# Countryfile highlights alarming rise in fly-tipping across English countryside



Viewers of the BBC programme Countryfile were left deeply concerned following a recent episode that highlighted the troubling rise of fly-tipping in the English countryside. The episode, aired on Sunday, 27 April, featured presenter Datshiane Navanayagam investigating the impact of illegal waste dumping on rural communities, a subject that clearly resonated with the audience.

The episode began with presenters Margherita Taylor and Joe Crowley exploring the Forest of Bowland to experience the sights and sounds of spring. However, the focus soon shifted to a more distressing issue when Margherita introduced the alarming increase in fly-tipping, saying, "Fly tipping is unfortunately something we see far too often in our countryside and last year, the overall number of incidents soared." She emphasised the financial burden, noting that the costs of clearing up illegal rubbish dumping were running into millions for farmers and local councils.

Datshiane Navanayagam then delved into the problem, revealing the scale of the situation with recent government statistics showing over 1.15 million fly-tipping incidents in England during 2023-2024, marking a 6% increase on the previous year. She also pointed out that fly-tipping on farms had risen by nearly 2%. However, she highlighted that these figures might only represent a fraction of the reality, as many incidents on farms and private lands remain unreported.

Speaking to farmers affected by the problem, Datshiane met with cereal farmer Evie Hunter, who disclosed a shocking discovery on her land. Last month, Evie found more than 40 tonnes of fly-tipped waste dumped in one of her fields. The debris included sinks, doors, toilets, showers, and food waste. Reflecting on the impact, Evie said, "[I felt] disrespected, angry, it feels like farmers are being hit from all angles at the minute and when something like this happens, it's all too much."

The episode prompted an outpouring of reaction on social media, with viewers expressing their dismay at the environmental consequences of fly-tipping in rural areas. Comments included, "Fly tipping is disgusting and sad for the wildlife," and "Really sad that people dump rubbish in the Countryside, bad enough in cities like London etc." Another viewer addressed the complex issues facing farmers, stating, "Typical. Blame and criminalise the farmers for burying fly-tipping waste instead of acknowledging why they're forced to do this."

Countryfile’s coverage brought attention to a widespread and escalating environmental and financial challenge affecting the English countryside, inviting a broader discussion about the causes and consequences of illegal waste dumping. The programme is available to stream on BBC iPlayer for those wishing to view the full report.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.countryfile.com/countryfile-tv-show/where-is-countryfile-visiting-this-week-and-what-time-is-it-on-bbc1> - Confirms BBC Countryfile's broadcast schedule and availability on BBC iPlayer, corroborating the episode's accessibility mentioned in the article.
2. <https://www.countryfile.com/environment/fly-tipping-reaches-record-high> - Provides government statistics showing 1.15 million fly-tipping incidents in England (2023/24), verifying the 6% increase and unreported cases on private land discussed in the episode.
3. <https://www.imdb.com/news/ni65231381/> - References the BBC Countryfile episode focus on British countryside issues, aligning with the article's description of content structure and presenter involvement.
4. <https://gb.readly.com/magazines/bbc-countryfile-magazine/2025-04-17/67ee6a58ec14e1ba00b332e2> - Discusses environmental topics covered by BBC Countryfile Magazine, supporting the program's broader focus on rural issues like fly-tipping.
5. <https://www.countryfile.com/environment/fly-tipping-reaches-record-high> - Details CLA survey results showing 90% of rural businesses affected by fly-tipping, confirming the financial and operational impacts described by farmers in the episode.
6. <https://www.countryfile.com/environment/fly-tipping-reaches-record-high> - Corroborates the article's claim about the discrepancy between official statistics and actual fly-tipping occurrences on private land.
7. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/tv/bbc-countryfile-viewers-left-speechless-31520992> - Please view link - unable to able to access data