# Driver filmed performing reckless handbrake turns on rugby pitch after traveller encampment in Bournemouth



A shocking incident unfolded in Bournemouth as a driver was filmed performing reckless handbrake turns on a community rugby pitch, resulting in significant damage to the turf. The blue hatchback was seen speeding across the field of Meyrick Park, home to Oakmedians Rugby Club, shortly after it was invaded by a group of travellers. The reckless driving could have had dire consequences, as the car narrowly missed two young men who were working out nearby.

Reportedly, the travellers had removed large boulders that had served as barriers to access the pitch, setting up camp with an impressive convoy of seven expensive caravans. Within just 48 hours, the damage caused was estimated to run into thousands of pounds—a staggering loss for the community club, which is also a hub for various local activities, including children's sporting events. A representative from Oakmedians expressed their dismay over the situation, stating, “We are gutted beyond words,” as they now face the daunting task of funding repairs themselves.

Local residents voiced their frustration on social media, lamenting the disrespect shown towards the club's grounds, with one member remarking, “It's infuriating and deeply upsetting to see our rugby club disrespected and vandalised.” The situation reflects a growing concern among communities about unauthorised encampments. In recent months, similar incidents have been reported in other regions, highlighting a pattern of disruption associated with traveller encampments.

In a related case, travellers setting up camp at King George V playing fields in Caldicot, Monmouthshire, were linked to a silver vehicle that performed doughnuts on the turf, leading to the cancellation of local football matches. This prompted a response from both local authorities and the police, as communities faced the repercussions of such disturbances. The local football club expressed its disappointment, demonstrating a collective frustration over the ongoing issues with encampments disrupting local sports and activities.

The issues surrounding unauthorised encampments and the destruction of communal spaces have sparked calls for more robust action from local authorities. Residents in Bournemouth have echoed similar sentiments, questioning the adequacy of police responses as they demand urgent measures to prevent such occurrences in the future.

As the police in Bournemouth investigate the recent pitch damage, concerns about growing tensions surrounding traveller encampments highlight the need for constructive dialogue between local communities and authorities. This alarming trend underscores an urgent need for solutions that consider the needs and rights of all parties involved, aiming to balance community integrity with the lifestyle choices of the travelling community.

The growing prevalence of such incidents may result in local councils, like those in Birmingham who recently dealt with multiple encampments, revising their strategies to better manage and respond to these situations. Councils are already tasked with finding a balance between protecting communal spaces and upholding the rights of the gypsy, roma, and traveller community, with some councils asserting their commitment to maintaining public land.

As local organisations attempt to coordinate clean-up efforts, the challenge remains not only to restore damaged areas but also to foster a sense of community where respect for shared spaces prevails, ensuring that activities like rugby and community events can occur without fear of vandalism or disruption in the future.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14744403/Shocking-moment-community-rugby-pitch-torn-driver-performing-handbrake-turns-travellers-pitched-fields.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14744403/Shocking-moment-community-rugby-pitch-torn-driver-performing-handbrake-turns-travellers-pitched-fields.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/car-tears-up-public-playing-24580048)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/car-tears-up-public-playing-24580048), [[6]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/archive/2023/10/11/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.dorset.live/news/dorset-news/driver-rescued-large-digger-becomes-8941756), [[4]](https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/23963381.double-decker-roof-torn-off-bournemouth/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14744403/Shocking-moment-community-rugby-pitch-torn-driver-performing-handbrake-turns-travellers-pitched-fields.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/car-tears-up-public-playing-24580048), [[6]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/archive/2023/10/11/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/car-tears-up-public-playing-24580048), [[6]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/archive/2023/10/11/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14744403/Shocking-moment-community-rugby-pitch-torn-driver-performing-handbrake-turns-travellers-pitched-fields.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/car-tears-up-public-playing-24580048> - A silver vehicle was seen performing doughnuts and damaging the turf at King George V playing fields in Caldicot, Monmouthshire, coinciding with the arrival of a traveller encampment. The incident led to the cancellation of local football matches. The video was removed from social media due to offensive comments. The local football club expressed disappointment over the disruption and is working with authorities to resolve the matter. Gwent Police and Monmouthshire County Council are involved in addressing the concerns raised by the community.
3. <https://www.dorset.live/news/dorset-news/driver-rescued-large-digger-becomes-8941756> - A driver was rescued after his large digger became stuck in the sea at Bournemouth beach. The incident occurred during a project by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council to protect the beach from erosion and replace groynes. The digger hit soft sand and was submerged by the rising tide. The driver was uninjured and had isolated the fuel supply. Crews aimed to recover the machinery at low tide. The project is part of a 17-year beach management scheme to protect the coastline from flooding and erosion.
4. <https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/23963381.double-decker-roof-torn-off-bournemouth/> - Emergency services responded to an incident in Bournemouth where the roof of a double-decker bus was torn off. The event involved police, ambulance, fire service, and BCP Council personnel. One person sustained minor injuries. Further details about the cause of the incident and the extent of the damage were not provided in the available information.
5. <https://www.altonherald.com/sport/rugby/petersfield-rugby-club-slip-to-regional-two-south-central-defeat-at-bournemouth-766697> - Petersfield Rugby Club faced a 42-26 defeat against Bournemouth in the Regional Two South Central league. The match featured early penalties and strategic plays, with Bournemouth capitalizing on opportunities to secure their victory. The detailed match report highlights key moments and player performances that contributed to the outcome of the game.
6. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/archive/2023/10/11/> - The Bournemouth Echo's archive for October 11, 2023, includes various local news stories. Notable articles cover topics such as Glasgow Tigers' victory over Poole Pirates in the SGB Championship grand final, a road closure in Bournemouth due to a crash involving a pedestrian and a car, and the departure of long-serving medical director Dr. Craig Roberts from Cherries in December. The archive provides insights into community events and developments in the Bournemouth area during that period.
7. <https://www.islandecho.co.uk/hurricanes-maintain-100-record-with-thumping-victory-at-the-fairway/> - Sandown & Shanklin RFC secured their fourth consecutive win by defeating Bournemouth 2nds in Hampshire Counties 1. The match saw the Hurricanes dominate, with multiple tries and conversions leading to a 45-7 victory. The game highlighted the team's strong performance and depth, with contributions from various players. Post-match comments from the Director of Rugby emphasized the team's momentum and the importance of squad depth in maintaining their position in the league table.