



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



# CCTV at a Caravan Site & Rural Hotspots

## Herefordshire Council – Fly-tipping Intervention Grant

Herefordshire Council installed **CCTV cameras** at a caravan site to support enforcement action by capturing fly-tipping and other waste crime offenders. The council also erected **signage** at 2 other hotspots to warn fly-tippers of potential CCTV in operation. To compliment the enforcement, and separate to the grant funding, the council also ran a **social media campaign to educate residents** the importance of using legitimate waste operatives. The project started in October 2023 and results 3 months post-intervention already show a **94% reduction in fly-tipping** across two hotspot locations, as well a reduction in fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour at the caravan site. The council have also seen **7 successful prosecutions**.



*(fly-tipped rubbish at hotspot location 1)*

## The Fly-tipping Issue

Hereford County is very rural and has a population of 193,000 residents yet suffers with large amounts of fly-tipping, some of which substantial in volume. The council targeted 3 hotspot locations:

**Hotspot 1:** This is a caravan site where household, commercial and industrial waste are frequently fly-tipped. The council has found that some of the culprits have used social media to create false profiles portraying as licenced waste operators targeting residents of Herefordshire and neighbouring counties into waste collection and then disposing of the waste in the council managed caravan site, extracting valuable waste, burning flammable materials and fly-tipping what is left over. The site is also located next to a household waste recycling centre which once closed, residents will enter and take waste from the tip back to the site for sorting or selling. The council have previously tried to intervene but were met with hostility and threats.

**Hotspot 2:** A small bypass road that encompasses an industrial estate where mainly household waste, including gardening green waste and construction materials are fly-tipped. The council suspect the fly-tipping is committed by householders, illegal waste carriers and traders.

**Hotspot 3:** A well-known area of neglect next to a household waste recycling centre that is commonly fly-tipped with household and commercial waste from people who are refused entry to the centre. The council refuse entry to those who do not book a slot to use the site, commercial vehicles who do not have a permit to dispose household waste or any waste that looks like trade waste as the centre is not permitted to accept it.

## The Intervention

**Hotspot 1:** The council wanted 24-hour coverage of the hotspot and introduced 4 CCTV cameras. One camera was placed on the entrance to the site, recording registration numbers and all activity in and out of the site. The other 3 cameras were located at the bottom of the site and have been connected to the councils CCTV control room. One camera is 360 degrees and had full zoom which is key to identifying culprits. The camera installed was very robust, a well-tested piece of equipment and is currently in use by a neighbouring authority so the council had confirmation it was suitable for this environment.

Installation of the CCTV took longer than anticipated but once installed they are of fantastic quality and provide clear evidence to identify suspects. The council had to get planning permission for the 8mm CCTV pole and source power supplies. The council used contractors / suppliers that were already working with them to not only ensure compatibility of equipment but also develop a well-structured working relationship.

At first the council was met with hostility from all the residents on the site and received threats that the CCTV would be cut down overnight. The council reassured and engaged

with residents of the site regarding their privacy and security ensuring any data gathered complied with the data protection protocol. The non-offending residents were grateful for the council's intervention and were glad that future offences could now be recorded and evidenced if required.

**Hotspot 2:** The council implemented signage at the most prominent points of the hotspot warning fly-tippers to beware, the signs also included an image of a CCTV camera. The aim of the sign is to alert fly-tippers to the possibility of remote cameras and remind them that their activities are illegal. Separate to the grant funding, the council implemented a wildlife camera to capture any offenders.

The council engaged with farmers and landowners to cut back the vegetation, which opened up the hotspot to passing traffic and made the area more visible to eliminate the ease of fly-tipping and increase potential witnesses. The council also encouraged them to report any incidents of fly-tipping seen or found to avoid a delay in subsequent investigations.

**Hotspot 3:** The council installed signage stating, "fly-tippers beware" and engaged with the public attending household tips to inform/educate in using licenced waste carriers and their duty of care responsibilities. Separate to the grant funding, the council also introduced a wildlife camera to catch further offenders.

**Partnership Working:** The council worked with a variety of partners throughout this project:

*CCTV operatives from Herefordshire Council* – This department was instrumental in instigating the CCTV; the cameras directly feed back to the CCTV control room.

*West Mercia Police* – The police have been involved in addressing threats made to officers during the installation of the CCTV cameras, which has led to further prosecutions.

*Severn Waste* - contracted to Herefordshire Council - We have used the bin lorries in our media campaign for promoting the signage.

*Balfour Beatty* – contracted to Herefordshire Council – They are responsible for collection our fly-tips; they will provide information to the council if they attend a fly-tip removal and find evidence which may lead to a successful outcome (prosecution or FPN).

*Departments in Herefordshire Council* – planning / property services etc - The council make sure that other key agencies/departments within the council are aware of the interventions. If other areas of the council see suspicious behaviour or find fly-tipping they will report this to us. Intelligence sharing is key to finding those who are responsible.

**Social Media Campaign:** The council found that operators portraying as licenced waste carriers target residents of Herefordshire into waste collection via social media, this waste then ends up fly-tipped. Separate to the grant funding the council ran a campaign to address this issue and raise awareness of correct waste disposal. This was financed through the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia Police.

The council implemented signage with a CCTV camera shown to make fly-tippers think there may be cameras in that location and in turn think it's too high of a risk to fly-tip. The

council put signage on lorries that all residents of Herefordshire will see. The council also used the communication department to promote the message via social media. The campaign ran alongside the grant project and the educate and enforcement aspects complimented each other successfully.



## The Result

**Hotspot 1:** The CCTV cameras have provided sufficient live and recorded footage of suspects obtaining and dealing with waste. The residents of the caravan park have significantly changed their actions since introducing the CCTV. Due to the build up of fly-tipped waste in the same spot (quarry adjacent to the caravan site) it has been difficult to get specific data for the monitoring periods. The waste has not accumulated again since the CCTV has been installed. The fly-tipping being brought onto the site by residents and non-residents has dramatically dropped and the cameras have also stopped waste being burnt and sorted on site. The 24-hour monitoring of the hotspot allows the council to evaluate the behaviour of specific individuals and in turn target our enforcement action to follow. The intervention has made a massive difference to the site and has had a positive impact on those residents who were not involved in the waste crimes.

**Hotspot 2 & 3:** Both hotspots have seen a huge reduction in fly-tipping since introducing signage and making the areas more visible, opportunists can no longer take advantage of the remote and secluded areas. At hotspot 3, 1 fly-tip was recorded but this was unfortunately outside the perimeters of the wildlife camera's field of vision.

Location	Intervention	Pre-Intervention Monitoring	Post-Intervention Monitoring	Results
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<b>Hotspot 1</b>	CCTV	n/a	n/a	<b>Unable to gather data.</b>
<b>Hotspot 2</b>	Signage & Vegetation Cut Back	8 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023-31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	0 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023-31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	<b>100% Decrease</b>
<b>Hotspot 3</b>	Signage	10	1 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023-31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	<b>90% Decrease</b>

**Data Source: Civica – data recording platform for Herefordshire Council.**

## Other Relevant Data

### Enforcement:

**Hotspot 1:** The council has been successful in prosecutions for 7 residents with 3 of those 7 jailed for their behaviour, all defendants have been given a Criminal Behaviour Order for 3 years.

Since the prosecutions 1 resident who was actively involved in handling waste has vacated the hotspot and other prosecuted residents awaiting eviction. This matter is being dealt with by Herefordshire Council legal department.

The council are finding however that residents who were not prosecuted are heavily involved in the removal of waste from the household tip and the CCTV has been useful for providing sufficient evidence of this. The evidence is being passed to the police as a theft and burglary matter.

## Feedback

### What went well?

Signs act as a permanent deterrent, the council now have signs all over the county, including gateways, farm entrances and lots of other hot spot locations which are proving to be very successful in preventing fly-tipping.

Having the CCTV cameras linked to the councils control room made evidence gather a lot easier as it means the council can view / interrogate any complaints of theft or wrong doings as all CCTV footage is collated at source and readily available.

As an enforcement agency the council are no longer reliant on residents of the caravan site (hotspot 1) to make statements anymore; the camera is doing the surveillance and offers protection to other occupants. The council have a line of communication through their Gypsy and Traveller Officer who attends the site every week to collect rents and sell electric cards. Previously they have been accused of 'informing' on the residents activities to the council's enforcement team, but now the cameras are installed they do a lot of that work for the council this in turn protects other agencies / officers visiting the sites.

By stopping the fly-tipping and burning of waste at hotspot 1 has in turn reduced officer intervention/enforcement. It has also stopped weekly police involvement and the fire brigade attending regular large hazardous fires.

### **What key information would you pass on so others can deliver this project?**

A lot of illegal waste operatives are making good money out of collecting waste, sorting the waste for resale, and then fly-tipping the remainder. Organised Crime Groups have seen fly-tipping as a low regulated and monitored crime and therefore exploit this with creating false waste removal profiles on social media and targeting residents. The council found it useful to run alongside the grant a social media campaign that addressed the issue of people searching social media for waste carriers.

The council endeavoured to develop a good relationship with landowners and farmers. The council utilised farmers markets and door knocking to get their signage circulated and for them to understand reporting fly-tips to the council so we could investigate crimes committed on their land. A lot of farmers stated to the council that they never knew the council had a fly tipping team. If the council find evidence in the fly tip they would automatically get the waste collected from the farm to save the farmer money in removing / disposing of the waste and also building relationships with them. They are, after all, the eyes and ears of the countryside.

The council managed to buy a drone with some of the money from the PCC campaign and this has massively reduced officers work involved in identifying sourcing fly tips or other environmental crimes. It provides them with aerial photographic evidence which can be used in their prosecutions. The council recommend this to other councils or enforcement agencies to look at utilising this technology to help in their battle against Environmental Crime.

## **Equipment Inventory**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total Value</b>
CCTV costings, support, and	Openview	n/a	4	£29,036.46

groundworks. (8m Pole for mounting CCTV, x2 Speed Dome CCTV & Mount, x2 Global Cam CCTV)				
Graphic Signs	Signs & Labels  Hereford	n/a	100	£791.96

## Contact Details

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**Defra’s Fly-Tipping Intervention Grant:** The Fly-tipping Intervention Grant supported projects trialling approaches and interventions to tackle fly-tipping. Administered by Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on behalf of Defra, this grant provided capital funding for projects at known fly-tipping hot-spots that showed the potential for improving infrastructure, raising awareness, and supporting enforcement activity.