

Buntingford & East Herts Rural Crime Report - September 2026

Please note: This report does not include domestic incidents, child protection investigations, or sexual offences. Not all reported incidents result in a crime being recorded and may therefore not appear within this report.

Crime Summary by Area

Aston

- 1 Theft from Motor Vehicle – No suspect identified

Benington

- 1 Residential Burglary – Under Investigation

Brickendon

- 1 Residential Burglary – Under Investigation

Buntingford

- 1 Make Off Without Payment – No suspect identified
- 1 Theft from Motor Vehicle – No suspect identified
- 4 Criminal Damage offences
 - 3 No suspects identified
 - 1 Under Investigation
- 7 Theft from Shop offences
 - 4 No suspects identified
 - 3 Suspects identified
- 1 Interference with Motor Vehicle – No suspect identified
- 1 Assault Without Injury – Suspect identified

Dane End

- 5 Thefts from Motor Vehicles – No suspects identified
- 1 Interference with Motor Vehicle – No suspect identified
- 1 Criminal Damage – Under Investigation

Gilston

- 1 Business Theft – No suspect identified

Hormead

- 1 Criminal Damage – No suspect identified

Hertford Heath

- 1 Residential Burglary – No suspect identified
- 1 Attempted Burglary – No suspect identified

Hertford Rural North

- 2 Thefts from Motor Vehicles – No suspects identified
- 1 Theft – No suspect identified
- 5 Residential Burglaries – Under Investigation
- 1 Criminal Damage – Under Investigation
- 1 Fly-Tipping Incident – Under Investigation

Hertford Rural South

- 2 Criminal Damage offences – No suspects identified
- 1 Criminal Damage offence – Suspect identified
- 2 Fly-Tipping Incidents – Under Investigation

Little Hadham

- 1 Business Burglary – No suspect identified
- 1 Attempted Burglary – Under Investigation

Puckeridge

- 1 Theft – No suspect identified

- 2 Interference with Motor Vehicle offences – No suspects identified

Thundridge

- 1 Criminal Damage – No suspect identified
- 1 Theft from Motor Vehicle – No suspect identified
- 1 Residential Burglary – Under Investigation

Wadesmill

- 1 Theft from Motor Vehicle – No suspect identified
- 1 Criminal Damage – No suspect identified

Wareside

- 1 Criminal Damage – Under Investigation

Watton-at-Stone

- 1 Criminal Damage – No suspect identified

Neighbourhood Policing Update

Local Policing Priority

The Local Priority Setting Forum met during September and agreed neighbourhood policing priorities for the next four months.

East Herts Rural & Buntingford Priority

Hare Coursing and Poaching

Focus areas include:

- Hunsdon
- Widford
- Wareside

This priority will remain in place until **December 2026**, with the next review scheduled for **January 2027**.

Operational Activity and Community Updates

Alongside ongoing community engagement, crime investigation activity and high-visibility patrols, officers have undertaken a range of operational and preventative policing activities during September.

Rural Incident Response

Officers responded to reports of an escaped emu, which fortunately turned out to be a rhea. The animal was safely returned to its owner without incident.

Vehicle Crime Awareness

There have been multiple reports across Hertfordshire of thefts from and interference with motor vehicles.

In East Herts, incidents are linked to a lone offender targeting unlocked vehicles during the early hours of the morning. The suspect has been captured on various CCTV and doorbell cameras, typically wearing:

- A hooded top
- Face covering
- Black rucksack

Items commonly stolen include cash, loose change and small valuables.

To combat this issue, local officers have adjusted patrol patterns to provide increased overnight visibility and deter offending. Residents are reminded to:

- Always lock vehicles
- Ensure windows are fully closed
- Remove valuables from vehicles
- Report suspicious behaviour immediately

Rural Fire Prevention

Following several significant field and hay bale fires during the summer months, the Neighbourhood Policing Team hosted a rural engagement event alongside Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The event provided:

- Fire prevention advice
- Networking opportunities for farmers and rural businesses
- Promotion of the Firestoppers intelligence reporting initiative

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/press-releases/bad-news-for-arsonists-as-new-service-launched-in-hertfordshire-to-gather-intelligence-on-deliberate-fires.aspx>

Police and Crime Commissioner Visit

Police and Crime Commissioner **Johnathan Ash-Edwards** joined officers on patrol to gain a first-hand understanding of neighbourhood policing challenges and priorities.

The visit included deployments relating to:

- Hare coursing
- Poaching
- Illegal off-road bike use

Proactive Police Activity Theft Investigation

An ANPR activation identified a vehicle linked to a theft investigation in Northamptonshire involving stolen child car seats.

As a result:

- Two stolen car seats were recovered
- Occupant details and evidence were shared with Northamptonshire Police

Drug Driving Arrest

Whilst attending a road traffic collision, officers stopped an unrelated vehicle and subsequently arrested the driver after a positive roadside drug test.

Fuel Theft Enquiries

A suspicious van stopped near Puckeridge led officers to discover:

- A powerful fuel siphoning pump
- Fuel storage containers

The vehicle and equipment were seized as part of ongoing enquiries into fuel thefts along the A10 corridor.

Warrant Activity

Neighbourhood officers have supported several successful warrants across the region, resulting in:

- Arrests of recalled offenders
 - Arrests for possession of Class A and Class B drugs with intent to supply
 - Seizure of drugs, cash, weapons and mobile phones
-

Community Engagement

The team remains committed to engaging with local communities and understanding residents' concerns.

During September, Street Meets were held in:

- Dane End
- Much Hadham
- Tewin
- Watton-at-Stone

Officers:

- Discussed local concerns
- Conducted crime and anti-social behaviour surveys
- Promoted Herts Connected registration

The team also attended the annual **Ware Community Fun Day**, providing an opportunity to engage with residents and families from across East Hertfordshire.

Herts Connected

Herts Connected is Hertfordshire Constabulary's community messaging and engagement platform.

Registered users can:

- Receive local crime alerts and updates
- Learn about policing activity in their area
- Participate in local surveys
- Influence neighbourhood policing priorities
- Help shape community safety initiatives

Parish Councils are encouraged to continue promoting registration through newsletters, websites and social media channels.

Register here:

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

Have Your Say

Hertfordshire Constabulary is seeking public feedback to inform future neighbourhood policing priorities.

Residents can complete the Local Priority Setting Survey via:

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



Crime Prevention Advice

Further crime prevention information and guidance can be found at:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

East Herts Rural Highlights Video 2024-25

View the East Herts Rural Highlights Video:

<https://youtu.be/bnf6PE4uuvc?feature=shared>

Thank you for your continued support. Working together with our communities helps keep East Hertfordshire a safe place to live, work and visit. In an emergency always call 999. For non-emergency matters call 101 or report online via Hertfordshire Constabulary's website.