



Nottinghamshire Police
HORSE WATCH

Information Pack



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE
PROUD TO SERVE

Nottinghamshire Police Horse Watch Membership

Introduction

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Nottinghamshire Police Horse Watch Scheme.

This is an opportunity for horse owners in Nottinghamshire to become part of an exciting new crime reporting initiative

We are actively seeking responsible horse owners who ride on a regular basis, to help keep our rural communities safe and to make an impact upon the issues that are affecting you in your areas.

This community initiative is a partnership between Nottinghamshire Police and community minded horse-riders to crack down on rural crime. This incorporates a wide variety of issues - from theft and fly-tipping to poaching and hare-coursing – all of which are key concerns for rural communities.

Your input could make a real difference in tackling rural crime and nuisance where you live.

We also aim to strengthen relationships with our rural communities so that we can better understand the issues that cause you the most concern and take action to address them.

As a member of the Horse Watch scheme, we will support you and keep you regularly updated through a nominated point of contact.

Background

Our current working definition of Rural Crime is:

“Any crime or incident of antisocial behaviour that takes place anywhere which Nottinghamshire County Council defines as a rural location.”

With 64% of the geographical area classed as rural and much of the country's population living and working in the countryside, rural policing is a vital aspect of keeping people safe. Policing rural areas requires a different approach to urban areas, there is significantly less CCTV and miles of quiet country roads that can appeal to criminals. Rural crime covers a wide range of crimes relating to farming, agriculture or wildlife, from the theft of agricultural machinery to hare-coursing and cannabis cultivation. In 2015 alone, rural crime cost the UK £42.5 million. It is a key priority in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2015-2018

The aims of this scheme are to improve communications between the rural community, police and other public bodies, creating an easy reporting tool and increasing public confidence. The objectives are a reduction in rural crime, increase in road safety and strengthened relationships between the police and the community.

Seven other Police Force areas currently run similar schemes across the country, which have proven to be very successful. We will be starting in the Newark and Sherwood area with the aim of widening to the whole force area once established.

What does it mean to be a member of the Horse Watch Scheme?

Membership of the Horse Watch Scheme is for horse owners who will undertake normal riding activities whilst at the same time being mindful of their participation in the scheme. They will ride privately owned horses that are familiar to the riders and will not be expected to ride in any area that they are not familiar with or for which the horse is unsuited. Their contributions to the scheme will be carried out whilst exercising their horse in the normal way within their local community. Members of the scheme will assist the police by communicating with us and reporting incidents of concern but avoiding any active involvement.

Members will not be subject to any specified deployment. In the unlikely event of coming across an incident, riders would act as witnesses only - contacting the local Control room and taking reasonable steps to safeguard themselves and others.

Members of the Horse watch Scheme will be the 'eyes and ears' of the local police teams.

Main Responsibilities:

What they are:

- Provide details of your usual riding areas and any issues of concern in those areas
- Be vigilant to evidence of criminal activity, antisocial behaviour or other issues of concern whilst on your regular hacks. These could amount to incidents such as suspicious vehicles, fly-tipping and similar issues.
- Share information with local Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- Provide the police and relevant agencies with regular information and updates through specified contact portals

What they are not:

- You will not be used as a visible police presence and will not be visibly identified as such when riding in your community
- You will not be deployed to address any particular policing problem and will not be tasked by police or partners in any way
- You will not engage in any activities beyond your normal riding behaviour in relation to your membership of the scheme – especially unauthorised activity such as trespass on land.
- You will not be classified as Police Volunteers, which requires registration, training and regulation through our Citizens in Policing Department

Membership of the Horse watch Scheme is designed simply to allow a means of easy two way communication between yourselves and police (as well as relevant partners), so that issues and concerns experienced in your local community can be reported and appropriately acted upon.

Certain requirements will be made of individuals wishing to join, to allow us to make a reasoned risk assessment and manage the processes of the scheme effectively. These will include things such as:

- All participants must be over 18 years of age
- Must be willing to provide personal details to Nottinghamshire Police (these will be retained for the purposes of the Scheme only, and will be destroyed if you leave the scheme and not used for any other purpose)
- Must be a careful and competent rider, aware of and riding in accordance with the guidelines in the Highway Code
- Will ride your own horses at your own expense and have full insurance and 3rd party liability to do so.

(see the end of this document for full requirement and guideline details)

What happens once I sign up?

When you agree to become a member of the Horse Watch scheme, you will be provided with full details of what the role entails and what is required from yourselves.

You will be provided with an induction pack with full contact details and will be given a briefing by a member of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team around what to report and how to report it

You will be provided with a high visibility tabard that can be worn on your normal riding activities whilst a member of the scheme (this will not identify you as associated with the Police)

You will be given details of a dedicated email inbox that can be used to contact Police about issues of concern, as well as details of your local officers and relevant partner agencies

A Nottinghamshire Police Horse Watch Facebook page will be available for up-to-the-minute updates, positive messages and the sharing of local information and crime trends

Full Requirements and Guidelines of the Scheme

Personal Details and Security Checking

1. I am over 18 years old
2. I understand that I will update Nottinghamshire Police with my current contact details
3. I understand that a working assumption will be made regarding how many hours I exercise my horse.

The Role of a Horse Watch member

4. I understand that this is a 'see and report' scheme via 101, or in an emergency 999 and for non-emergency via a dedicated email address to the local beat team provided within this information pack.
5. I will report incidents of speeding, anti-social behaviour, suspicious incidents and/or criminal activity.
6. I understand that I will NOT intervene in any incident under any circumstances. I will observe and report only.

Manner of Riding and Clothing

7. I will always ride courteously and in a safe and practical manner.
8. I will not ride in any manner that will bring the police into disrepute.
9. I will ride within the guidelines of the Official Highway Code (2013) section called 'Rules about Animals, paragraph 47-55 inclusive.
10. I will not trespass on any private land that I am not welcome.
11. I will only ride in a manner that I would normally exercise my horse.
12. I understand that I will be given a high visibility tabard which I will be able to wear whilst out exercising my horse(s). This will not identify me as associated with the Police. I understand that I will not wear the tabard while hunting or undertaking any unrelated 'Horse Watch' activities.

Liability

13. I understand that Nottinghamshire Police will take no liability for any injury to either me or the horse that I am mounted upon.
14. I will only ride in a manner that I would normally do when exercising my horse.
15. I declare that I am a competent rider.
16. I will adequately insure my horse, minimum 3rd party cover and provide proof of insurance to police.

Leaving the Scheme

17. I understand that should I fail to follow the requirements and guidelines of the scheme, I may be asked to leave the scheme.
18. All my details will be deleted from the scheme database once I have left the scheme. This will not be used for any other purpose.

Personal Details:

Please fill in the details below and return to your identified Single Point of Contact (SPOC) at Newark Police Station.

Name:

Address:

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Contact Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Declaration of Participation

I understand that I am signing to state that I understand the rules of the scheme and the Highway Code.

Signed:

Date:

Useful Contacts:



Newark Local Beat Team:

Email: nottshorsewatch@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk



Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue:

Telephone: 0115 967 0880



The Environment Agency:

Website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Enquiries: 08708 506506

Incident Hotline: 0800 807060



RSPCA:

Website: www.rspca.org.uk

Cruelty line: 0300 1234 999



Bassetlaw District Council:

Website: www.bassetlaw.gov.uk

Report fly tipping: <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/everything-else/environment-services/fly-tipping.aspx>

Report abandoned vehicle: <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/everything-else/environment-services/abandoned-vehicles.aspx>

Dog wardens: <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/everything-else/environmental-health/animal-welfare.aspx>

Bassetlaw District Council

Queen's Buildings

Potter Street

Worksop

Nottinghamshire

S80 2AH

Customer Services: 01909 533 533



Broxtowe Borough Council:

Website: www.broxtowe.gov.uk

Report fly-tipping: <https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/for-you/litter-and-street-cleansing/fly-tipping/>

Report abandoned vehicle: <https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/for-you/roads-parking-travel/abandoned-unwanted-vehicles/>

Dog wardens: use customer services number (below)

Broxtowe Borough Council
Foster Avenue
Beeston
Nottinghamshire
NG9 1AB

Customer Services: 0117 917 7777



Gedling Borough Council:

Website: www.gedling.gov.uk

Report fly-tipping:

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/wasterecyclingenvironment/streetcleaninglitter/fly-tipping/>

Report abandoned vehicle:

www.gedling.gov.uk/wasterecyclingenvironment/streetcleaninglitter/abandonedvehicles

Dog wardens: use customer services number (below)

Gedling Borough Council
Civic Centre
Arnot Hill Park
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 6LU

Customer Services: 0115 901 3972



Newark and Sherwood District Council:

Website: www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

Report fly-tipping: www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/flytipping/

Report abandoned vehicle: www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/abandonedvehicles/

Dog wardens: use customer services number (below)

Newark and Sherwood District Council
Kelham Hall
Kelham
Nottinghamshire
NG23 5QX

Customer Services: 01636 650 000

The Highway Code (2013)

“Rules about animals” paragraph 47 – 55 inclusive

Rule 47

Horse-drawn vehicles used on the highway should be operated and maintained in accordance with standards set out in the Department for Transport’s Code of Practice for Horse-Drawn Vehicles. This Code lays down the requirements for a road driving assessment and includes a comprehensive list of safety checks to ensure that a carriage and its fittings are safe and in good working order. The standards set out in the Road Driving Assessment may be required to be met by a Local Authority if an operator wishes to obtain a local authority licence to operate a passenger-carrying service.

Rule 48

Safety equipment and clothing; all horse-drawn vehicles should have two red rear reflectors. It is safer not to drive at night but if you do, a light showing white to the front and red to the rear **MUST** be fitted.

Rule 49

Safety equipment; children under the age of 14 **MUST** wear a helmet which complies with the Regulations. It **MUST** be fastened securely. Other riders should also follow these requirements. These requirements do not apply to a child who is a follower of the Sikh religion while wearing a turban.

Rule 50

Help yourself to be seen:

Other clothing; you should wear

- Boots or shoes with hard soles and heels
- Light-coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight
- Reflective clothing if you have to ride at night or in poor visibility.

Rule 51

At night, it is safer not to ride on the road at night or in poor visibility, but if you do, make sure you wear reflective clothing and your horse has reflective bands above the fetlock joints. A light which shows white to the front and red to the rear should be fitted, with a band, to the rider's right arm and/or leg/riding boot. If you are leading a horse at night, carry a light in your right hand, showing white to the front and red to the rear, and wear reflective clothing on both you and your horse. It is strongly recommended that a fluorescent/reflective tail guard is also worn by your horse.

Rule 52

Before you take a horse on to a road, you should

- Ensure all tack fits well and is in good condition
- Make sure you can control the horse.

Always ride with other, less nervous horses if you think that your horse will be nervous of traffic. Never ride a horse without both a saddle and bridle.

Rule 53

Before riding off or turning, look behind you to make sure it is safe, then give a clear arm signal.

When riding on the road you should:

- Keep to the left
- Keep both hands on the reins unless you are signalling
- Keep both feet in the stirrups
- Not carry another person
- Not carry anything which might affect your balance or get tangled up with the reins
- Keep a horse you are leading to your left
- Move in the direction of the traffic flow in a one-way street
- Never ride more than two abreast, and ride in single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends.

Rule 54

You **MUST NOT** take a horse onto a footpath or pavement, and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track. Use a bridleway where possible. Equestrian crossings may be provided for horse riders to cross the road and you should use these where available (see Rule 27). You should dismount at level crossings where a 'horse rider dismount' sign is displayed.

Rule 55

Avoid roundabouts wherever possible. If you use them you should:

- Keep to the left and watch out for vehicles crossing your path to leave or join the roundabout
- Signal right when riding across exits to show you are not leaving
- Signal left just before you leave the roundabout.

Rule 27

Equestrian crossings are for horse riders. They have pavement barriers, wider crossing spaces, horse and rider figures in the light panels and either two sets of controls (one higher), or just one higher control panel.

Rule 27: Equestrian crossings are used by horse riders. There is often a parallel crossing.