# Police ammunition left on car roof sparks hours-long A47 closure and heavy traffic delays



Armed police were deployed on Friday lunchtime to manage a situation involving a man threatening another with a knife. During the officers' response, two magazines containing ammunition were inadvertently left on the roof of a police vehicle, falling onto the road at the Postwick interchange slip road. In response, authorities closed the slip road temporarily to conduct a thorough search for the missing ammunition, causing significant delays for hundreds of drivers on the A47 as they attempted to navigate home for the weekend.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing multiple police vehicles and sniffer dogs combing the area for the lost ammunition. A spokeswoman for the Norfolk Constabulary explained that the slip road was closed around 3:32 PM to ensure public safety following the incident. "Two magazines, containing ammunition, fell into the area of the slip road, so officers contained the area to ensure the safety of the public," she stated. The missing items were located, and the road was reopened around 6 PM.

The incident raised concerns among motorists. One driver, a 54-year-old man heading eastbound, expressed his frustration: “Traffic was not moving and I could see no police activity. It is ridiculous that due to a police blunder, hundreds of people were caught up in the gridlock. You would think ammunition would be kept safe, not left on a car roof.” These sentiments reflect broader worries about police procedures, especially in light of previous incidents where police equipment has been mishandled.

This is not the first time Norfolk Constabulary has faced criticism over such blunders. Earlier this year, the force was required to pay nearly £1,500 in damages after an officer accidentally dropped a stinger device while checking equipment. This stinger, which is designed to puncture tyres during vehicle pursuits, was similarly left on a patrol vehicle and led to tyre punctures for five vehicles on the A11.

In a related incident, police investigations are ongoing into a car crash that occurred on the A47 at Postwick early Sunday morning, resulting in the death of a man in his 60s. This tragic event highlights ongoing traffic concerns in the area, which have been compounded by recent police actions. Local authorities continue to review these incidents to improve operational safety and accountability, particularly regarding the handling of potentially dangerous items.

While the magazines were recovered without direct harm to the public, the repercussions of these operations underscore a pressing need for improved care in police procedures. As authorities work to enhance public safety amidst such challenges, the incident serves as a reminder of the critical balance between rapid response and procedural diligence in law enforcement.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25207894.a47-postwick-slip-road-closed-missing-bullet-search/?ref=rss)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25207894.a47-postwick-slip-road-closed-missing-bullet-search/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cq6g7gjl2lno)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c77r8zp706no), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-66846352)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25207894.a47-postwick-slip-road-closed-missing-bullet-search/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cq6g7gjl2lno> - A man in his 60s died after his car crashed on the A47 at Postwick, near Norwich, at about 05:17 GMT on Sunday. Norfolk Police said a driver reported striking debris on the carriageway, leading officers to find the white Ford Kuga that had left the road. The driver was declared dead at the scene. The road was closed and reopened at about 12:50. Officers are appealing for anyone who witnessed the collision or manner of driving of the Kuga prior to the incident to come forward. The force is asking for anyone with information or relevant dashcam footage to get in touch.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c77r8zp706no> - A major A-road was shut for six hours following a road traffic collision. Emergency services were called to the A47 on the outskirts of Norwich, between Postwick and Trowse, shortly after 06:00 GMT. Norfolk Police closed a 12-mile (19.3km) stretch of the road in both directions and diversions were put in place. National Highways posted on X at 12:19 and said the road had fully reopened. Norfolk Police and the East of England Ambulance Service have been approached for comment.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-20763324> - Northamptonshire Police lost a box of bullets when it was left on the roof of one of their cars while responding to an emergency. Five bullets are still unaccounted for after the box fell on to a road near Northampton earlier. Police and dogs have been searching around the A43 roundabout south of the M1 junction 15a, near Northampton. The case has been referred by the force to the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Police believe the bullets could have been carried in the tyres of large vehicles. They have asked the public not to touch anything they suspect to be a bullet and to immediately call 101. A police spokeswoman said: "Our priority is the safety of members of the public. Northamptonshire Police takes the security surrounding armed police and their equipment extremely seriously and this incident will be thoroughly investigated."
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-11944842> - Police have urged anyone who finds the Taser not to touch it. A Metropolitan Police firearms officer is under investigation after a Taser was lost when he drove off with it still on the roof of a police vehicle. The weapon was left on top of the vehicle as the officer left a briefing at a force firearms base in Norfolk Row, Lambeth, between 0700 GMT and 0830 GMT on Tuesday. Officers said the stun gun and four cartridges were left on the roof. Police realised it was missing at about 1000 GMT. The Taser is believed to have fallen off somewhere between Norfolk Row and Vauxhall Cross, where the officer had stopped to refuel. Scotland Yard said the officer concerned had been taken off operational firearms duties. A spokesperson said the Directorate of Professional Standards had been informed and an internal investigation was under way. Police urged anyone who found the Taser, which is shaped like a handgun but made from bright yellow plastic, not to touch it but to contact the force.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-66846352> - A police stinger that was accidentally left on the roof of a patrol car fell on to a dual carriageway and punctured the tyres of four vehicles, a force has said. The incident happened on the A11 at Spooner Row, near Wymondham, Norfolk on Sunday. The road was closed while the vehicles were recovered or repaired. Norfolk Constabulary said no-one was injured in the "unfortunate incident" and that drivers would be compensated. It apologised for the distress caused. A spokesperson added: "The incident has been reviewed internally and words of advice have been given to the officers involved. No further action will be taken. "The stinger hadn't been deployed prior to this incident, it had been accidentally left on the roof by officers checking the equipment in the vehicle." Stingers are often used by police to puncture the tyres of vehicles during a pursuit. A 5.3 mile (8.5km) stretch of the A11 near Wymondham fully reopened last month after 15 months of reconstruction work costing £65m.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-66846352> - A police stinger that was accidentally left on the roof of a patrol car fell on to a dual carriageway and punctured the tyres of four vehicles, a force has said. The incident happened on the A11 at Spooner Row, near Wymondham, Norfolk on Sunday. The road was closed while the vehicles were recovered or repaired. Norfolk Constabulary said no-one was injured in the "unfortunate incident" and that drivers would be compensated. It apologised for the distress caused. A spokesperson added: "The incident has been reviewed internally and words of advice have been given to the officers involved. No further action will be taken. "The stinger hadn't been deployed prior to this incident, it had been accidentally left on the roof by officers checking the equipment in the vehicle." Stingers are often used by police to puncture the tyres of vehicles during a pursuit. A 5.3 mile (8.5km) stretch of the A11 near Wymondham fully reopened last month after 15 months of reconstruction work costing £65m.