

Spy cameras to catch fly-tippers



Signs have been put up warning of the hidden cameras

Hidden spy cameras are to be used in country lay-bys in an attempt to catch fly-tippers in the act.

Oxfordshire County Council bosses warn they will also be using the covert cameras on industrial estates, rural lanes and other public areas.

They say the action could save the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of pounds in clean-up costs each year.

Illegal dumpers caught and prosecuted could face unlimited fines or even a prison sentence of up to two years.

Tony de Vere, chairman of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, said: "The message to potential offenders is that we will prosecute."

"There is simply no excuse for fly-tipping."

The county council's fly-tipping enforcement officer, Mark Leonard, said: "What people should know is that the county's local authorities and other agencies will be sharing intelligence and that we will prosecute offenders."

"Cameras will also be offered to support other community partnership initiatives designed to tackle anti-social behaviours, such as littering and abandoning vehicles, or even to catch graffiti-taggers."

The council is already introducing CCTV cameras at all of the county's waste recycling centres in an attempt to stop fly-tipping and vandals.

“ **The potential savings to taxpayers are many times greater than the costs involved** ”

Council spokesman