

Dales Police Report July 2020

During these strange times of slowly adjusting ourselves to the new normal, and as lockdown restrictions ease, the following incidents of note have happened in the Dales area over the last month –

Sometime during May/June, 7 ewes and 14 lambs are believed to have been stolen from Low Straits Lane, above Askrigg. Please report any suspicious activity including vehicle registration numbers around sheep.

The mini heat wave that we experienced towards the end of May brought with it some particular anti-social behaviour problems in the Dales. Popular visitor spots such as Aysgarth Falls, Reeth and Keld saw a large influx of visitors, often to the point of making reasonable social distancing impossible. The police were called to a number of incidents including drunken behaviour, inconsiderate parking, littering and the lighting of barbeques on already parched verges. Working together with our National Park Ranger colleagues we carried out high profile patrols and engaged with people in an attempt to encourage common sense to prevail.

Overnight on the 3rd June batteries were stolen from temporary traffic lights situated on the Reeth to Richmond road.

On 6th June a member of the public found a dead little owl with apparent injuries near Thornton Rust. We arranged an examination by a vet, who found nothing suspicious, other than it had most likely been predated on by another animal. We would encourage people to contact the police if you have any suspicions about the fate of wildlife in the Dales. We take any such incidents seriously and welcome the opportunity to investigate them thoroughly. Likewise, if you come across a vermin trap that you suspect is unlawful, please don't interfere with it. If possible take a photo, record the location (perhaps using what3words) and report it on 101. We can then check it out and report back to you.

About 2pm on 7th June 3 male shoplifters were spotted by staff attempting to steal a trolley full of items from Leyburn Coop. They ran from the store and drove off empty handed in a blue Vauxhall Vectra car. Enquiries are ongoing to identify the offenders.

We have been taking reports of nuisance behaviour by youths at the Dales Countryside Museum car park at Hawes, with issues including inconsiderate driving and excessive noise. If it is you, please have some consideration for local residents. If you know who it is, please impress on them that we will only warn so many times before more firm police action is taken against the offenders.

Overnight 15th June a 10 feet by 5 feet Erdo car trailer was stolen from a property at Nappa Scar near Askrigg.

Finally, for the latest updates on the coronavirus situation please check out [Gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus). We continue to work hard to engage with people, explain best practice and encourage compliance. Stay alert and keep washing those hands.

PC 558 Julian Sutcliffe

Dales Neighbourhood Police Team