



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

NWPF hosts national wildlife course

A course aimed at increasing knowledge of wildlife crime has been hosted by North Wales Police for the very first time.

The national ‘**Wildlife and Environment Protection**’ course, which is **usually held in Essex**, has been brought to North Wales to help increase officer knowledge about all aspects of wildlife crime.

Sponsored by and in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales, the course will equip officers with the latest information on a variety of topics including badger baiting, poisoning and the control of endangered species.

Sergeant Rob Taylor, Wildlife and Environment officer for the force said: “It’s been a challenge to bring the National Wildlife course up to North Wales as we wanted to attract the best speakers to the course. With the help of the Countryside Council for Wales, we’ve been able to obtain those specialist speakers from all over the UK. They are helping to teach our officers the skills that they need to help tackle wildlife crime”.

Twenty officers are attending the course from various departments across the force, including CID and Community Beat Managers. Officers from other forces are also participating in the course and they include an officer from Dyfed Powys Police and another from South Wales Police.

Sgt Taylor added: *“The officers will also have inputs on habitat protection and biodiversity – this is not just about wildlife investigation, it’s also about preserving our environment for future generations.”*

Sgt Taylor has now been in post as the Wildlife & Environment Officer for the past six months and is working closely with the Countryside Council for Wales. As **a former traffic sergeant**, he is enjoying his new role, and said: “It has been an incredibly steep learning curve, as the legislation can be often complex, but I have to say **the challenge has been extremely enjoyable**.”

“There is a diverse cross section of offences reported, from damage to sites of special scientific interest to bird persecution and the illegal use of pesticides. I have found that the public of North Wales want to protect their wildlife and environment and are willing to report offences and help with enquiries quite often, which is extremely important. This role isn’t just about prosecution, but also education and trying to change the way some people think, more importantly this is about protecting our environment for now and forever”

The PPP comments We report this story from the Force website as part of our series asking **What are ALL our Police Officers doing ?**