

## **Working in partnership to combat fly-tipping – National Trust, Bedfordshire**

Working with the local authority and the police, a National Trust estate in Bedfordshire removed dumped tyres from an area physically accessible only by Land Rover. They saved approximately £500 as the district council, at the request of the police, took all the tyres away. The National Trust Property Manager identified that builders' rubble and other construction waste has been the most common type of fly-tipped material.

*“Our worst experience was when 15 lorry loads of material was dumped in two of our car parks.”*

Abandoned vehicles, sometimes the target of arsonists, have also been a problem. However, the Community Safety Partnership was very effective in dealing with abandoned vehicles. As part of their 'Environment Action Days', the combination of police, district council and Fire Service personnel removed and destroyed hundreds, if not thousands, of vehicles which would otherwise have ended up on National Trust sites around Bedfordshire. In 2002 the National Trust took the decision to erect height barriers and since then has had very little fly-tipping other than small quantities of garden clippings and the occasional dumping of car parts. The three barriers cost 3,000 each to buy and install. The Trust's county council partners have paid for two more barriers to be installed at two other sites.

There is one drawback for the region in that, since the district councils have taken to using CCTV in hotspots, field gates and laybys in the immediate area still suffer from fly-tipping with farmers' fields in particular taking the brunt. However, despite there being quite regular fly-tipping in the area up to 2002/2003, the rate of incidence has gone down and this could be attributable to everyone's efforts to deal with fly-tipping quickly and to making the public aware that the dumping of rubbish is unacceptable.