch team.

When operational commitments allow, the neighbourhood policing team endeavour to also take part in speeding operations, however in recent months, this has not been possible due to absences. This is something we are looking to increase with spontaneous operations across the Thame Neighbourhood area.

Parking

Since November 2021, enforcement for illegal parking on double yellow lines was taken over by Oxfordshire County Council. OCC are now responsible for

- Double and single yellow lines
- Limited waiting bays
- Loading bays
- Zig-zag markings at schools (if restrictions apply)
- Pedestrian crossings
- Double parking (parking too far from the kerb)
- Blue Badge bays
- Taxi ranks
- Parking in bus lanes and stops
- Parking across dropped kerbs where there's a crossing point, with or without tactile paving

The police are still responsible for offences such as:

- dangerously parked vehicles including where there are no parking restrictions in place such as on bends, brows of hills and junctions
- obstruction offences - pavement with no parking restrictions
- moving traffic offences including double white lines, one-way traffic, white hatched areas and box junctions.

Central campaigns

Throughout the year, the Thame Neighbourhood Team will be taking part in a national campaign focusing on Modern Slavery, Exploitation, Hidden Harm and disrupting organised crime. During these operations, we will be working closely with partner agencies and we will be sharing information around this on our social media pages.

Thames Valley Police are dedicated to also focusing on Violence against women and girls and the NHPT have an important role in this. We carry out a number of safeguarding roles within our team such as domestic abuse safeguarding planning, engagement with victims of domestic abuse and signposting to support agencies.

If you're a victim of violence, abuse or intimidation, or know someone who is, you can contact police and partner agencies at [Support organisations for victims of domestic violence | Thames Valley Police](#)

We also regularly review the 'Streetsafe' portal which is an online reporting site where members of the public can identify locations which they feel unsafe due to environmental issues such as lack of street lighting, abandoned vehicles or due to behaviours of others. We will work with our local community safety partnership to identify these locations and make changes where possible.

[StreetSafe | Thames Valley Police](#)

Rural Crime

The South & Vale local Police area understands the impact that rural crime offending has on the victims and how it can impact on the livelihood of the land owners and professions that rely on tools, machinery and land. Within the neighbourhood teams, we have dedicated officers for rural crime who review all rural crime offences which have occurred within the neighbourhoods. We are working closely with partner agencies such as environmental health, the community safety partnership and also the rural community to reduce rural offences. By utilising a dedicated communication method, we are able to be notified of suspicious incident and identify witnesses to offences of rural crime. As a neighbourhood team, our aim is to carry out at least one dedicated day each month for rural crime, focusing on hotspot areas where we have suffered rural crime, visiting landowners and farms to conduct crime prevention surveys and passing on target hardening advice, as well as proactively stop checking vehicles and people in the rural community. Where possible, we work with the local land owners and game keepers when conducting rural crime operations in order to identify suspicious activity. With the help of the local community, this supports the officers and staff on the neighbourhood team as it means we have more eyes on the ground and we can respond to reports of suspicious incidents, people and vehicles.

The terms 'Rural Crime' covers a variety of offences such as hare coursing, poaching of game and rabbits, theft of machinery, theft from farm buildings or criminal damage to any farm land, gates or buildings. It also encompasses national heritage sites, national trust locations and beauty spots. We take these offences very seriously and the Thame NHPT endeavour to make contact with a victim of rural crime within 48 hours where possible.

More information about rural crime can be found on the Thames Valley Police website

[Rural crime | Thames Valley Police](#)

If any of the local community would like a visit from a member of the Thame NHPT for advice around Rural Crime Prevention, please make contact with us via the email address before and we can arrange a visit.

We would ask that the community remain vigilant and make contact with TVP and report any suspicious activity in the rural community. For crimes in progress, these incidents should be called in using 999, to pass information around suspicious activity or incident that are no longer in progress, these reports can be reported via 101 or online reporting through the Thames Valley Police website.

Thames Valley Police have recently invested in a new Rural Crime Task force who will work closely with the neighbourhood teams to bring offenders to justice and disrupt organised criminality.

Crime prevention advice

As the weather starts to improve as we move into spring, we would urge the community to be mindful around leaving windows open in an unoccupied premise to avoid becoming a victim of crime by opportunist thieves.

The NHPT can provide information booklets in relation to crime prevention advice around a variety of different crime types such as burglary, Theft from vehicles, Fraud and general advice. Should you wish for this information to be sent out to you, please make contact with the Thame NHPT on the email address below and we can arrange for this to be sent out. You can obtain a copy of our Home Security Guide online at [Home Security Guide | Thames Valley Police](#)

Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice can be obtained by registering at [Sign up to Thames Valley Alert today | Thames Valley Police](#). This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it.

Domestic CCTV is an extremely useful tool during police investigations, however the controller of the CCTV is responsible for abiding by the legislation in place around data protection, retention of footage and access to the footage.

CCTV is regulated by the Information Commissioners Office and more information can be found on the ICO website. [Domestic CCTV systems - guidance for people using CCTV | ICO](#)

Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

The Thames Valley Police social media accounts are kept up to date with information across South Oxfordshire & Vale of the White Horse Police areas. Follow us for more information

Twitter: @TVPSouthandVale Facebook: TVP South Oxon and Vale of White Horse