TECHNICAL LIGHTING DESIGN GUIDANCE

> **Summary:** To present for adoption the CNL Technical Lighting Design Guidance
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> **Recommendation**: That the Technical Lighting Design Guidance is adopted
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> **Report by:** Mark Connelly, Land Management Lead.

INTRODUCTION

1. In 2016 the CPRE published its light pollution and dark skies map[1]. The map showed that the Cotswolds National Landscape had significant areas of good quality dark skies but also showed significant areas of light pollution. The CNL management Plan 2018 – 2023 included for the first time a Dark Skies policy and added 'Extensive dark sky areas' to the special qualities of the CNL

2. To expand on the Dark Skies Policy and to provide recommendations and guidance, the Board adopted a position statement on Dark Skies and Artificial Light[2] in March 2019. Since adoption of the position statement, there has been the ambition to develop and adopt CNL specific guidance on lighting design. As an interim, guidance from the Institute of Lighting Professionals[3] and the Commission for Dark Skies[4] was used to support the position statement. Reference to the South Downs National Park's guidance was also frequently used.

3. With work starting on the A417 Missing Link, the opportunity arose to apply to National Highway's A417 Designated Funds – 'ring-fenced funding used to invest in and support initiatives that deliver lasting benefits for road users, the environment and communities.' An application for a dark skies feasibility study was successfully made and work completed in 2023/24, laying the foundation for a design and implementation phase application in early 2024 that included funding to develop CNL specific lighting design guidance.

CNL Technical Lighting Design Guidance

4. Darkscape Consulting was appointed to prepare the CNL Technical Lighting Design Guidance. A draft for consultation was circulated to key stakeholders at the end of July 2024. Those consulted included all 15 local authorities, astronomical societies, CPRE, Historic England, Rollright Trust and the National Trust. Gloucester City Council was

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[1] CPRE, England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/englands-light-pollution-dark-skies-map/
[2] https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Cotswolds-Dark-Skies-Artificial-Light-Position-Statement.pdf
[3] ILP, The reduction of Obtrusive Light https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GN01_-_ILP_Guidance_Note_1_the_reduction_of_obtrusive_light_-_2021_v2-60iqak-1.pdf
[4] CfDS, Lighting Guidelines https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Dark-Skies-Artificial-Light-Appendix-B-CfDS-Good-Lighting-Guide.pdf

also invited to comment due to the impact light pollution from Gloucester has on the CNL.

5. Comments received were both useful and very supportive of having CNL specific guidance. The comments were used to further develop the guidance and the final version ready for adoption by the Board was received in January 2025.

Next steps

6. Following adoption by the Board, the guidance document will go through a design step to fit with CNL branding before being published on the CNL website. A short print run of circa 200 is proposed. Some will be used for a small mailout to key stakeholders, but the majority will be held for an event being planned for the autumn.

Supporting Papers:

Appendix 'A' CNL Technical Lighting Design Guidance – draft for adoption.