

# Cracking down on **WASTE CRIME**

## Waste crime report 2012-2013

Regional data

Version 1, October 2013

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment and make it a better place for people and wildlife.

We operate at the place where environmental change has its greatest impact on people's lives. We reduce the risks to people and properties from flooding; make sure there is enough water for people and wildlife; protect and improve air, land and water quality and apply the environmental standards within which industry can operate.

Acting to reduce climate change and helping people and wildlife adapt to its consequences are at the heart of all that we do.

We cannot do this alone. We work closely with a wide range of partners including government, business, local authorities, other agencies, civil society groups and the communities we serve.

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# Introduction

Waste crime has an impact on people and the environment. It blights communities and causes pollution. People who handle waste illegally do not invest in appropriate safeguards and can dispose of waste more cheaply than legitimate waste contractors. They undercut legitimate business, reduce tax receipts and pose a direct threat to sustainable growth in the waste sector. Between April 2012 and March 2013, we stopped nearly 1,300 illegal waste sites - mainly by closing them, but also in some cases by bringing them into regulation. On average that's one every 90 minutes of our working week - our best performance yet.

Our national report, *Cracking down on waste crime*, details how we've tackled illegal waste sites and illegal dumping during 2012-2013. This report breaks down the national data, as shown on the map below.

[Find out more about the geographical areas our regions cover](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/organisation/35673.aspx)  
(<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/organisation/35673.aspx>)

**Figure 1: Environment Agency regions and ceremonial counties**



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# Illegal waste sites

At the end of March 2013, we were aware of 820 active illegal waste sites. These are shown in figure 2 below.

**Figure 2: active illegal waste sites, March 2013**

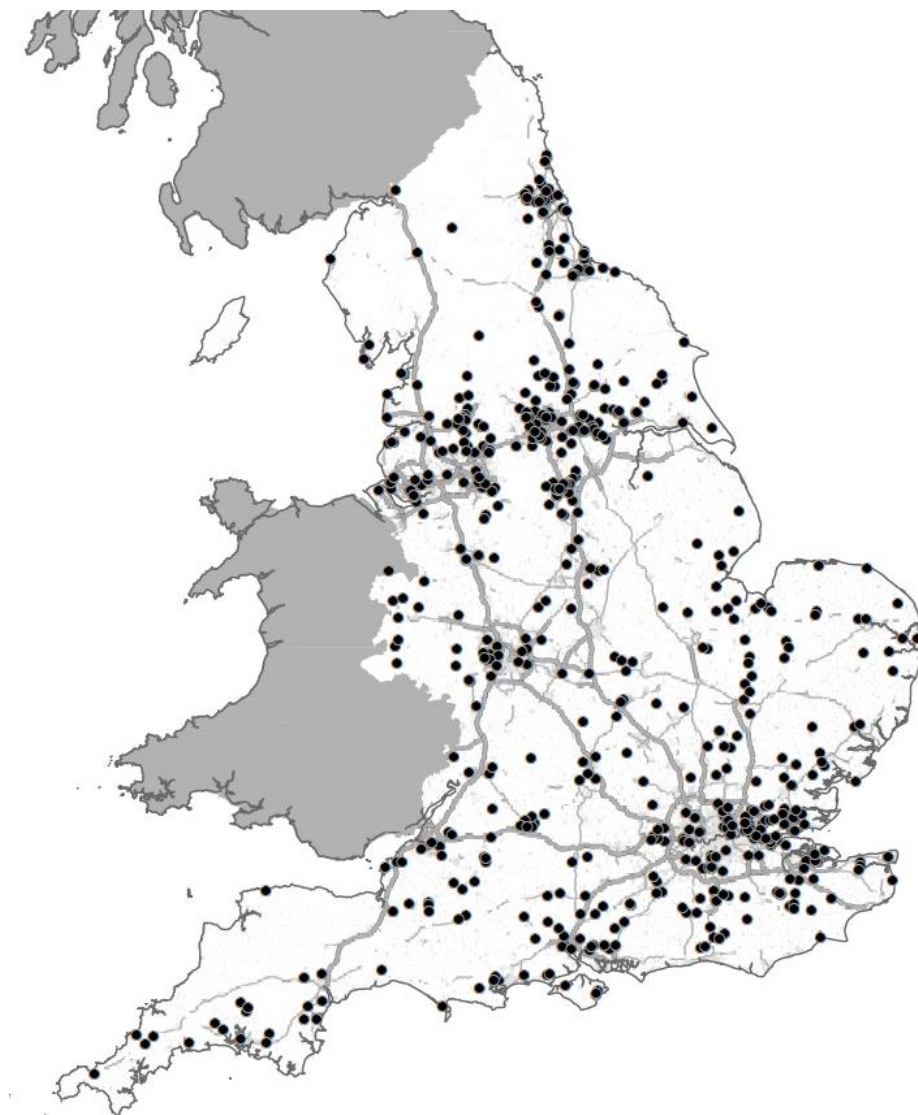
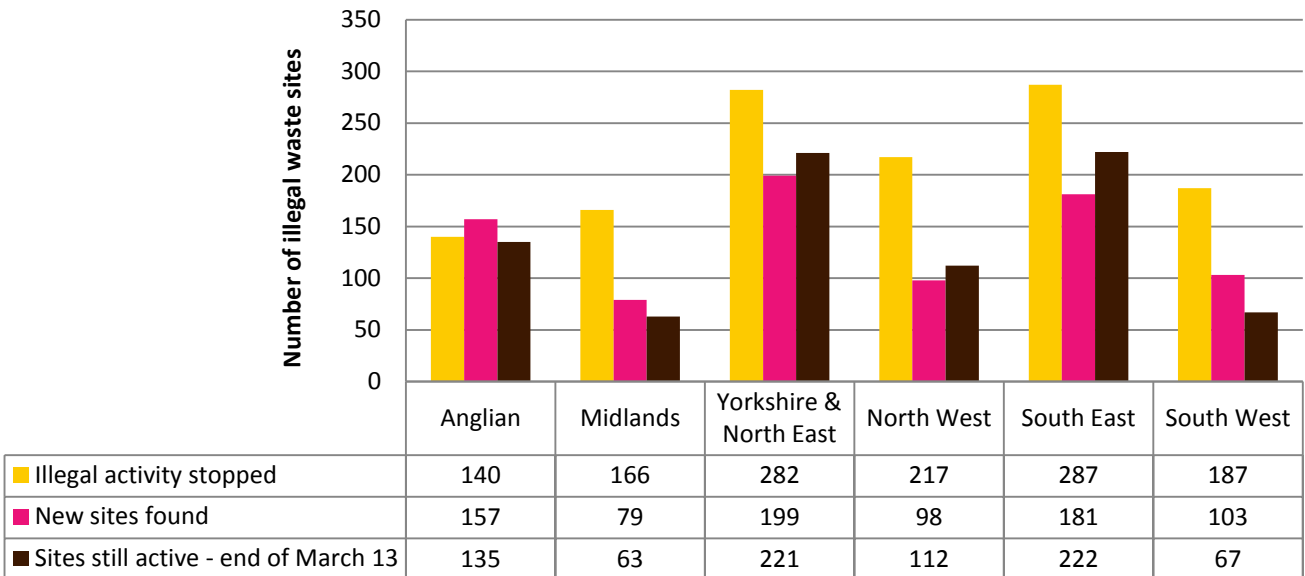


Figure 3 shows the number of illegal waste sites we stopped, new sites we found and sites that were still active for each region in 2012-2013

**Figure 3: illegal waste sites 2012-2013 for each region**

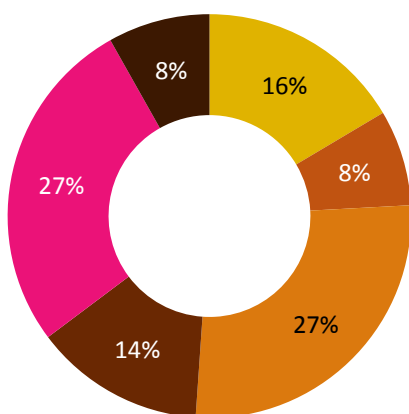


We stop illegal activity in two ways - either the site is closed or we bring it into regulation by issuing a permit or exemption.

New sites are not necessarily sites which have recently opened; they are sites we have found which are new to our database.

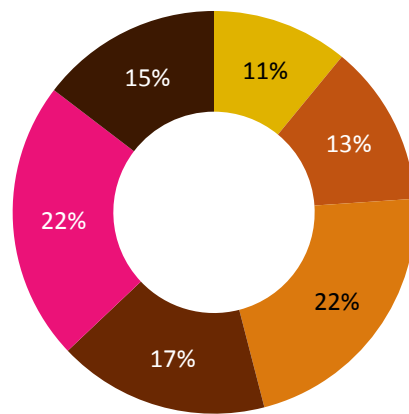
Figure 4 shows the proportion of active illegal waste sites in each region. Figure 5 shows the proportion of sites where illegal activity was stopped in each region.

**Figure 4: percentage of active illegal waste sites by region March 2013**



■ Anglian                      ■ Midlands  
■ Yorkshire & North East   ■ North West  
■ South East                      ■ South West

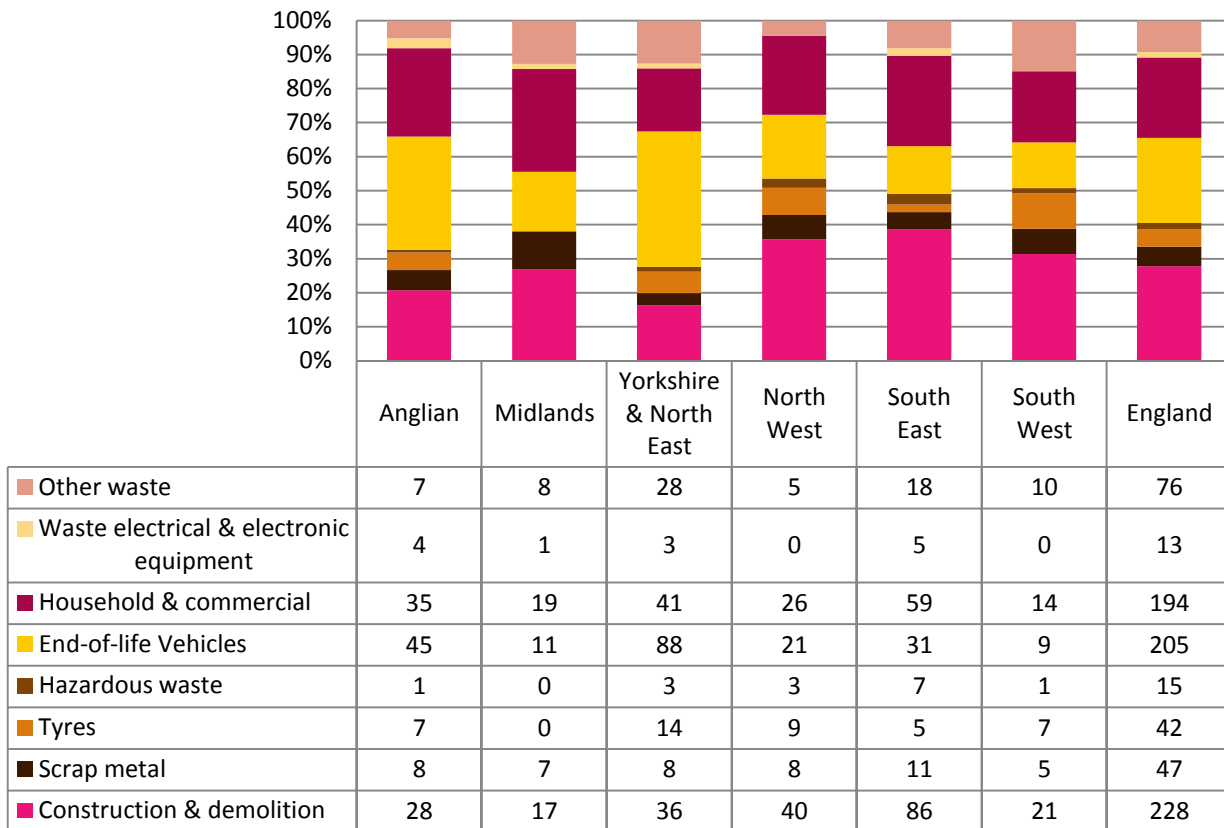
**Figure 5: percentage of stopped illegal waste sites by region 2012-2013**



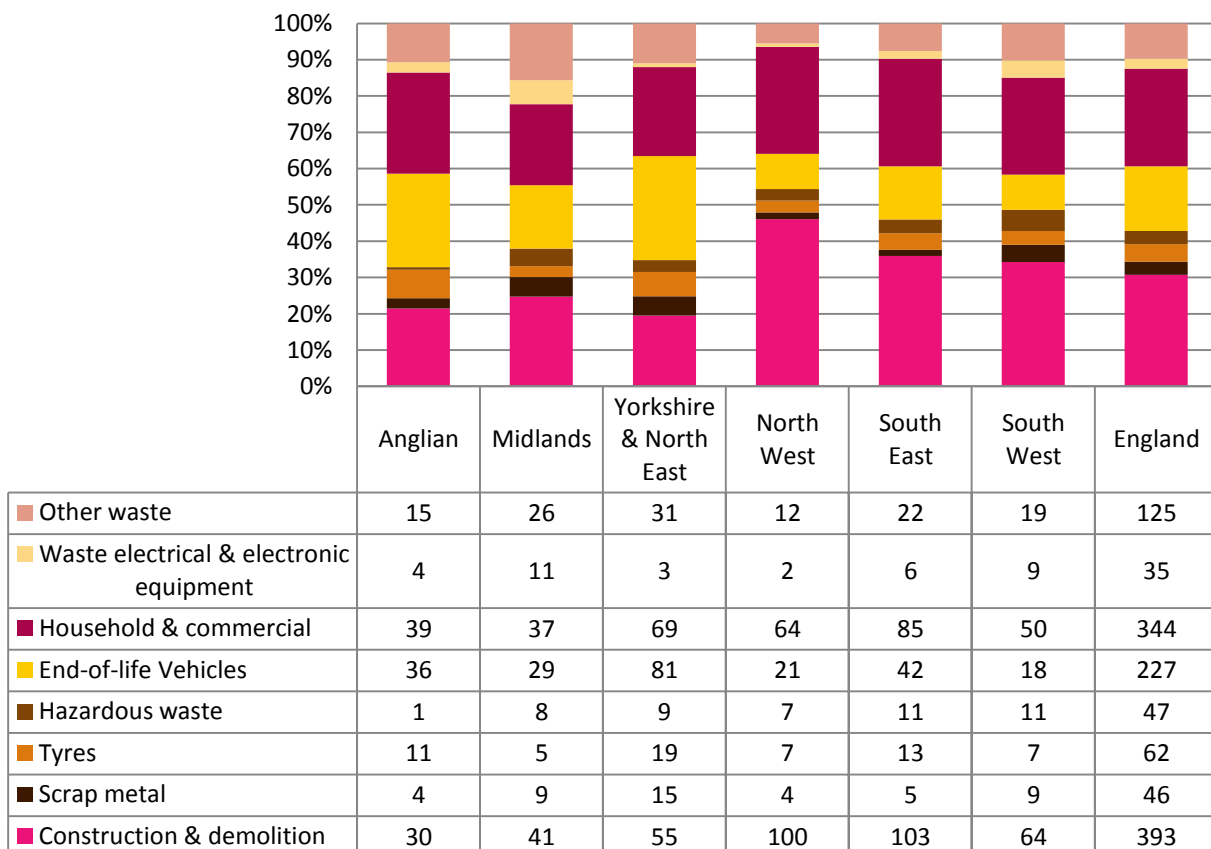
■ Anglian                      ■ Midlands  
■ Yorkshire & North East   ■ North West  
■ South East                      ■ South West

Figures 6 and 7 show the percentage of active sites and sites where illegal activity has stopped, by region for each waste type.

**Figure 6: illegal waste sites active at end of March 2013 (by waste type)**



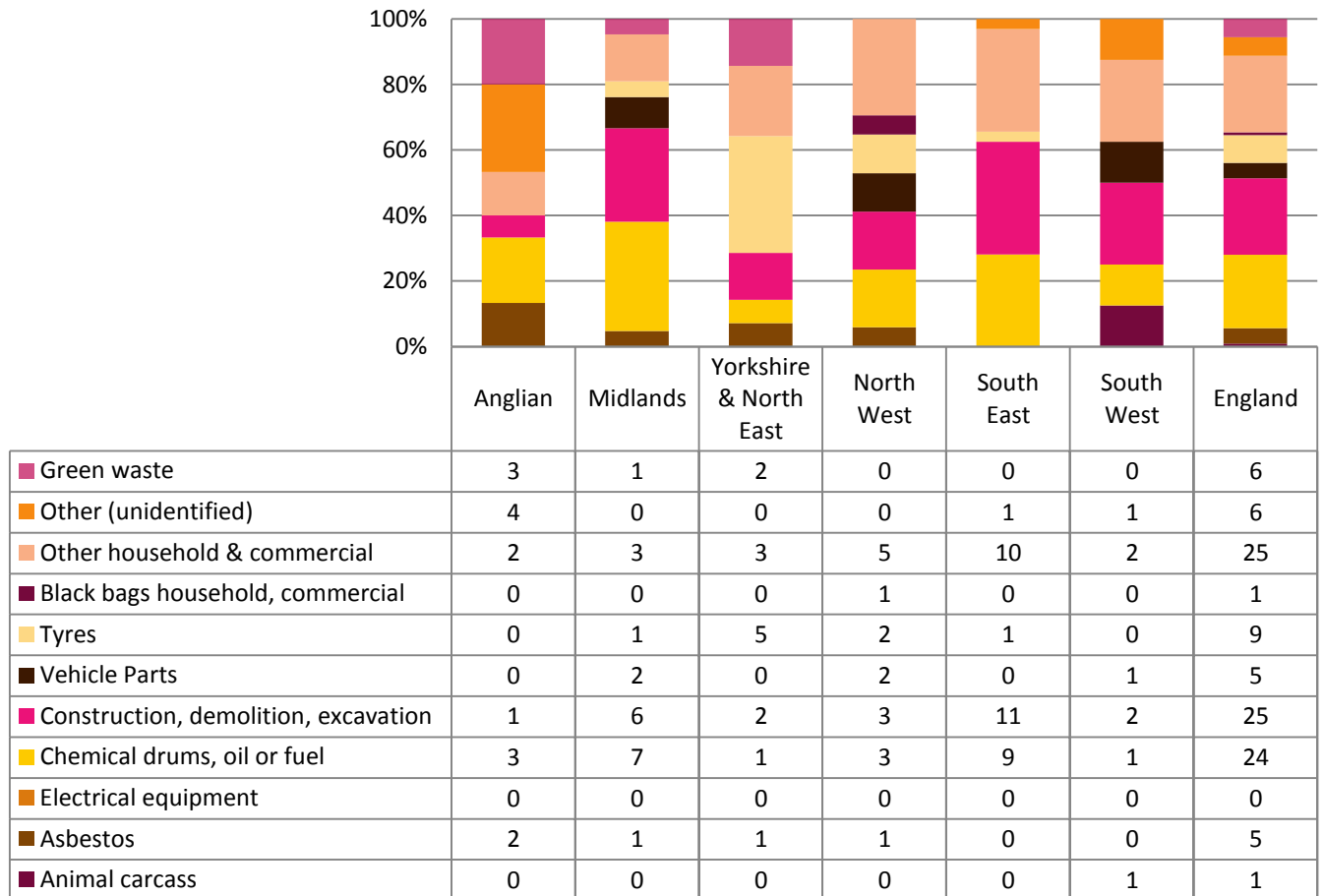
**Figure 7: illegal sites where illegal activity was stopped during 2012-2013 (by waste type)**



# Illegal dumping incidents

Figure 8 shows the number of illegal dumping incidents that we dealt with, by region, for each waste type. The graphs use a percentage scale to accommodate the different number ranges.

**Figure 8: illegal dumping incidents 2012-2013 (by waste type)**



# Enforcement action 2012-2013

Prosecution is the most serious of the enforcement options available to us for tackling waste crime. We therefore select who we target for prosecution carefully and use the option mainly to tackle more prolific and serious offenders.

Figure 9 below lists different enforcement actions, by region.

**Figure 9: enforcement action for England 2012-2013**

	Anglian	Midlands	Yorkshire & North East	North West	South East	South West
<b>Number of successful prosecutions</b>	39	22	38	22	34	16
<b>Formal cautions</b>	9	8	13	15	5	12
<b>Total fines</b>	£145,955	£181,055	£103,720	£92,760	£262,500	£41,950
Highest Fine	£34,985	£75,000	£12,000	£35,000	£45,000	£15,000
Number of fines	29	16	23	14	27	7
<b>Penalties</b>	Custodial sentence	1	0	3	1	0
	Suspended custodial sentence	2	3	5	4	0
	Other penalty (see below *)	7	3	7	3	7

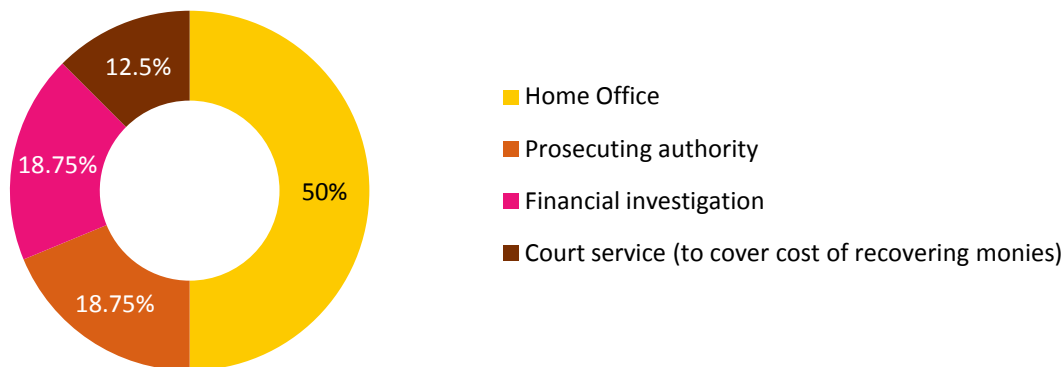
\* Other penalties include: Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) Regulation 44 Order; Remediation Order; Community Service Order; Probation; Supervision Order; Injunction; Curfew Order; Confiscation Order; Conditional Discharge; and Absolute Discharge.

The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) has given courts the ability to remove offenders' assets when they have been gained from crime. We believe POCA can have a considerable impact on any waste crime offender - possibly more than the conviction and sentence.

The amount that a convicted offender must pay is known as a confiscation order. It is based on the amount the court believes has been generated by the defendant's criminal conduct. The defendant must pay the confiscation order amount (although they can appeal) and will serve a prison sentence if they don't pay. Once the sentence has been served, they still have to pay the full cost of the order. The proceeds of the confiscation order are shared between a number of bodies according to a formula specified in the Act. The division of the monies recovered is shown in Figure 10.



**Figure 10: how POCA monies are distributed**



If we prosecute and undertake the financial investigation, we receive 37.5% of any money collected.

**Figure 11: Proceeds of Crime Act orders (POCA) 2012-13**

	Anglian	Midlands	Yorkshire & North East	North West	South East	South West
<b>Orders made by the court</b>	4	0	0	3	5	0
<b>Benefit figure agreed by the court</b>	£3,695,768	£0	£0	£1,092,349	£3,581,652	£0
<b>Confiscation order amount</b>	£152,622	£0	£0	£80,002	£1,108,652	£0
<b>Expected income to the Environment Agency</b>	£57,233	£0	£0	£30,001	£415,745	£0

The regional breakdown for POCA indicates that some regions have not had much success with these orders; however, there are ongoing cases in all regions.

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