



REDUCING LIGHT POLLUTION

CATEGORY: LANDSCAPE CASE STUDY YEAR: 2007

Business Details:

Border Forest Caravan Park
Cottonhope
Burnfoot
Otterburn



<http://www.borderforest.com>

Description:

Border Forest Caravan Park (VisitBritain 4 star) is a SILVER level business on the edge of Kielder Forest in Northumberland. They have taken many steps on site to minimise the environmental impact the business has. There are many energy saving measures being carried out on site and facilities for recycling waste are good also. The owners were aware of the impact that the park lighting could have in such a rural area and they took steps to ensure it was minimised. This involved the fitting of new shading on the lights and photo sensors to operate the lights. This ensures that the lighting is not running at all times and the shading has reduced skyglow considerably.



Economic

Light wasted represents wasted energy and unnecessary CO2 emissions. If half your light is heading for the sky then half your light is being wasted. Any steps taken to maximise the usefulness of the light being generated will result in savings for the business. In addition lighting controls, which only switch on light when they are really needed results in energy savings and a longer life for the bulbs, generating further savings due to the reduced maintenance and less bulb purchases.



Environmental

Light pollution describes artificial light, which is allowed to illuminate areas not intended to be lit. It results in intrusive light and skyglow. It can be a big problem, particularly in rural areas. Poorly situated or over powerful lights can disrupt the ecology of an area. This is because it affects the local wildlife. Strong lighting at night affects the behaviour of mammals, birds, insects and fish. Insects in particular are affected, they are attracted to bright lights and it can disrupt their breeding patterns. Quite important when you consider how many other animals rely on insects for food. Estimates suggest a 500w security light burning every night of the year is responsible for around the same amount of CO2 as driving a car 8000 Km.



Social

Reducing light pollution has many social benefits. It reduces the amenity value of our rural landscape. Intrusive light falling on to a neighbours property can have a big impact on their quality of life, nuisance disputes over light pollution are increasing year on year. Glare from over bright lighting can actually make places more dangerous since strong glare actually reduces visibility. Less light pollution would allow us all to better enjoy the night sky.

WEB

Light Pollution: <http://www.lightpollution.org.uk>
 NSCA: http://www.nasca.org.uk/pages/environment_facts/light_pollution
 Institution of Lighting Engineers: <http://www.ile.org.uk>