

Being alert to potential evidence – National Trust

The National Trust does not carry out prosecutions itself but has provided evidence to the Environment Agency, local authorities and the police. On one occasion, a warden filmed a flytipping incident and the video footage was used in a successful prosecution. The Trust encourages staff to collect information on any flytipping incidents where they can, and has also held training sessions for its countryside staff in connection with the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency delivered some training to the Estate Team on what they should do if they see someone flytipping and the kind of details they should collect in order to document an incident and to support a potential case as evidence. The Estate Team found the training very useful and thought it was good to forge relationships with the Environment Agency to combat flytipping. Staff are now vigilant about noting registration numbers of suspicious vehicles and take photographs where necessary. Every flytipping incident is recorded – date, times, location, volume, type of waste, crime numbers, staff time involved etc.

A volunteer found some flytipping in a car park near a National Trust visitor centre – it was several huge loads of chalk and clay. An architect's drawing was found near the waste. The findings were passed onto the police who followed it up and the architect associated with the project was fined £1,500.

For the National Trust it is a challenge to implement preventative measures against flytippers, while trying not to deter visitors from visiting National Trust countryside. Local councils have contacted the Trust and offered to install CCTV surveillance if flytipping is a regular problem. CCTV has been used in lanes outside an estate and this has led to success in reducing flytipping. The Trust has raised the profile of flytipping issues locally by holding talks and providing articles in the local paper.