

Dark Skies in the Mendip Hills AONB

In seeking to implement the Management Plan, the Mendip Hills AONB Partnership:

1. Encourages The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and The British Astronomical Association to continue their joint campaign against light pollution.
2. Urges our local MPs to raise the issue of diminishing dark skies in the AONB with appropriate Government Ministers.
3. Agrees to actively promote the Sustainable Development Fund in relation to appropriate projects that help to reduce light pollution.
4. Urges all Local Authority partners to:
 - a. adopt policies in Local Development Frameworks, highways policies, and other relevant strategies, to minimise and reduce existing light pollution affecting the AONB.
 - b. consider light pollution when dealing with planning applications e.g. influence the orientation and design of buildings to reduce the need for security lighting; promote sensitive lighting schemes.
5. Encourages and supports Parish Councils to continue existing and develop new initiatives towards addressing light pollution.
6. Urges everyone living and working in or near the AONB to use sensitive levels of lighting that avoid unnecessary light "spillage" which will also help to reduce their own energy costs.

Useful sources of information relating to "dark skies" and light pollution are available at these websites:

- Institution of Lighting Engineers - Guidance Notes for the reduction of obtrusive light www.ile.org.uk/index.php?page=pollution
- Countryside Commission/DOE - Lighting in the Countryside (1997) still available from Communities & Local Government website www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144822
- CPRE www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/landscape-and-beauty/light-pollution/index.htm
- British Astronomical Association www.britastro.org/dark-skies
- Dark Sky Society www.darkskysociety.org/
- International Dark-Sky Association www.darksky.org
- Librapix (light pollution photos) www.librapix.com/lightpollution/

The Mendip Hills AONB Partnership is the advisory committee for the Mendip Hills AONB. Its role is to promote the AONB Management Plan "Vision" and to help achieve the Plan's priorities and objectives.