

Why are we contacting you?

Following the significant fly nuisance that affected the village of West Dereham and surrounding area during July, we are updating you on the actions we and the Glazewing site have taken to mitigate the situation.

Background

We regulate the site through an environmental permit (number EPR-JP3799ND). The permit allows the site to take in a variety of wastes, including general business (black bag) waste and waste animal feed destined for anaerobic digestion. Both waste types present an environment where flies can breed. However, if the wastes are not stored for longer than the fly life-cycle (egg to adult), there should be no opportunity for an infestation to take hold.

We believe the species observed on site was the common housefly. The life-cycle of the common housefly is dependent on the temperature of the environment (i.e. the waste) where the eggs are laid. When the environment reaches 30°C it takes 10 days for an egg to develop into an adult regardless of the air temperature.

What are we doing?

During July we received several dozen complaints of fly nuisances from residents living near the site. Where we could do so we contacted each of those residents directly to make them aware of how we were dealing with the complaints. We also visited 3 residents to see first-hand the impact the flies were causing.

As part of our regulation of the site, we visited Glazewing 4 times in July to give them advice about what measures to take to eliminate the fly population.

After seeing evidence that flies were breeding in the general business waste and waste animal feed we directed Glazewing to remove stocks of both waste types from site as soon as possible.

What is Glazewing doing?

In response to the first reports of a fly nuisance Glazewing staff began spraying the site with insecticide several times daily. However, this seemed to have little impact on the presence of flies.

Following our advice to completely remove the offending waste types, Glazewing cleared their stocks of both the general business waste and waste animal feed from site.

As of our last visit to the site on 17 August Glazewing had not taken in any further loads of waste animal feed. Although it is still processing loads of general business waste, it has developed a system for "turning" the waste so that the oldest loads are the first to leave site. It has also assured us that they will not store loads of this waste type at the site for more than 48 hours.

Reporting fly nuisances

We visited Glazewing on 01 August and observed that the population of flies on site had all but disappeared.

Although most adult flies stay close to their breeding site, some will disperse and may cause problems. Houseflies are capable of dispersing over distances of several kilometres. Dispersal appears greater in calm, warm weather but tends to drop off outside of a 2-3km radius from the source. The most significant problems will be observed within 500m of the source.

We hope residents have noticed a decrease in the problem by now. However, we will continue to log incidents of further fly nuisances or noticeable changes in the local fly population. If you wish to make a report, please contact our 24-hour hotline:
0800 80 70 60.