

Draft HNP Dark Skies Policy:

All development proposals should be designed to minimise the occurrence of light pollution. Proposals must specify energy-efficient forms of lighting, must be designed to reduce light scatter and must comply with the current guidelines established for rural areas by the Institute of Lighting Engineers (IoLE).

All proposals for development will be expected to demonstrate how it is intended to prevent light pollution. Information on these measures must be submitted with applications, and where a development would potentially impact on light levels in the area, an appropriate lighting scheme will be secured by planning condition.

NPPF July 2018 Paragraph 180 c)

[2017 draft] Joint Local Plan DEV2 [M233], DEV24 [M263] [M264], DEV27 [M269] [M270] [M271] [M272] [M273] [M274].

Harberton Parish enjoys dark skies almost free of light pollution, enabling residents and visitors to enjoy the awe-inspiring spectacle of the Milky Way as well as bright stars on clear nights. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to prevent light pollution and to protect the night-time views of our Parish.

Light pollution has become an intrusive threat to our enjoyment of the countryside and its tranquillity at night. This was given prominence by a joint CPRE/British Astronomical Association campaign and report (2003) and subsequently by a 'star-count' survey conducted jointly by CPRE and the Campaign for Dark Skies (CfDS). The CPRE have undertaken research on 'Night Blight' caused by light beaming in an upward direction causing a pinky orange glow which lights up the night skies. In June 2016, the CPRE published new maps of England's light pollution and dark skies. Harberton Parish's dark sky position is illustrated in the map below –

[Place-holder for: Light Pollution and Dark Skies Map, Harberton Parish (CPRE) © OpenStreetMap contributors, data is available under the Open Database License, and the cartography is licensed as Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 license (CC BY-SA) Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010-12.]

The Plan recognises that artificial light offers valuable benefits to residents including safety, finding one's way around, facilitating sport and the night-time economy. However, inappropriate artificial lighting can contribute to a range of problems. It can give a village an urban feel and detract from the enjoyment of the night sky for all, even at a considerable distance. It can cause health problems and can also impact adversely the behaviour of wildlife. Bats are especially vulnerable to disruption by light pollution, including greater horseshoe bats protected by the South Devon SAC within whose sustenance zones and flyways much of the Parish lies. Light pollution may also damage the local tourism economy.

For all proposed developments, factors which will be considered when deciding the appropriateness of artificial lighting include the location, the hours of operation, the quantity of lights proposed, brightness and control, and direction of the beam, including light spill.

Proposals that conserve and enhance the distinctive rural character of Harberton Parish will be encouraged.