

1. SUMMARY

1.1 CPRE has long been a leading voice in the campaign against light pollution. We have a special interest in this issue: darkness at night is one of the key characteristics of rural areas and represents a major difference between what is rural and what is urban. CPRE works closely with the British Astronomical Association’s Campaign for Dark Skies.

1.2 An increasing number of local authorities are taking action to control artificial light, e.g. by producing planning guidance on lighting or by running street light dimming or switch-off schemes. The first ever planning policy to control light pollution was introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and encourages local authorities to use their planning policies and decisions to reduce light pollution. In March 2014, the Government published National Planning Practice Guidance which included further advice for local authorities on considering light pollution in their area.

2. TOP TIPS

- Use the greater recognition of light pollution issues in the NPPF to encourage your local authority to adopt policies to reduce the impact of lighting in the countryside.
- When local plans are being prepared use consultation and public examination opportunities to raise the issue. Press for inclusion of a specific policy requiring detailed consideration of lighting schemes and impacts in dealing with planning applications.
- When lobbying the local authority to adopt a general policy on light pollution, suggest they prepare a good practice guidance document. Give examples of such documents and use case illustrations.

3. CHANGES AT A GLANCE

PRE REFORM PLANNING POLICY	LOCALISM ACT / NPPF / PLANNING PRACTICE GUIDANCE (PPG)
Supplementary design guidance may usefully include advice about matters such as lighting, where these are likely to have a significant impact on the character or quality of the existing environment (PPS1).	Paragraph 125: “By encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.” PPG provides further detail.
Local planning authorities should seek adequate information as a basis for making decisions on applications involving the installation of floodlights and that permission may be subject to conditions e.g. limiting the hours when lights are switched on, or installing shields (PPG17).	The PPG encourages good design for all kinds of lighting schemes, including those requiring high levels of lighting.
Local planning authorities can take account of the possible obtrusive impact of lighting in preparing local plan policies (PPS23).	PPG provides more detail on this issue.

PLANNING CAMPAIGN BRIEFING SERIES:

1. Development Plans
2. Green Belts
3. Housing
4. Energy Infrastructure
5. Transport
6. Heritage and Design
7. Light Pollution
8. Rural Economy
9. Economic Development and Town Centres
10. Wider Countryside and Protected Areas
11. Tranquillity
12. Minerals

We welcome case studies and feedback to inform future versions of these briefings.

(E mail to info@cpre.org.uk)

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The purpose of this briefing is to assist understanding of reforms to the town and country planning system that have taken place since 2011. It outlines the main changes and the issues to be aware of (What issues are you likely to face?) and advises on specific campaign topics (Campaign Advice).

4.2 CPRE is keen to ensure that our precious countryside continues to be protected and valued, and to highlight significant threats to it where they arise. We will collect evidence of outcomes (good and bad), in the form of cases that illustrate the issues we highlight. We welcome assistance with this, as well as feedback on the briefing.

5. WHAT ISSUES ARE YOU LIKELY TO FACE?

5.1 What the NPPF may mean in practice: Local authorities are advised in paragraph 125 of the NPPF that *'By encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.'* While this is a step in the right direction, a recent CPRE survey¹ of local authorities revealed that only 12% had a new policy on lighting due to the NPPF (six out of 49). It remains to be seen whether the NPPF will have a wide-ranging impact on planning policies and decisions that relate to lighting. The previous planning system specifically supported supplementary planning guidance on lighting, a thorough approach to planning applications that involved floodlighting and the consideration of the obtrusive impacts of lighting when preparing local plan policies. Of course, even with the previous planning provisions, the approach to lighting and light pollution varied between local authorities. Arguably, the NPPF leaves it more open to local authorities to take differing approaches to dealing with light pollution, which may result in some local authorities being stronger on light pollution control (e.g. Norfolk County Council and Huntingdonshire District Council) than others. This provides an opportunity for local CPRE groups to step in to raise awareness about light pollution and make suggestions about how it can be more effectively controlled through the planning system.

5.2 How the changes may affect existing local authority policies: Localism provides a greater opportunity for local authorities to advance their policy priorities. CPRE's first objective should be to ensure that important and effective existing policy and guidance is not lost in the process of preparing the new local plans. One area that needs careful consideration in this respect is the future role and status of supplementary planning guidance. The concept of 'supplementary planning guidance' has been overtaken by the more formal Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) which have a specific status in the planning system (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). The NPPF (para. 153) suggests that SPD 'should only be used where clearly justified' and 'where they can help applicants make successful applications, or aid infrastructure delivery'. They 'should not be used to add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development'. This limits flexibility and it is important to check that older guidance documents on external lighting or street lighting policies are not devalued or omitted in an updated local plan. Under the NPPF there is a risk that use of SPD to cover lighting policy might be challenged by development interests in an appeal situation. It is likely to be necessary to press for the inclusion of detailed policy in the plan itself to ensure appropriate weighting in the decision-making process is secured. See Annex A for existing local examples of lighting policies. Older guidance documents

¹ CPRE [Shedding light - a survey of local authority approaches to lighting in England](#) (April 2014)

may then have a continued value in supporting the policy on technical detail and good practice. Ideally, however, such guidance should be updated to reflect that role.

5.3 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): the section on light pollution sets out how the Government defines the link between lighting and planning:

‘Artificial light provides valuable benefits to society, including through extending opportunities for sport and recreation, and can be essential to a new development. Equally, artificial light is not always necessary, has the potential to become what is termed ‘light pollution’ or ‘obtrusive light’ and not all modern lighting is suitable in all locations. It can be a source of annoyance to people, harmful to wildlife, undermine enjoyment of the countryside or detract from enjoyment of the night sky. For maximum benefit, the best use of artificial light is about getting the right light, in the right place and providing light at the right time.

Lighting schemes can be costly and difficult to change, so getting the design right and setting appropriate conditions at the planning stage is important. In particular, some types of premises (including prisons, airports and transport depots where high levels of light may be required for safety and security reasons) are exempt from the statutory nuisance regime for artificial light, so it is even more important to get the lighting design for these premises right at the outset’

5.4 The PPG goes on to explore which factors should be considered when assessing whether a development proposal might have implications for light pollution and which factors are relevant when considering where, when and how much the light shines and possible ecological impacts. We hope that it will encourage more local authorities to address light pollution by adopting effective local planning policies in their local plans and associated local guidance.

5.5 In April 2014, we published [Shedding light: a survey of local authority approaches to lighting in England](#). The report was based on responses from the 83 local authorities that took part in a survey earlier this year and looks at lighting as part of the local planning process (e.g. new development), street light switch-off or dimming schemes and what street lighting is used in new developments or replacement schemes. The report (available from <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/dark-skies/item/3608-shedding-light>) also looks at crime and street lighting. The headline facts of the report are in a short info-graphic [slide show](#).

5.6 The report makes nine recommendations including: preserving dark skies by having a presumption against new lighting in existing dark areas; allocating lighting zones to help determine where streetlights should and should not go; and preventing inappropriate and badly designed lighting of development that masks views of the night sky.

5.7 Although many residents welcome street light dimming/switch-off schemes, there will also be some people who are concerned about perceived levels of safety and an increase in crime. CPRE’s latest research showed that, according to councils, 68% of communities were ‘very supportive’ of street light dimming schemes, compared to 10% who were very supportive of switch-off schemes. None of the councils who responded to our survey said that crime increased with reduced lighting, but that they monitored crime and accident statistics and worked closely with local police.

6. CAMPAIGN ADVICE

6.1 Opportunities to influence the local authority: If you already have contact with your district local authorities about light pollution, then you can request a meeting to discuss how they may improve their approach to lighting on the basis of the policy in the NPPF. They are likely to welcome ideas about how the NPPF policy could be implemented in their local plan. Refer to good practice in other areas and make specific policy suggestions where possible (see recommendations in *Shedding Light*). You could provide local examples of where an effective lighting policy could have minimised light pollution. Use formal local plan consultation and the public examination opportunities to follow up on this. Encourage local planning authorities and highway authorities to work together to reduce the light pollution impact of street lighting design and standards in new development. At a county/unitary level, you could request a meeting to discuss their approach to street lighting - see relevant recommendations in the *Shedding light* report.

6.2 At district level, you can encourage your local authority to introduce a policy to control light pollution in their local plan, which requires the lighting impact of any new development, or changes to lighting of an existing development, to be scrutinised at the planning application stage. Badly designed or over-lit schemes should be refused. For major development schemes scoping for environmental assessment should always include an assessment of light pollution. Good examples of existing local plan policies can be found in Annex A.

6.3 At county/unitary level, the local authority could also be encouraged to prepare a Street Lighting Policy, which could include Environmental Lighting Zones to ensure that the appropriate lighting levels are used in each zone, with very strict requirements applying in identified dark areas. A Street Lighting Policy would set out the management of street lighting throughout the county and could include details of part-night and dimming schemes.

6.4 Local authorities can be pressed to develop detailed technical guidance on lighting for various land uses, such as lighting in advertisements, commercial developments, decorative building lighting and sports facilities (see case study from Huntingdonshire District Council). For street lighting, technical details could be set out in a Street Lighting Policy.

6.5 Local authorities with responsibility for street lighting (the highway authority, which is usually the County Council, where the authority is not unitary) could set targets for replacing all their street and road lights with less light polluting types, such as full cut off flat glass lamps. They could consider reducing the number of road and street lights in over-lit areas as part of any replacement programme and test new lighting 'in situ' before a lighting scheme is rolled out to ensure it does not cause a nuisance to residents. They could also use solar powered LED studs instead of street lighting on rural roads, and consider introducing street light dimming/switch-off trials in their area. Policies can also require that consultation takes place with local residents when installing any new street lighting. Good examples of street lighting policies can be found in Annex B.

6.6 Light pollution maps: In 2003, CPRE published the *Night Blight!* report which was based on light pollution maps of the UK in 1993 and 2000. The maps revealed that light pollution in England increased by 26% between during that time. The CPRE light pollution maps have been extremely popular and are still used by local authorities, media, in site management plans, and in various good practice publications. We are hoping to secure funding to commission up to date light pollution maps. Refer to the existing data in your campaigns: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/dark-skies>



6.7 Lighting and the law: Some forms of lighting became a statutory nuisance under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (CN&E Act). This applies to ‘artificial light emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance’. Local authorities have a duty to investigate complaints and this can encourage them to address the issue in their policies so that potential problems in new development are addressed before nuisance issues arise. The existence of good quality, technical guidance locally can also help with nuisance issues from existing uses. A detailed explanation of the CN&E Act and the full text can be found on the Campaign for Dark Skies website: <http://www.britastro.org/dark-skies/cleanact.html> CPRE has also published ‘[Light pollution as a Statutory Nuisance: A 'how to' guide](#)’ which contains advice about how to deal with nuisance lighting.

6.8 A range of resources to help you plan an effective campaign, communicate your message, and encourage people to support your cause can be found on Planning Help:

<http://www.planninghelp.org.uk/improve-where-you-live/campaign-tips>

7. FURTHER INFORMATION

CPRE Resources:

7.1 General planning system advice is available at

www.planninghelp.org.uk

7.2 CPRE publications about light pollution, including *Night Blight!* maps are available:

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/dark-skies>

7.3 Lighting nuisance survey: In 2010, CPRE and the Campaign for Dark Skies (CfDS) organised a lighting nuisance survey. Almost 1,400 people took part and told us about how light pollution was affecting their lives. The headline statistics from the responses were:

- 83% had their home view of night sky blighted by light pollution;
- Half of the respondents had their sleep disrupted by light spilling in to their bedrooms;
- 68% have fitted thicker curtains;
- 71% of people had not complained to anyone about the lighting;
- Almost a quarter (24%) had complained to their local council but only 27% of those said their council had been supportive.

Main culprits:

Road lighting	89%
Domestic security lights	79%
Old street lights (>5 yrs old with orange glow)	77%
Businesses	56%
Sports grounds	53%
Supermarkets	41%

The full report of the survey is available: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/dark-skies/item/1974-lighting-nuisance-survey-2009-10-report>

7.4 Star Count Event: In 2007, 2011-2014 CPRE and the CfDS have organised Star Count events. The aim of the event is to make people think about light pollution and engage them with CPRE's campaigning on this issue. The Star Count is easy to do; we ask people to count the number of stars they can see in the Orion constellation and then enter the information on our website. We then use this data to create a Star Count map of the UK, which is comparable to previous maps. The data also shows the percentage of people who can see fewer than ten stars in the constellation, a level which indicates severe light pollution, this applied to 59% of respondents to the 2014 survey. In a truly dark sky, you should be able to count over 30 stars, which applied to only 4% of respondents. More information about the 2014 Star Counts can be found: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/3583-star-count-2014-a-dark-outlook-for-starry-skies>

Case Studies:

Norfolk County Council: CPRE Norfolk works closely with their County Council to ensure that their policies address light pollution. You can read more about the work of the branch: <http://79.170.40.235/cprenorfolk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Light-Pollution-Guidance-Notes.pdf>

Huntingdonshire District Council: Huntingdonshire District Council has strong planning policies to control the use of artificial light in the area. It has had a Supplementary Planning Guidance document 'External Artificial Lighting' since 1998 and includes a policy on obtrusive light in its draft Local Plan to 2036. The draft Plan states 'Development proposals will be required to demonstrate how a high standard of amenity for existing and future users, of both the proposed development and surroundings, will be provided for with specific reference to: *e) the potential for adverse impacts on air quality, from obtrusive light and the contamination of land, groundwater or surface water.* The policy also defines obtrusive light as '*Light pollution that includes the brightening of the night sky (sky glow), uncomfortably bright light (glare) and light spilled beyond the area being lit (light intrusion)*' (See Huntingdonshire District Council detailed case study on page 12 of *Shedding light* report)

Essex County Council: The Council was one of the first to run a street light switch-off trial; part-night lighting has been in effect in Malden and Uttlesford since early 2007. The Council is nearing completion of part-night lighting across the county, following recent public consultations. Over 70% of the 127,000 Council-owned street lights are switched off at night between midnight and 5am, with certain exceptions. The council previously spent approximately £4.6m on electricity for street lighting each year but expects that switching to part-night lighting will save approximately £1m per year. It also expects to reduce carbon emissions by over 8,000 tonnes per year. More information: <http://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/roads-and-pavements/street-lighting/part-night-lighting.aspx>

Other examples can be found in Annex A and B.

Other Useful Information:

National Planning Practice Guidance on light pollution:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/light-pollution/>

Defra: In the last few years, the Defra team who are responsible for light pollution have carried out a lot of work on this issue. You can read more about this in a Policy Update published in



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Standing up for your countryside

PLANNING CAMPAIGN BRIEFING 7 LIGHT POLLUTION (July 2014)

January 2014: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/artificial-light-in-the-environment-policy-update>

Institute of Lighting Professionals: The ILP has a range of resources on their website and of particular interest is their 'Guidance notes for the reduction of obtrusive light':
<https://www.theilp.org.uk/resources/free-resources/>

Campaign for Dark Skies: CPRE's long term partners the British Astronomical Association's Campaign for Dark Skies have a huge range of information on their website. They also have a network of Local Officers who are organised by county. Their website is: www.dark-skies.org.uk

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP): In 2009, RCEP carried out a research project 'Artificial light in the environment' and made a series of recommendations to government: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/other/9780108508547/9780108508547.pdf>

The Government responded in early 2010:
<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/nuisance/light/documents/rcep-artificial-light-report.pdf>



ANNEX A

Examples of references to light pollution in local plans

East Hampshire District Council and South Downs National Park Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2012)

CP25 Pollution

Text: Development which includes a lighting scheme will not be permitted unless the minimum amount of lighting necessary to achieve its purpose is proposed. Glare and light spillage from the site must be minimised. In determining an application, consideration will be given to the aesthetic effect of the light produced and to its effect on local residents, vehicle users, pedestrians and the visibility and appreciation of the night sky.

Notes: *Joint Core Strategy is nearing adoption*

Website:

<http://www.easthants.gov.uk/ehdc/planningpolicy.nsf/webpages/Joint+Core+Strategy+Submission>

Hinkley and Bosworth Local Plan (2001, saved policies 2007)

4.18.0 Light Pollution

Text: Light pollution is caused by excessive artificial light being directed into the night sky. Outdoor lighting can cause intrusive and unnecessary pollution in both urban and rural areas, although it is in the countryside that light pollution is most noticeable. Excessive light in the night sky is visually intrusive and is also a significant waste of energy. The visibility of the stars is much reduced by light pollution.

It is therefore important in the interests of visual amenity and energy conservation that light pollution is prevented and where possible reduced. Through good design of lighting, the reduction of light pollution should not conflict with the principles of crime prevention and safety.

POLICY BE26 - LIGHT POLLUTION

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH INCORPORATES A LIGHTING SCHEME PROVIDED THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT UNACCEPTABLY:

- a CREATE A NUISANCE TO NEARBY RESIDENTS AND/OR ROAD USERS IN TERMS OF GLARE;
- b CREATE LIGHT SPILLAGE OR UNNECESSARILY HIGH LEVELS OF LIGHT; OR
- c AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF THE AREA.

Website: http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/209/the_local_plan



South Norfolk Local Plan (2003)

Part One Section 1.2 - Controlling the Impact of Development. Section 11: Light pollution

Text: Light pollution, whether it keeps people awake by shining through a bedroom window or impedes views of the night sky, is a form of pollution which can be substantially reduced without detriment to the purpose of the lighting in both urban and rural areas. Light in the form of sky glow and glare can be particularly obtrusive in rural areas. The Institute of Lighting Professionals has adopted guidelines for obtrusive light installations, in order to safeguard and enhance our night time environment. Proposals involving illumination in the countryside will be expected to be of a level that is appropriate to, and in sympathy with, their location. Proposals should respect sensitive locations by not presenting a visual intrusion into the landscape, nor should they be a disturbance to wildlife. The impact of illumination upon highway users and nearby residential properties should be minimal. The District Council will consult the inhabitants of nearby dwellings and the Highway Authority to ensure that the siting and scale of the proposed illumination does not adversely affect residential amenity or the safety of highway users.

Policy IMP 24: Illuminated advertisements in the open countryside

Proposals for illuminated advertisements in the countryside will only be favourably considered when the use to which they relate is dependent on trade during the hours of darkness. Such proposals will be subject to:

- i) A maximum light intensity of 50 kcd and a building luminance of 5 cd/m²
- ii) The illuminated sign proposed being well related in scale, design and siting to the sensitive nature of its location
- iii) The proposal not unduly adversely affecting neighbour amenity, and
- iv) The proposals not causing undue visual distraction to highway users.

In designated landscapes as defined in policy ENV 2, 3, 5 and 6, such proposals will be resisted unless material considerations indicate otherwise

Other than proposals for illuminated advertisements specifically, other forms of external lighting can also have an adverse effect, for example, floodlighting etc. This is particularly important where such proposals are based in a rural or semi-rural location. Any proposals involving external lighting should also be referred to policies LEI 1 and IMP 21. Please note that the Sports Council sets minimum standards for floodlighting for various sports, which should be referred to under criteria i) below.

Policy IMP 25: Outdoor lighting

Proposals for any development involving outdoor lighting schemes will be expected to include details of such schemes as part of the submitted planning application, and will be expected to demonstrate that:

- i) The proposed lighting is the minimum required for security or working purposes
- ii) Light spillage and glare are minimised, particularly in areas of open countryside or on the edge of settlements
- iii) There is no detrimental impact on residential amenity, highway safety or to sites of nature conservation value.

Website: <http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/planning/media/1.2-controlling-the-impact-of-development.pdf>



Dacorum Borough Local Plan (2001-2011)

POLICY 113 EXTERIOR LIGHTING

Text: Proposals for new exterior lighting will be permitted provided it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that there is no significant (or material) adverse impact upon important features of the urban and rural areas including:

- (a) the amenity of residential areas; and
- (b) the visual character and the natural and historic environment.

Assessment will be based upon the suitability of exterior lighting in a defined location and the type of lighting, and will include consideration of highway safety, crime prevention and access for people with disabilities. All lighting schemes must:

- (a) avoid dazzle and disturbance of drivers;
- (b) minimise glare and light spillage; and
- (c) create uniformity to avoid shadowed areas

In the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, rural areas and other parts of the countryside (including the urban fringe) provision of new exterior lighting will be minimised.

Further advice on Exterior Lighting and its environmental impact is contained within Appendix 8 of the Plan.

Reasons

113.1 Exterior lighting is important in promoting safety and security, for recreation and leisure, and other evening activities. Therefore a degree of lighting is required in most environments. However if poorly designed or installed, artificial light can have a detrimental effect including to wildlife and therefore needs to be controlled. Light pollution needs to be kept to a minimum to avoid a detrimental effect on rural and urban views and the character of the countryside.

Background

113.2 *Appendix 8 gives further detailed guidance as to appropriate levels of lighting in different locations. Generally urban areas with high levels of night time activity are more appropriate locations for higher degrees of lighting. More sensitive rural locations and the smaller settlements in the Borough require careful control in order to maintain their character and amenity.*

Website: http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6059#Development_Control



ANNEX B

Examples of good street lighting policies at county level

Devon County Council

Street Lighting Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 There is no statutory duty to provide street lighting but where the Authority has provided street lighting there is a duty to maintain.

1.2 The majority of traffic signs require illumination in locations where street lighting is present.

1.3 The general policy provisions are contained in the Street Lighting Policy document.

2. Street Lighting Policy

The County Council as the Highway Authority has no statutory obligation to provide street lighting and the County Council's approach to lighting provision is as follows. There will be two options for street lighting across the county, depending on the location:

- Part-night lighting in residential areas. Meaning that the hours that streetlights are on will be between dusk and 12:30am and again from 5:30am until dawn. Exceptions will apply here there are overriding safety issues.

- All night and late night dimming lighting on main roads and areas of high night-time activity, such as town centres. Street lights will remain lit all night, but consideration will be given to dimming lighting where possible."

Maintenance Standards

All street lighting units owned by Devon County Council are maintained to a standard that ensures as far as possible their safe, efficient and reliable operation. Main requirements are:

- The provision and maintenance of an up-to-date inventory of all items of illuminated street furniture to enable satisfactory implementation and management of maintenance operations and ensure accurate assessment of electrical energy consumption.

- Monthly inspection procedures to detect outages and planned electrical and structural inspections to identify potential problems and pre-empt in-service faults, while ensuring continual efficient operation and verification of inventory records.

- Reactive repair procedures that ensure appropriate responses to defects within predetermined timescales.

- 3 yearly bulk lamp changes that ensure that optimised lamp life is achieved as well as maintaining a good overall level of lighting.



- All maintenance work will be carried out in accordance with the Street Lighting Maintenance Contract. This contract has a contract period of four years with extension possibilities and contains all operational standards.

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transportroads/roads/road_maintenance/street_lighting/street_lightingpolicy.htm

Durham County Council

The County has a detailed street lighting policy, which also addresses obtrusive light.

http://content.durham.gov.uk/PDFRepository/DCC_Street_Lighting_Policy_May_2010.pdf

Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council was one of the first local authorities to introduce a street lighting policy in 1994. The County Council was hailed by the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) as setting the standard for other local authorities to achieve. The Hampshire policy is now in its 4th edition² following a comprehensive review in 2009. The document aims to strike a balance between the aspiration to reduce the effect of artificial light intrusion on the night-time environment and the need to provide the necessary illumination to enhance the safety of highway users.

The county policy also includes Environmental Lighting Zones (as recommended by the ILP) and divides Hampshire into four zones:

Zone E1 - National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other Dark Areas: The general presumption is that street lighting should not be provided in Zone E1 areas unless the County Council, or the Local Lighting Authority, can demonstrate an overriding road safety issue which cannot be overcome by other means.

Zone E2 - Areas of Low District Brightness (Rural Areas outside Zone E1): The general presumption is that street lighting should not be provided in Zone E2 areas unless the County Council, or the Local Lighting Authority, deem it to be in the best interest of the local community from either a road safety or a personal security point of view.

Zone E3 - Areas of Medium District Brightness (Low Crime Urban Locations)
Roads falling into this category include all urban residential local access roads and footpaths (as defined by "Well Lit Highways") where reported crimes, per 1000 households, are less than, or equal to, the County average: As a general rule roads in Zone E3 areas shall be lit to the levels originally provided at the time of adoption. For the sake of clarity replacement columns shall be installed on a 1:4:1 basis with new columns being positioned at the rear of the footway and on property party lines wherever possible.

Zone E4 - Areas of High District Brightness (Major Traffic Routes, High Crime Urban Areas, and Town Centres)

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/street-lighting-policy-100930.pdf>

² Hampshire County Council, Street Lighting Policy Document, 4th Edition <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/street-lighting-policy-100930.pdf>