CLEY NEXT THE SEA DARK SKIES POLICY

Cley next the Sea, North Norfolk, is a small village at the heart of which is a conservation area. It is surrounded by sea and open countryside much of which has AONB or SSSI status.


North Norfolk is the 15th darkest district in the country, and only just across the Glaven Valley is the Wiveton Downs Dark Sky Discovery Site, one of only a few in Norfolk, which provides special opportunities for people to enjoy the dark skies.

Dark skies help Cley retain the rural character we all love and we want to play our part to preserve these. Over the years more light has been introduced into the village as houses and businesses are renovated and enlarged with more windows, sky lights and outside lighting, which on occasion is overly bright, sometimes misdirected and not always carefully timed.

Norfolk Coast partnership have as part of their 20-year vision that the area will be essentially unspoilt and with dark skies that show the richness and detail of constellations. Let's work with them to achieve this.

Norfolk is the eighth darkest county in England:
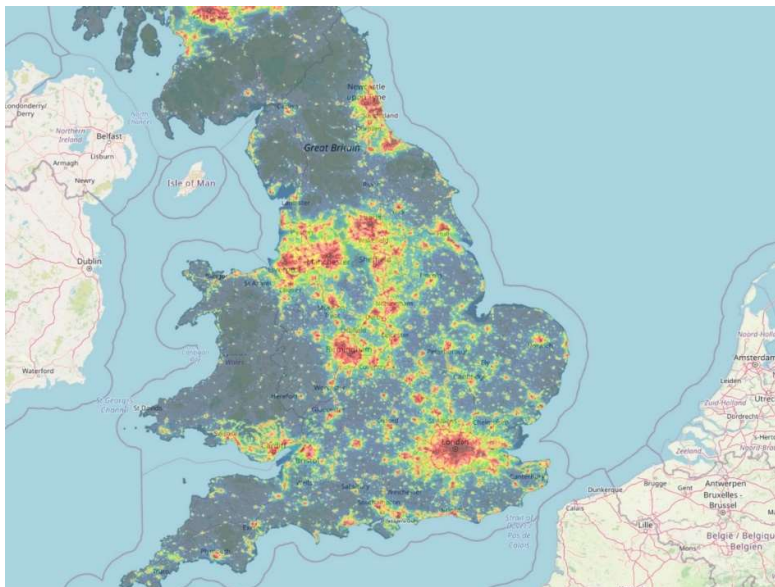
NightBlight map 2016 by the Campaign to Protect Rural England showing areas of more or less light pollution. The areas with the brightest light are shown in brown/red/pink; the darkest skies are blue/green; medium bright is yellow/orange.

North Norfolk is the 15th darkest district out of the 326 districts in England:
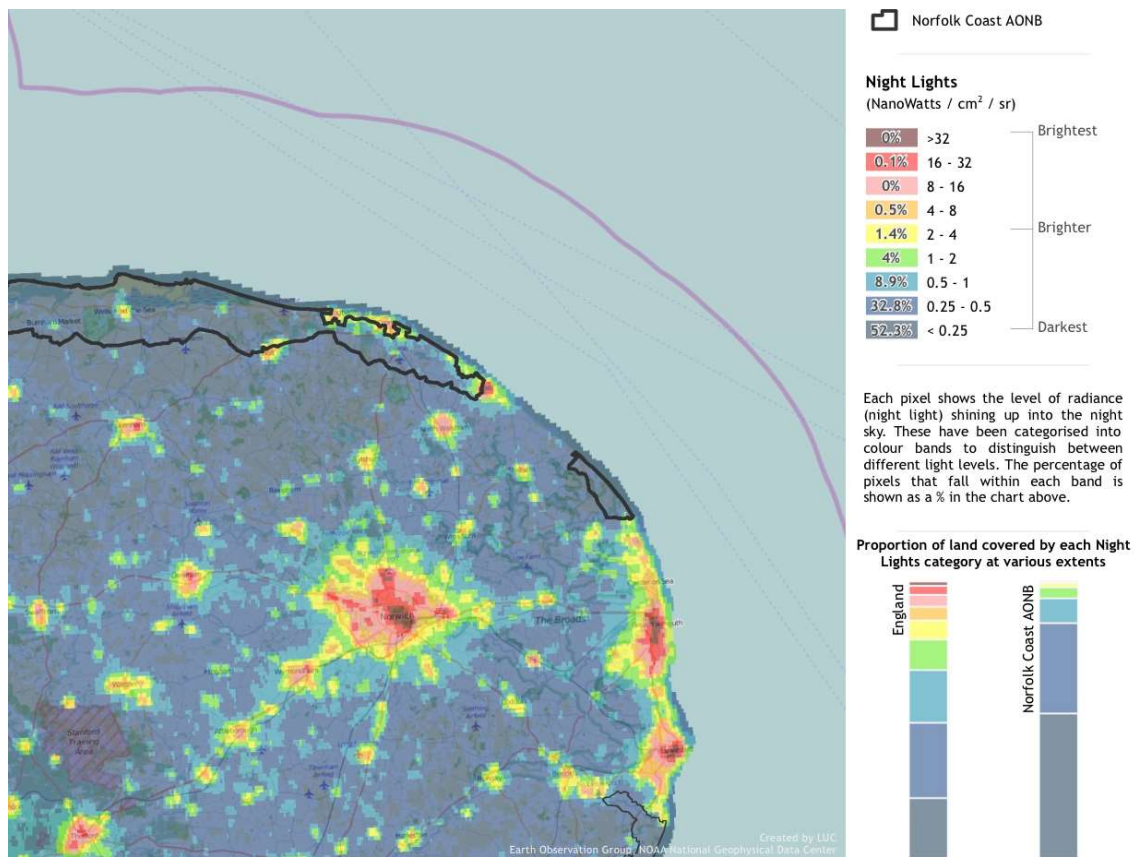
North Norfolk AONB on CPRE's NightBlight map 2016.

How can we keep it that way?

We need light

Artificial light is essential but it is important to get the right light in the right place and it to be used at the right time. Otherwise, potentially it becomes light pollution and annoys our neighbours, is harmful to wildlife and undermines our enjoyment of the countryside and dark skies.

We need the right amount of light

Light pollution is artificial light which shines when neither wanted or needed:

- Skyglow, light glow from towns and cities;
- Glare or uncomfortable brightness of light source;
- Light intrusion or light spilling beyond the property where it is located.

Too much light can harm plants and animals

Plants and animals depend on Earth's daily cycle of light and dark to govern life sustaining behaviours such as breeding, feeding, sleeping and protection from predators. Artificial light disrupts this.

Plants are sensitive to different intensities and wavelengths and day length. Some animals are attracted to e.g., birds and insects and some avoid light e.g., bats.

How to avoid light pollution

When renovating or building a new property, lighting should be limited that necessary for security and consideration should be given to minimising light pollution from exterior lighting, large glazed areas and sky lights.

Only light what is necessary

- Position lights and choose their distribution to avoid spill into sky and onto neighbouring properties (choose downward lighting and minimise upward light or sky glow)
- Shield your existing light fittings so light points downwards
- External lighting should not be directed outside of our properties into others or into the night sky
- Reduce or avoid lighting near or above horizontal to reduce skyglow
- Avoid floor lights and bollards as they are particularly confusing to wildlife
- Avoid lighting trees which can disturb nocturnal wildlife

Use only the amount of light needed

- LED bulbs are more efficient but it's important to calculate the equivalent power of an old fashioned incandescent light bulb
- LEDs are pure white which is more destructive to wildlife so minimise wattage (see table below)
- Use reflectors or solar lights
- Minimise use of skylights and glazed areas
- Consider blinds etc to minimise light pollution from interior lighting

Use the right colour light

- Warm white is better than cool white for wildlife's and our own circadian rhythms

Comparison of bightness of different bulbs

BRIGHTNESS IN LUMENS	220+	400+	700+	900+	1300+
STANDARD	25W	40W	60W	75W	100W
HALOGEN	18W	28W	42W	53W	70W
CFL	6W	9W	12W	15W	20W
LED	4W	6W	10W	13W	18W

Only light when necessary

- Ensure automatic security lights are not triggered by movement off your property
- Choose to light your   businesses just part of the night (not dusk to dawn)
- Dim lighting at times of reduced need or increased wildlife sensitivity

CLEY NEXT THE SEA DARK SKIES POLICY

In meeting our needs for external lighting, we should avoid causing a nuisance to others and upsetting the environment.

The Parish needs to apply the CPRE light pollution clause to planning applications

We need to apply the CPRE light pollution clause - which is as follows - to all our comments on planning applications:

'We request that any outdoor lights associated with this development should be

1. *Fully shielded*

CPC Dark Skies Policy ADOPTED February 2021 – due to be reviewed February 2024

2. *Directed downwards*
3. *Switched on only when needed (no dusk to dawn lamps)*
4. *White low energy lamps e.g., LED and not range or pink sodium sources'*

We should also ask these questions of planning applications:

- Will any new developments or proposed changes to an existing site materially alter light levels in the environment and adversely affect the use or enjoyment of nearby building or open spaces?
- Does the proposed development include large horizontal expanses of glass?
- Is the development near a dark skies area or intrinsically dark landscape?
- Would new lighting have impact on road safety?
- Will a proposal have a significant impact on protected site or species?

We should ask our residents to make the Norfolk Coast Partnership Dark Skies pledge

1. Get out there and enjoy the night skies
2. Light only what needs lighting
3. Use only the amount of light that is needed
4. Shield your existing light fittings (and direct them downwards)
5. Light only when you need it (install motion sensors)
6. Use reflectors or solar lights
7. Use blinds and blinds to minimise light pollution form interior lighting
8. Tell your friends neighbours
9. Encourage or support improved or reduced street lighting (if not in Cley in neighbouring villages)
10. Contribute to the planning process and encourage better design in new development