

Blinded by the Light:

Resources and articles about artificial lighting and its impact on wildlife

Please share any useful resources for us to add to this document

1. **Organisations**
2. **Articles/other resources**

Note: You may come across the idea of Dark Skies, about places with minimal light pollution such that stars are clearly visible. This is not something one can aim for in urban areas. You can find out more about where to see dark skies in the UK here www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk

1. **Organisations**

NightBlight: Reclaiming our dark skies. Campaign for Rural England.

<https://nightblight.cpre.org.uk/>

Packed with information, resources and ideas for solutions.

Bug Life: Saving the small things that run the planet

No-Insectinction campaign

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns/no-insectinction/safe-spaces-for-insects/safe-from-light-pollution-and-other-radiation>

UK Dark Skies Partnership [www.ukdarkskies.org.uk may not be live]

Forum of UK dark-sky organisations: Commission for Dark Skies; CPRE, the Countryside Charity; the Institution of Lighting Professionals and the Society of Light and Lighting. Working to improve sky quality by reducing unnecessary and inappropriate light pollution through effective behavioural change, education and promotion of environmentally sensitive lighting.

TOWARDS A DARK SKY STANDARD A lighting guide to protect dark skies: from local need to landscape impact is well worth a read <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Towards-A-Dark-Sky-Standard-V1.1.pdf> This document is extremely comprehensive.

The Bat Conservation Trust

<https://www.bats.org.uk/> Specifically threats to bats from lighting <https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/threats-to-bats/lighting>

UK Government Guidance on Light pollution

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution>

How to consider light within the planning system.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/newsevents/news/2015/reduced_street_lighting_does_not_increase_crime.html

Switching off streetlights at night does not increase car crashes and crime

The Campaign for Dark Skies

<https://britastro.org/dark-skies>

Focus is on promoting dark skies movements for star gazing.

International Dark Sky Association

<https://www.darksky.org/> Huge range of resources about light pollution and lighting.

APPG for Dark Skies @AppgDarkSkies

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Dark Skies in the @UKparliament. Fighting light pollution to protect our dark skies for future generations.

2. Articles and other resources

LED streetlights decimating moth numbers in England: ‘Eco-friendly’ lights found to be worse than sodium ones – but both contribute to insect decline, says study

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/25/led-streetlights-moth-england-eco-friendly-sodium-insect-decline>

The National Geographic: Our nights are getting brighter, and Earth is paying the price

“Electric lights have revolutionized our lives, but as illumination increases, the toll on wildlife and human health is becoming harder to ignore”. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/nights-are-getting-brighter-earth-paying-the-price-light-pollution-dark-skies>

Well worth a read, this article covers explains problems with street and home lighting, and how different lightbulbs can reduce negative impact. It looks at studies of birds crashing into windows of bright city lights and migrating birds being catastrophically lured off their flight path. The article also covers how too much artificial lighting compared to natural light is affecting our human physiology.

Garden Lighting Advice from the RHS

Used sparingly, lights in the garden can enhance its night-time charms, but what about the effects on wildlife?

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=513>

The Dark Secret to Keeping Slugs and Snails at Bay

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5775909/The-dark-secret-keeping-slugs-snails-bay-Switch-lights.html>

“Switch off the lights to keep slugs away from your garden: Street and security lights can attract nearly 30 times more slugs and snails

- Street and security lights can attract nearly 30 times more slugs and snails
- Theory is predators like hedgehogs which feed on slugs are scared away by light
- Illuminating your garden at night might increase the abundance of slugs”

Public Health England: Light pollution and health

See Chapter 4

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/690846/CMO_Annual_Report_2017_Health_Impacts_of_All_Pollution_what_do_we_know.pdf

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Artificial Light in the Environment

[Artificial light in the environment: policy update \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/690846/CMO_Annual_Report_2017_Health_Impacts_of_All_Pollution_what_do_we_know.pdf) 2013

Stars of the Night: Working together to create a ‘batty’ neighbourhood

From the Wildlife Trust’s most excellent Wild about Gardens campaign, a leaflet on how to help bats in the garden, including reducing the impact of garden lights and how to support them with insect-friendly plants and water.

https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-08/Help-bats-free-guide_0.pdf

10 things you may not know about light pollution<https://www.cpreavonandbristol.org.uk/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-light-pollution/>

Darkness: The Half-Remembered habitat – a 2.5 minute video ode to darkness

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/news/protect-the-night-commission-for-dark-skies>

Dark Sky Assessment Guide (US-based rural planning department)

<https://www.usu.edu/gnar/files/dark-sky-assessment-guide---web.pdf>

A Review of the Impact of Artificial Light on Invertebrates

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/4566676/a-review-of-the-impact-of-artificial-light-on-invertebrates-docx>

Cities need to embrace the darkness of the night sky

<https://theconversation.com/cities-need-to-embrace-the-darkness-of-the-night-sky-heres-why-149129>

Institute of Lighting Professionals: Guidance Note 1 for the reduction of obtrusive light 2021

<https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-1-for-the-reduction-of-obtrusive-light-2021/>

Dark Sky Assessment Guide

<https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2019/06/Dark-Sky-Assessment-Guide-Update-6-11-19.pdf>

Please share interesting articles and websites for adding to this list.

Danielle updated August 21