

# Buyer beware of cloned cars, warn police

Motorists across Norfolk are being warned to be on their guard after a spate of incidents in which cloned cars have been sold using stolen registration certificates.

Anyone buying a used car should be on the look-out for these certificates and are urged to check the serial number that appears at the top right hand corner of the registration certificate.

If it bears the prefix BG and falls within the range BG 9167501 to BG 9190500, the DVLA advice is not to purchase the vehicle. Indications are that there are several hundred of these stolen documents in circulation and they have appeared in Norfolk in recent weeks.

Det Con Chris Woodcock said: "We have recovered several stolen cloned vehicles, predominantly 4x4s, from people who have no title to the goods they have bought.

"It can't be stressed strongly enough that people need to be examining the V5 serial number which appears in the top right hand corner of the document in a small white circle.

"If anyone is concerned about a prospective purchase they are advised to contact the DVLA and seek confirmation of the authenticity of any vehicle's

By **BEN KENDALL**  
Crime correspondent

accompanying documentation, by quoting the serial number concerned."

These documents tend to accompany stolen vehicles that have had their identity changed to match that of a legitimate vehicle - a practice known as cloning. The cloned vehicles are sold on to unsuspecting people who suffer significant losses when these vehicles are then confiscated by the police.

In addition to the serial number, these certificates have a different background colour on the Notification of Permanent Export tear off slip on the second page, which looks mauve on the front and pink on the reverse. On legitimate documents they should be mauve on both sides.

Det Con Woodcock added: "These documents will characteristically accompany stolen cloned vehicles that will be up for sale, and therefore the old adage that 'if it seems too good to be true, it probably is' should always be applied, and people should simply walk away from such transactions."

Contact Det Con Woodcock at Norfolk police headquarters in Wymondham on 0845 4564567.



ANALYSIS: Carenza Lewis looks through the finds with students at Chediston.

## Youngsters dig deep to aim higher

The past of a Suffolk village came under the spotlight yesterday with help from a team of teenagers. Saxon and medieval pottery were found underneath gardens in Chediston, near Halesworth, as part of an Aim Higher scheme to encourage teenagers into university. The finds will form part of a University of Cambridge research project into how settlements are formed and change, based on digs in 30

villages across East Anglia. Students from Sir John Leman High in Beccles, Kirkley High and Benjamin Britten Highs in Lowestoft and Thurleston High in Ipswich took part. They were helped by experts including Carenza Lewis, of Time Team fame, the director of the higher education field academy at the University of Cambridge. She said: "It is not just for the children, it is doing original

research for the university. We put their names on the published report. They are intelligent young people and it is giving them a chance to contribute something while also learning life skills." The teenagers have spent two days in the field and will spend a day in Cambridge in July learning about university life. Villagers will also benefit by knowing more about the history of their village.

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