

WICKHAMBREUX PARISH COUNCIL

DARK SKIES POLICY

The Campaign for Rural England has found that just 2% of the country is able to enjoy truly dark skies, while over half of the population is severely impacted by light pollution.

Wickhambreaux parish is a rural community with relatively dark skies (1-2 nanowatts/cm²/sr); though data indicates that light pollution is higher than in nearby villages of a similar size, including Ickham and Preston. Within the parish, data indicates that Stodmarsh and Grove have less light pollution than Wickhambreaux.

This policy encourages conservation and enhancement of the distinctive rural character of Wickhambreaux, Stodmarsh and Grove. It seeks to prevent light pollution and protect the night-time views of the rural area, heritage assets, and dark skies.

Future Development Framework

All proposed developments should avoid light pollution and protect the night time environment of the village and countryside.

External lighting should only be considered in areas where it is absolutely necessary, such as entrances and walkways. Where lighting is required, minimum brightness levels, controlled by sensors and timers, should be used.

Residential development should be designed to minimise light pollution, both in external aspects and as a consequence of light leakage from the interior.

Any applications for new development that require a lighting scheme should show how the status of dark skies will be protected. General street lighting will not be considered in any areas of Wickhambreaux parish.

Guidance for Residents

The policy recognises that artificial light can offer practical benefits to residents, however it also reflects that inappropriate artificial lighting can contribute to a range of problems, including:

- Giving the village an urban feel
- Detracting from the appearance of the night sky
- Impacting human health
- Impacting the behaviour of wildlife

The impact of existing light installations can be reduced in the following ways:

- Light only the areas that need brightness, such as entrances and walkways.
- Use energy efficient bulbs, with a warm white tone and ~500 lumens.
- Shield lights and direct them downwards to concentrate and limit the spread.
- Only use lights when needed. Consider timers and sensors.
- Be considerate of neighbours by controlling lighting direction, extent, and timing.

Resources for further information

1. [Interactive map of UK light pollution](#)
2. [Artificial lighting impact on wildlife](#)
3. [Impact of light pollution on human health](#)
4. [Limited impact of lighting on crime reduction](#)
5. [UK government's APPG dark skies policy plan](#)



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