

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Position Statement Number 1
Light Pollution



The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty derives much of its beauty from its qualities of tranquillity, remoteness and cultural heritage. Light pollution has the potential to erode and destroy that tranquillity and sense of remoteness.

It is, therefore, considered appropriate that all artificial external lighting within its borders, or within the setting of the AONB, should be muted, screened, and the minimum required.

To accord with this aim, no external lights should be erected or installed in, or within the setting of, the AONB unless:

- (a) They can be shown to be essential for security or safety, and the minimum necessary to achieve it;
- (b) They are directed downwards and designed or shielded to prevent upward, sideways, and outward spillage;
- (c) They give a light whose colour and intensity are appropriate for the wider setting;
- (d) They do not highlight a structure or feature that would have an adverse visual impact on the surrounding landscape; and
- (e) They utilize the most energy- and pollution-efficient equipment that is reasonably available.

In order to meet these aims where existing lighting is identified as having an adverse effect on the character of the AONB, the AONB Partnership will encourage and facilitate the removal or modification of the lighting units.

Modifying and installing external lighting that meets the above criteria will help to ensure that the AONB's special character and attractive environment will not be spoilt by sky glow or intrusive light.

At its meeting on 7th February 2008 the AONB Partnership Panel endorsed the following:

The Partnership Panel encourages all Local Authorities to make use of the Statement when dealing with matters concerning lighting within the AONB.