



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



# Creating 'Capture Zones' on Remote Unlit Roads

## Rotherham Borough Council – Fly-tipping Intervention Grant

Rotherham Borough Council installed **CCTV and earth bunding** at layby hotspots on **rural roads** to capture potential offenders. The council also installed signage to warn the public that CCTV is in action. The project ran for 6 months and results show that **fly-tipping has decreased at three out of four hotspot locations** where the interventions have been installed. The council have also **issued four fixed penalty notices (FPNs)** using evidence captured by the CCTV and the council will continue to use these interventions across the borough.

## The Fly-tipping Issue

Rotherham council targeted 4 hotspot locations. The locations are rural unlit roads in remote areas of the borough that are easily accessible and have suffered with multiple fly-tips over the past 12 months. The roads have unofficial laybys created by vehicles for stopping or as a passing point; fly-tipping frequently occurs in the laybys when its dark which is often difficult for officers to prevent.

A range of waste is fly-tipped at these hotspots but the majority is domestic household waste and single items, for example; beds and fridges. The hotspots are also used by tradesmen and the council have found builders' waste fly-tipped.

The council suspect that householders and businesses are responsible for the fly-tipping at these hotspots as well as individuals and businesses from outside the borough.

Prevention and detection have proven to be difficult by normal investigation methods carried out by enforcement officers. Enforcement can be limited to where documentary evidence (leading to the person responsible) is present, this is not always possible with items such as sofas, building materials and white goods.

## The Intervention

The aim of this project was to maximise the councils' chances of catching offenders by introducing CCTV cameras to gather sufficient evidence and reduce the areas within the locations where waste could be fly-tipped by implementing earth bunding to limit access for vehicles to stop in laybys. This in turn would create 'capture zones' by driving any potential offenders to the laybys covered by the CCTV. The council wanted to improve the aesthetics of the area to help change behaviours by encouraging residents to dispose of their waste responsibly.

**Layby Earth Bunding:** The council used internal grounds contractors and hired a small mini digger to implement earth bunding between 1-4 laybys (located on council/highway land) within hotspots to prevent vehicles being able to stop or pull into them. This limited the potential spots for fly-tips to occur. The installation was easy however the council found that one layby was preventing parking for residents, and they had to remove the bunding permanently; this layby was monitored, and no fly-tips occurred.



**CCTV:** The council purchased covert CCTV cameras and installed two at each hotspot location giving two areas of coverage. The cameras were strategically placed to maximise capturing offenders and have night vision capability. The cameras covered a layby without earth bunding to catch any offenders who want to chance fly-tipping. The CCTV unit and battery are buried in undergrowth, and the camera lens is hidden within trees and bushes.

The council have used this type of CCTV for the past eight years and confirm they are easy to use and produce good quality images. The cameras are accessible by remote technology and officers will be tasked to check the hotspot locations on a daily basis. Should any offenders be caught, they will be dealt with by the council's enforcement officers and processed in the normal way.

**Signage:** The council installed signage at each hotspot warning residents that the area is monitored by CCTV to comply with CCTV policy and to reiterate that fly-tipping is a crime. The signs were placed at each end of the road and within the laybys where possible. The sign also has a picture of eyes to highlight the sense that somebody is watching them.



**Enforcement Patrols:** Separate to grant funding, the council increased officer patrols within the hotspot areas including 'out of hours' monitoring up to midnight each night to detect any offences within the same day. If any waste is found upon inspection, the officers will search for evidence and arrange removal of the waste as soon as possible to reduce and prevent other waste being added to it.

**Partnership Working:** The council worked with a variety of partners to ensure a successful project, including enforcement officers, South Yorkshire Police and Street Cleansing Services.

## The Result

Hotspot 1,3 and 4 have seen a slight reduction in fly-tipping incidents since introducing the interventions. The council also recognise that the evidence captured by CCTV provides more accurate data therefore the pre-intervention data may not reflect the severity of the fly-tipping incidents. Enforcement Officers have reported a noticeable difference in the reduction of incidents at these locations.

Hotspot 2 saw a slight increase of fly-tipping incidents during the post-intervention monitoring period. After the council reviewed the data, it appeared that more than 50% of the fly-tipped waste at this hotspot was drug waste from cannabis cultivations. Rotherham Police have been active throughout 2023 in combatting cultivations which has seen an increase in cannabis waste fly-tipped across the borough; this might have impacted the result.

Location	Intervention	Pre-Intervention Monitoring	Post-Intervention Monitoring	Results
<b>Hotspot 1</b> <b>Brampton Lane</b>	CCTV, Signage & Layby Bunding	4 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023-22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2023	3 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023-23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	<b>28% Decrease</b>
<b>Hotspot 2</b> <b>Long Lane</b>	CCTV, Signage & Layby Bunding	4 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023-22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2023	5 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023-23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	<b>22% Increase</b>
<b>Hotspot 3</b> <b>Thrybergh Lane</b>	CCTV, Signage & Layby Bunding	13 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023-22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2023	9 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023-23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	<b>36% Decrease</b>
<b>Hotspot 4</b> <b>Wood Lane</b>	CCTV, Signage & Layby Bunding	3 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023-22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2023	2 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023-23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	<b>40% Decrease</b>

**Data Source:** Street Pride, Customer, Cleansing Operative and Enforcement Officer reports

## Other Relevant Data

**Enforcement:** Since introducing the interventions, the council has issued 4 FPN's as a result of images captured on the CCTV. The council will only issue an FPN if they have evidence captured on CCTV, the perpetrator will be invited in for an interview, shown the CCTV footage, admit the crime and an FPN will be issued.

## Feedback

### What went well?

The project has been a success in reducing fly-tips at the chosen hotspot locations. By reducing the number of laybys and changing the layout of the hotspot locations the council have seen an impact on residents' behaviour towards fly-tipping. Community feedback has also been positive.

The introduction of new signage and increasing officer patrols also gives the impression that the council are aware of the problem and are taking steps to tackle it. The warning of CCTV in operation seems to have created a feeling that offenders may get caught and may think twice about fly-tipping.

The council are intending to continue with this project and introduce the interventions to different hotspot locations. The street cleansing team have recently procured a mini digger to assist with layby bunding and the CCTV purchased through the grant scheme will be moved to new locations.

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

It is important that officers are trained correctly in installing covert CCTV so that it cannot be seen by any potential fly-tippers. The council invited other councils to meet the team and offered training through the Yorkshire and Humberside Environmental Enforcement Group (YEEG) which was successfully received by members, sharing best practices with neighbouring authorities is definitely beneficial.

## **Equipment Inventory**

Item	Supplier	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Value
Hard drives	VIPA UK	985.00	8	£7,880.00
CCTV Camera Lens	VIPA UK	295.00	8	£2,360.00
Infrared lights for CCTV	VIPA UK	495.00	4	£1,980.00
Lithium Batteries	Baruch Enterprises Ltd	320.36	20	£6,407.36
Signage with eyes	Hurst Signs	200.00	10	£2,000.00
Ground Works (Layby Bunding)	Contractors	n/a	4 locations	£5,187.28

## 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.