

General AONB and Dark Skies info

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Good practice guide

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Keeping Bowland in the Dark: Guidance for Residents on Reducing obtrusive light in the AONB

The Forest of Bowland AONB has some of the finest dark skies in the North West.

From our hill tops and riversides you can see the Milky Way and all manner of heavenly bodies. Exterior lights on our homes and businesses can reduce the levels of darkness and obscure the stars from our view.

So in order to maintain these fantastic night time views, and to support our burgeoning 'Dark Sky' tourism it would be helpful if we can all take action to 'Keep Bowland in the Dark'.

DARK SKY PHOTO HERE

- Could you switch off some or all of your exterior lights?
- Could you adapt your exterior lights, by re-siting or modifying them to reduce the obtrusive light?

DID YOU KNOW?

Over £1 billion is wasted every year on inefficient outdoor lights

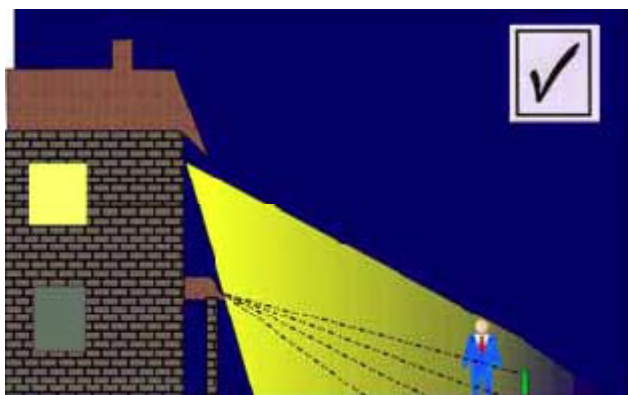
Lighting can actually assist criminals in entering your property if it is incorrectly installed

Switching off lights has been proven to have NO impact on accidents and crime rates

LIGHTS SHOULD SHINE ONLY **WHERE** NEEDED

Exterior lights should be angled downwards, not above the horizontal. Buy 'fully cut-off' styles, or fit them with a shield

Lamps should only light your property, not next door



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Try turning them off between midnight and 5am:
save energy too!

Keeping Bowland in the Dark: Guidance for Residents

Farms and isolated dwellings:

- Mount lights below the height of the roof, and direct the light downwards, using shielded bulkheads if necessary: wrongly positioned lights can blind the onlooker and hide the intruder



- 150w bulbs (2000 lumens) are more than adequate for lighting a yard
- Avoid the use of sensors that can be tripped by animals
- If possible position your lights so they are shielded by buildings and are not visible from the surrounding countryside or roads

Housing:

- Consider if your external lighting is required at all
- If it is essential, can you use sensors or timers to limit the times when lights are switched on?
- Keep the amount and style of lights in balance with that of the village as a whole and on adjacent road(s)
- Consider the views from surrounding countryside and avoid a string of lights (eg along driveways) or a line of lights defining the edge of the village
- Direct all your lighting downwards and avoid uplighters on buildings and trees
- 30-50w bulbs are adequate for external lights in most domestic situations