

# West Mercia Police

## BISHOP'S CASTLE & RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team

**Date: August & September 2025 – Newsletter**

**BISHOP'S CASTLE & RURAL SNT** are based at Bishops Castle Police Station, Union St, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AJ.

We work in the Parishes and area's of Bishop's Castle, Mainstone, Colebatch, Clun, Llanfair Waterdine, Newcastle on Clun, Bettws-Y-Crwyn, Stowe, Bucknell, Bedstone, Hopton Castle, Clungunford, Aston on Clun, Hopesay, Clunbury, Edgton, Wistanstow, Lydbury North, Lydham, More, Norbury, Wentnor, Ratlinghope, Stiperstones, Worthen and Chirbury.

### Team details

**Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant:** Sgt 0640 Jenni Price

**Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable:** PC 3331 Stuart Coote – 07814 051729

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss - 07811 752207

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown – 07970 543854

**Team Email:** [bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

### West Mercia Police contact numbers

**Emergency:** 999 **Non Emergency:** 101

**Bishops Castle Police Station (not for reporting):** 101, Extension 770-4901

**Report online:** [www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/)

**Crime stoppers:** 0800 555 111

**Website:** [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

**Facebook:** Bishop's Castle and Clun Police



**WEST MERCIA  
POLICE**

# CRIME STATS

Please note not all crimes or investigations are recorded below due to them being non-crime investigations, protection investigations, ongoing investigations or of a sensitive nature.

Anyone with any information about these crimes can contact West Mercia Police on **101**, Online [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk) or anonymously via Crimestoppers **0800 55511**

| <b>CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED</b><br><b>LYDBURY NORTH, EDGTON, HOPESAY &amp; WISTANSTOW</b><br><br><b>16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b> |                                                                                                 |                        |                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CRIME REPORTED</b>                                                                                                                                                      | <b>DETAILS</b>                                                                                  | <b>LOCATION</b>        | <b>NOTES</b>                                                  |
| Harassment                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                 | Aston on Clun          |                                                               |
| Criminal damage                                                                                                                                                            | Pedestrian has thrown object at vehicle causing damage                                          | A489 Horderley         |                                                               |
| Assault                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                 | Lydbury North          |                                                               |
| Theft of motor vehicle                                                                                                                                                     | Green Honda ATV VRM VX60ANV stolen                                                              | Aston on Clun          | Occurred overnight 27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> August |
| Criminal damage                                                                                                                                                            | Damage caused to picnic bench and notice board                                                  | Long Mynd Soaring Club | Between 15 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> August            |
| Assault                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                 | Long Lane, C/Arms      |                                                               |
| Assault                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                 | Wistanstow             |                                                               |
| Send grossly offensive communication                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                 | Wistanstow             |                                                               |
| Harassment                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                 | Horderley              |                                                               |
| Criminal damage to a motor vehicle                                                                                                                                         | Stone has smashed rear window of vehicle, victim believes this was thrown from a car overtaking | Aston on Clun          |                                                               |

| <b>CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED</b><br><b>MORE, NORBURY, RATLINGHOPE &amp; WENTNOR</b><br><br><b>16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b> |                                   |                 |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>CRIME REPORTED</b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>DETAILS</b>                    | <b>LOCATION</b> | <b>NOTES</b>       |
| Blackmail                                                                                                                                                           |                                   | Wentnor         |                    |
| Criminal damage                                                                                                                                                     | Damage caused to vehicle at event | Ratlinghope     | Suspect identified |
| Attempted robbery                                                                                                                                                   | Occurred at event                 | Ratlinghope     |                    |

**CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED IN  
CLUN, CLUN VALLEY, LLANFAIRWATERDINE, HOPTON CASTLE & BUCKNELL**

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

| <b>CRIME REPORTED</b>                         | <b>DETAILS</b>                                                                                                     | <b>LOCATION</b>    | <b>NOTES</b>                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Dog dangerously out of control causing injury | X2                                                                                                                 | Bucknell           |                                                           |
| Criminal damage                               | Damage caused to pots                                                                                              | Bucknell           | Suspect identified                                        |
| Theft                                         | Caravan motor mover stolen                                                                                         | Obley              | Sometime during August                                    |
| Recovery of stolen motor vehicle              | Peugeot motorhome stolen from Knighton recovered                                                                   | Market Place, Clun | 12 <sup>th</sup> August                                   |
| Public order offence                          |                                                                                                                    | Clun               |                                                           |
| Harassment                                    |                                                                                                                    | Clun               |                                                           |
| Attempted burglary                            | Offenders have attempted to gain entry to farm outbuildings                                                        | Bettws_Y_Crwyn     | Overnight 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> August      |
| Stalking                                      |                                                                                                                    | Clun               |                                                           |
| Public order offence                          |                                                                                                                    | Bucknell           |                                                           |
| Blackmail                                     |                                                                                                                    | Bucknell           |                                                           |
| Attempted theft                               | Two males in a white Mercedes Sprinter registration KS03 XZB have attempted to take scrap metal without permission | Bucknell           | Suspects stopped by Police in the area, to be interviewed |

**CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED  
CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE**

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

| <b>CRIME REPORTED</b>                                            | <b>DETAILS</b>                                                                                                      | <b>LOCATION</b> | <b>NOTES</b>                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Public order offence                                             |                                                                                                                     | Stapeley        |                                                               |
| Assault                                                          |                                                                                                                     | Chirbury        |                                                               |
| Theft                                                            | Graham Edwards small stock trailer and red diesel stolen                                                            | Marton          | Occurred overnight, 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept   |
| Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug | Cannabis farm                                                                                                       |                 | Two persons arrested                                          |
| Public nuisance                                                  |                                                                                                                     | Marton          |                                                               |
| Taking vehicle without permission                                |                                                                                                                     | Bishop's Castle | Suspect identified                                            |
| Interfering with mail                                            |                                                                                                                     | Hope            |                                                               |
| Stalking                                                         |                                                                                                                     | Churchstoke     |                                                               |
| Criminal damage                                                  | Person's unknown have entered field and mutilated a Ewe, sheep have previously been located with missing body parts | Black Marsh     | Occurred between the 4 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> August |
| Harassment                                                       |                                                                                                                     | Snailbeach      |                                                               |
| Burglary                                                         | Tools stolen from property being renovated                                                                          | Rowley          | Occurred 16:00 – 16:30 21 <sup>st</sup> July                  |
| Criminal damage                                                  | Tree's chopped down                                                                                                 | Snailbeach      |                                                               |

**CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED  
BISHOP'S CASTLE, LYDHAM & MAINSTONE**

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

| <b>CRIME REPORTED</b>       | <b>DETAILS</b>                                                                            | <b>LOCATION</b>            | <b>NOTES</b>                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Assault                     | X3                                                                                        | Bishop's Castle            |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Stalking                    | X3                                                                                        | Bishop's Castle            |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Fraud                       |                                                                                           | Bishop's Castle            |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Breach of restraining order |                                                                                           | Bishop's Castle            |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Criminal damage             | A white Ford Transit and silver Audi have driven over crops causing damage                | Bishop's Castle            | Occurred 19:20 25 <sup>th</sup> August, vehicle details obtained for one of the vehicles                                                             |
| Burglary                    | Outbuilding broken into and Honda lawnmower stolen                                        | St Cuthbert's, Clungunford | Occurred 24 <sup>th</sup> August                                                                                                                     |
| Wounding                    |                                                                                           | Bishop's Castle            | Offender arrested                                                                                                                                    |
| Theft and criminal damage   | Crafted piece of wood stolen and graffiti caused to wood features                         | The Wintles                | Occurred on the 7 <sup>th</sup> August                                                                                                               |
| Shoplifting                 |                                                                                           | Co-Op, Bishop's Castle     |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Stalking                    |                                                                                           | Mainstone                  |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Criminal damage             | Damage caused to hedge                                                                    | Colebatch                  |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Burglary                    | Business broken into and attempts made to locate safe, petty cash stolen                  | Market Sq, Bishop' Castle  | Occurred at 02:25 4 <sup>th</sup> August. Two males arrive in a Mk 6 Golf or similar. Same suspects for burglary during the same night in Bromfield. |
| Criminal damage             | Farm building sprayed with graffiti x 2                                                   | Colebatch                  | This has occurred twice during July and August                                                                                                       |
| Criminal damage             | Damage caused to gate                                                                     | Bishop's Castle            | Suspect identified                                                                                                                                   |
| Threats to kill             |                                                                                           | Bishop's Castle            | Suspect arrested                                                                                                                                     |
| Hate crime                  |                                                                                           | Bishop's Castle            |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Malicious communications    |                                                                                           | Bishop's Castle            |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Dogs worrying livestock     | Whilst walking along a footpath, owner had dog off lead resulting in it chasing livestock | Colebatch                  | Suspect unknown, dog was called 'Meg'.                                                                                                               |
| Theft                       | Plant pot stolen                                                                          | Church St, B/Castle        |                                                                                                                                                      |

**Local staff changes**

September will see some changes to the Bishop's Castle Policing Team, as of the 29<sup>th</sup> September, PC Stuart Coote will be moving to Church Stretton Police Station and covering the Craven Arms area. PC Coote will be replaced by PC 21989 Daryl McWatt who moves from Ludlow.

The government have allocated funding for West Mercia Police from the neighbourhood policing grant to be spent on local policing, as a result this has permitted a new post for an extra PC to be stationed at Bishop's Castle Police Station, this will be PC 21006 Simon Wilkey who joins from Oswestry.

As of the 10<sup>th</sup> September, Police Community Support Officer's shifts have been changed so they no longer work until 10pm and now work no later than 8pm. Prior to this in 2023, PCSO's had a similar change to duty hours where working until midnight was reduced to 10pm. This is a cost saving measure by West Mercia.

## **Court sentencing**

On Monday 15th September, 7 men who were part of a gang that have plagued the area were sentenced to a combined total of more than 25 years for their part in rural thefts and burglaries across south Shropshire and Powys.

Farms in south Shropshire were the main target, with agricultural equipment such as tractors, ATV's, quad bikes, trailers and 4x4 pick-ups being targeted and stolen. The thefts were carried out in rural locations and often under the cover of darkness, meaning officers relied on CCTV, forensics and phone work to identify the suspects.

The investigation led to identifying seven men linked to the thefts. Officers uncovered that the men were also responsible for burglaries in Montgomeryshire, Powys which were being investigated by [Dyfed-Powys Police](#). Working together, the two forces began to collate and collect evidence relating to over 150 offences spanning over a number of years.

On Thursday 20th March 2024, West Mercia Police along with officers from Dyfed-Powys Police carried out a series of warrants at addresses in Broseley, Cross Houses and Telford, where seven men were arrested.

All seven men were then charged with conspiracy to steal from another.

It's estimated, during their crime spree, the organised crime gang stole agricultural equipment worth between £5million and £10million.

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September they were sentenced at Shrewsbury Crown Court after pleading guilty at a previous hearing. The men are:

- Andrew Baker, aged 36, of Lovell Close in Shifnal, Shropshire, sentenced to four years and five months
- Christopher Downes, aged 35, of Park View in Broseley, Shropshire, sentenced to seven months
- Thomas Nutt, aged 27, of Bridgnorth Road in Broseley, Shropshire, sentenced to four years and five months
- Wayne Price, aged 32, of Cross Houses in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, sentenced to nine years
- Dean Rogerson, aged 34, of Homelands Park in Ketley Bank, Telford, Shropshire, sentenced to three years and one-month
- Neil Shevlin, aged 32, of Four Winds in Norton, Shifnal, Shropshire, sentenced to one-year and two months
- Ryan Taylor, aged 32, of Hayward Parade in Telford, Shropshire, sentenced to two years and six months