

South Gloucestershire-based officers have stopped and checked more than 50 vehicles in a joint operation with Wiltshire Police colleagues to tackle rural crime.

They made the checks in two overnight operations since August 31, which have also led to one person being issued with a cannabis warning, two uninsured vehicles being taken off the road and high-powered lamps suspected of being used in poaching being seized, while two men are currently on police bail following their arrest on suspicion of poaching.

Neighbourhood PC Dan Jones said: "We are running these operations as a result of information from the community about rural crime, especially poaching. We've had really good feedback from local people. I hope they feel reassured by the action we've been taking and that criminals will think twice about offending in the area.

Stop poaching

Do you know anyone who:

- Poaches deer or fish?
- Trespasses with dogs or firearms?
- Is involved in illegal slaughtering?
- Has a food business selling meat and fish illegally poached or processed?

Help stop this crime - contact us anonymously
with Information



"We know these criminals don't worry about causing damage to crops and property when they trespass for game. They're not above theft of other property while they're there either. It's important for people to keep passing on information about criminal activity in their neighbourhood so that we can continue to carry out these targeted operations."

The operation involved joint patrols of an area on the South Gloucestershire-Wiltshire border between Chipping Sodbury and Hullavington.

Poaching and other rural crimes have a significant impact on communities, as well as causing unnecessary suffering to animals.

Poaching is not nowadays about an individual taking one or two animals for the pot – it's organised groups taking game and livestock to sell into the food chain. It's all about the money, with no regard for the welfare of the animals or the unsuspecting end customer.

Any business supplying food, whether for profit or not, has a legal obligation to ensure it is fit to eat. A number of potential health risks are associated with the consumption of illegally-caught wild game, not least faecal and environmental contamination from these criminals' unhygienic processing techniques.

If you have any information on crime, you can report it:

- Through [our online form](#)
- By calling 101
- By calling the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) on 0800 555 111. They never ask your name or trace your call.

You can also [report wildlife crime](#) – and the abuse or neglect of domestic animals – to the RSPCA 24/7 online or by calling 0300 1234 999.

[Visit our wildlife crime pages](#) or [contact a wildlife crime officer](#)