

### **District Profile**

Uttlesford District is part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA) and includes the towns of Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted. The district is located in north Essex and is bordered by Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The district covers 248 square miles and is a rural area, comprising rural farmland interspersed with small hamlets and towns.

Uttlesford has a population of 80,000 and many people commute out of the district to work. The largest employer within the district is Stansted Airport.

Uttlesford has been voted as the number one most desirable rural area in which to live in Great Britain, following the recent Halifax Rural Areas Quality of Life Survey 2014.

### **Policing Structure and Resources**

There are two police operating bases within the Uttlesford District, which include the following resources:

#### **Saffron Walden Police Station**

- 24/7 Neighbourhood Crime Team
- Neighbourhood Policing Team
- NPT Inspector
- Front office
- Special Constabulary
- Crime reduction officer
- Youth officer

#### **Great Dunmow Police Station**

- Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Front Office
- Special Constabulary

#### **Neighbourhood Policing**

Uttlesford District is divided into [seven neighbourhoods](#):

- Saffron Walden Central
- Thaxted
- Felsted
- Great Dunmow Central
- Hatfield Heath
- Stansted North
- Clavering

The district has one Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) that covers the seven neighbourhoods. The team is supervised by a Neighbourhood Policing Inspector who is based at Saffron Walden Police Station as well as a Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant based at Great Dunmow Police Station. These officers' duties include long-term problem solving, community reassurance and proactive enforcement operations.

The two police stations in the district are open to the public from Monday to Saturday, between 1200 and 1800. There are two other police buildings in Uttlesford, one located at Hatfield Heath and the other at Stansted Village. These are both decommissioned and are not open to the public.

### Neighbourhood Crime Teams

There are five Neighbourhood Crime Teams (NCT) working 24/7. The teams are based at Saffron Walden Police Station where they are managed by the NPT Inspector. These teams deal with a range of policing issues including incident demand, appointments, missing persons and the night-time economy.

### Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

Uttlesford District is covered by CID officers that are stationed at Braintree Police Station. They investigate serious crimes such as burglary dwelling and serious assaults.

### Response and Patrol

Response and patrol cover is provided to the district by officers stationed at Braintree Police Station.

### **Crime Data for Uttlesford district**

At the meeting on April 24, 2014, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and the facts which lie underneath the headline figures.

Crime figures for Uttlesford district show a small increase in all crime of 2.2 per cent, with 60 more offences between April 1, 2013, and March 31, 2014 compared to the previous twelve month period.

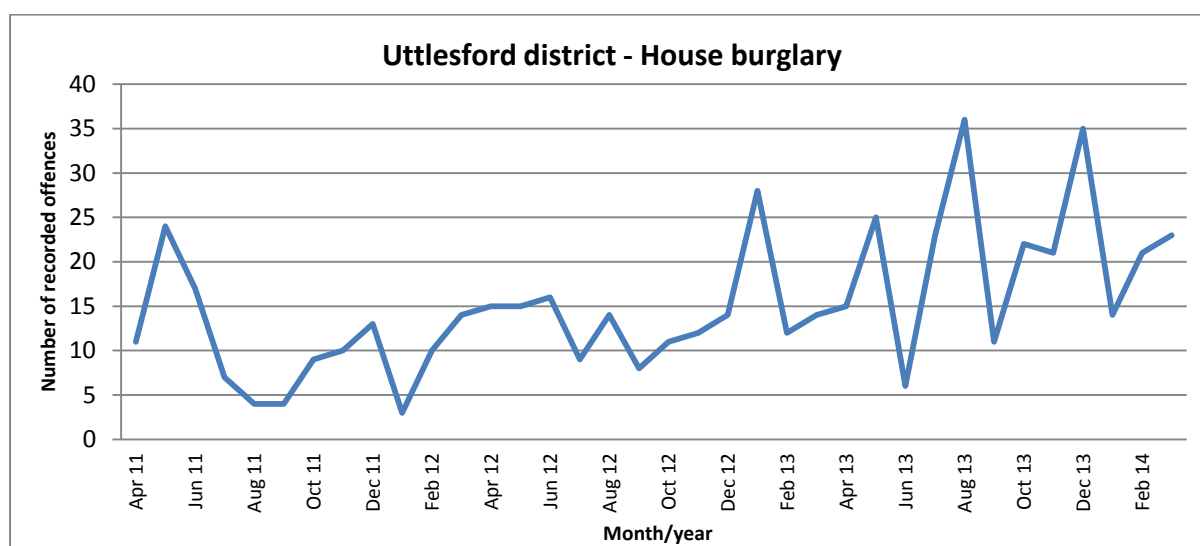
Comparing the same time periods, areas of note include:

- All Crime has increased by 2.2% (60 more offences);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has increased by 50.9% (85 more offences);
- Theft & Taking of Motor Vehicles has increased by 40.7% (22 more offences);
- Theft from Motor Vehicles has decreased by 2.4% (9 less offences);
- Other Theft and Handling has increased by 26.4% (96 more offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 3.7% (47 more incidents);
- Criminal Damage has decreased by 11.3% (50 less offences);
- Serious Violent Crime has decreased by 47.4% (9 less offences);
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has decreased by 10.3% (18 less offences).

There has been a welcome decrease in violent crime in the district.

The graphs below showing specific crime trends in the document below provide data back to April 2011.

### House burglary



Uttlesford has experienced an increase in house burglaries, (the crime type of dwelling burglary). There was an increase of 85 offences during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 compared with the same period from the previous year.

These offences have occurred throughout the district in both urban and rural locations, with the majority of offences occurring during the hours of daylight.

This type of offence is particularly difficult to tackle, in part, because the burglary hotspots in Uttlesford cover a large geographical area and are not confined to smaller locations which are easier to patrol. A significant amount of police resources have been invested in dealing with this type of criminality and work to address house burglaries has included additional patrols in affected areas, liaising with various

partner agencies, crime prevention, cross-border operations and information sharing with neighbouring forces.

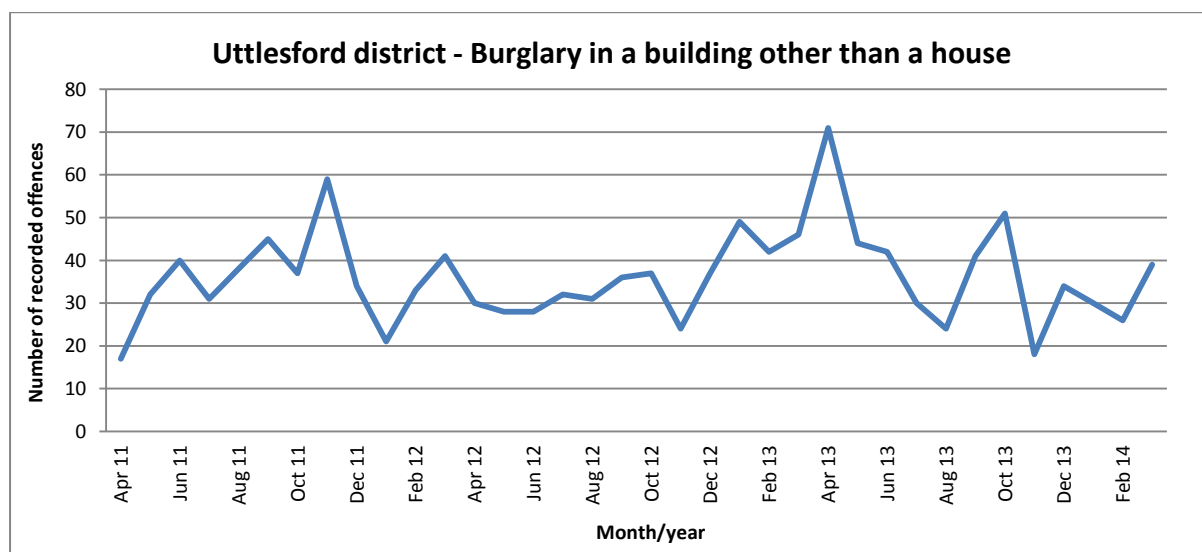
There have been a disproportionate number of house burglary offences occurring in the Stansted Mountfitchet, Clavering and Saffron Walden areas. However, these offences appear to have been unrelated as the offenders used different methods of operation. When a spate of offences is identified, local resources are directed towards the affected location as burglaries have a significant effect on both the victim of crime and the surrounding community.

Local neighbourhood officers have visited all victims of burglary dwelling and patrols have been undertaken to complete risk assessments on properties in the surrounding area. The risk assessments aim to identify vulnerable properties, people and vehicles, and officers provide crime prevention advice to owners of such properties. Officers have engaged with local partners, housing associations and district, town and parish councils, and have liaised closely with the local neighbourhood watch. The local Crime Reduction Officer has carried out a number of crime prevention visits.

Neighbourhood officers continue to work closely with colleagues in the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) who lead on these investigations. This close working relationship has led to some excellent results over the past 12 months.

Despite the large percentage increase for this type of offence, Uttlesford has the second lowest number of house burglaries of all the districts in Essex. Uttlesford also has one of the lowest house burglary figures per thousand households.

### **Burglary of Other Types of Buildings**

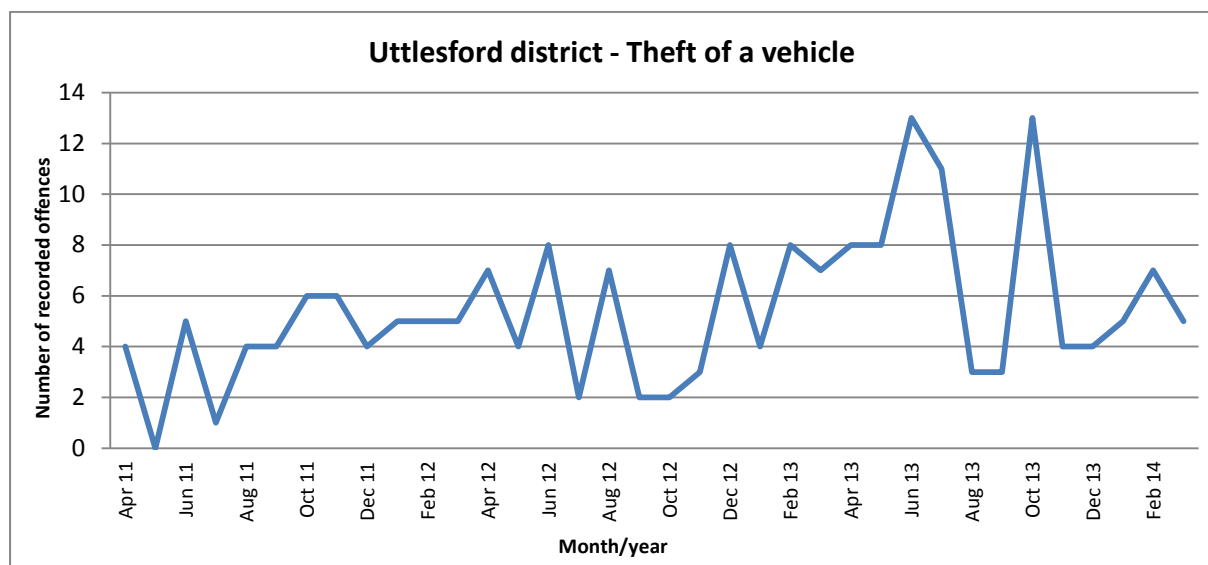


During the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, there were 32 more offences of burglary of other types of buildings (primarily outhouses, commercial premises and sheds) compared with the same period the previous year. Local officers are liaising with residents, landowners, farmers, various Watch schemes, and other police forces with the aim of preventing further offences from occurring.

Local police work has involved developing intelligence, targeting suspects living within the two districts, carrying out additional overnight patrols in the remote rural locations, conducting Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operations, and holding property marking surgeries across the district and executing search warrants. The police have also been liaising with the local media and councils.

Partnership work has resulted in a number of key arrests in neighbouring forces. Officers will continue to work closely with all our partners to provide crime prevention advice.

## Vehicle Crime



During the reporting period, there were 22 more motor vehicles stolen in Uttlesford when compared to the same period during the previous year. The majority of the offences related to the theft of older vehicles with low security devices. Performance vehicles have commonly been stolen, where vehicle keys have been taken during domestic burglaries and commercial vehicles, vans, small motorbikes and mopeds have also been targeted. In addition, there have been a number of domestic incidents where family members have taken vehicles and these have been reported to the police.

There has been a decrease in the other major type of vehicle crime – theft from vehicles – with 361 offences being reported during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, compared with 370 offences during the same period in 2012-13.

However a more detailed breakdown of thefts from vehicles shows that these crimes have occurred in several large spates which have caused concern to local residents. The areas particularly affected have been Saffron Walden (21 offences in one night) Great Chesterfield (15 offences in one night) and Stansted Mountfitchet (12 offences). 84 reported offences related to vehicles which had been left insecure by their owners.

Local officers have conducted extra high-visibility and plain clothes patrols in the areas affected. Officers have also conducted patrols in order to identify vulnerable vehicles; for example, unlocked vehicles and vehicles which have items of value on display. Where vulnerable vehicles have been identified, suitable crime prevention advice has been given to the owners. Property marking surgeries have also been held, to enable residents to visibly mark items of value.

### **Telephone fraud and police impersonation**

The countywide crime series involving telephone fraud and police impersonation will be discussed at the meeting, as there have been victims in Uttlesford.

Detectives are continuing to urge residents across Essex to be constantly on guard against telephone fraudsters after 140 people were contacted during March 2014.

In 11 of those incidents across the county, victims were tricked into handing over a total of £39,000. In one other case a man was tricked into handing over his bank cards but a taxi driver sent to collect them realised it was a scam and police were called.

The incidents where victims were tricked out of cards or cards during March happened in the Steeple Bumpstead area (two incidents) Saffron Walden, Leigh, Benfleet, Southend, Waltham Abbey, Chelmsford, Harlow, Stanford-le-Hope and Dedham. The incident where a taxi driver foiled the fraud happened in Loughton.

In all cases the caller claimed to be an officer from either the Metropolitan Police or Essex Police. Similar false names were used by the callers but their stories varied from claims that their victims' bank cards had been cloned to claims that suspects had been arrested in possession of stolen bank cards.

More than 750 similar thefts and attempted thefts have been reported in Essex since the scam first came to light in January 2013, and similar crimes have been reported in the Metropolitan Police area and other counties.

More than 100 people in Essex have been tricked out of money and the total stolen is more than £355,000. Six people have been arrested in connection with the investigation.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER**

- Police or bank officials would never call you by telephone and ask for your full bank details or ask you to withdraw large sums of cash;
- If you think you have been a victim, call police FROM A DIFFERENT NUMBER;

- If you don't have another phone, use a neighbour's, or wait five minutes before dialling 101 or 999 (if urgent).

### **Other Theft and Handling**

There has been an increase in the number of offences of Other Theft and Handling - an extra 96 offences have been recorded during the reporting period compared to the same period during the previous year. This category of crime covers all other offences of theft that are not listed separately, such as theft of a flower pot from a front garden, a sign post at the side of the road, or a mobile phone left on a table in a restaurant and not found on returning, etc. This category of crime also includes theft in a dwelling (where the offence has been committed by a relative) and theft by employees.

Many of these types of offences can be prevented by implementing simple crime prevention measures. Local officers have engaged with owners of licenced premises through Pub Watch, to ensure that they are aware that large crowds attract purse thieves.

This has also been addressed at the Saffron Walden Shop Watch, which involved an open evening being held where crime prevention advice was provided by a Crime Reduction Officer.

Local officers are also introducing a Scheme Link radio system which will allow for better communication with retailers, the police and the community. This radio system is also being taken up by all the licensed premises in Saffron Walden in order to provide better community safety.

In addition, the new Special Constabulary rural crime team, which was created in part with money from the PCC New Initiatives Fund, has been deployed since November with a remit covering all rural offences. Many offences of Other Theft and Handling occur in rural isolated settings. The Special Constabulary rural crime team has undertaken extra patrols in rural areas and liaised with various landowners to conduct risk assessments which identify property that is vulnerable to crime.

### **Working closely with everyone in Uttlesford**

The Community Safety Partnership priorities for Uttlesford are:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Violent crime (including domestic abuse)
- Burglary
- Road safety

Uttlesford CSP receives funding from the PCC towards certain projects and events that are particularly important to the area. This includes Motorwise, an interactive road safety event for all 16 to 17 year olds. As a predominately rural district, Uttlesford has a significantly higher proportion of killed and seriously injured people as a result of road traffic accidents.

Other key projects include:

- Crucial Crew and Reality Road Show, important events aimed at local school children throughout the district of Uttlesford;
- a safer living event aimed at the elderly residents of Uttlesford, of which the district has a far higher proportion than the national and county average;
- Neighbourhood Watch, Uttlesford has the highest coverage of NHW groups in Essex.

**Your feedback is most welcome.**

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting or any other matter please e-mail:

[pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk)

or write to:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex  
3 Hoffmanns Way  
Chelmsford, CM1 1GU

News alerts will usually be tweeted via the Essex PCC Twitter account:  
<https://twitter.com/essexpcc>

You can learn more about the PCC's work at:  
[www.essex.pcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk)

The neighbourhood policing teams will always act on intelligence received from the community. If you have information regarding any criminal activity please either call your local team or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is an anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.