

Bulby's Wood Toilet Block Refurbishment

External Lighting Proposals – Assessment

Project Ref: G5043

September 2014

Site: Bulby's Wood toilet Block, Ingram Valley, Northumberland

1.00 Description

- 1.01 The existing toilet block is located within a group of trees on the west side of a substantial woodland block. It is approximately 32m (on the north side) from the public highway that runs the length of the valley. A parking area and groups of trees separate the building from the road. Currently the building is largely obscured from view from the car park and road and although the project proposals aim to improve visibility from the south it will not be completely opened up.
- 1.02 The toilet block is not visible from any other building in the valley, the nearest being a farm complex over 600m to the west and blocked from view by the woodland. The large woodland block is not part of this site and will not be affected by any of the proposals. The building is visible, although the outline is broken through the tree canopy, from the path to Brough Law (290m), south west of the building.
- 1.03 The building is currently not lit externally but is open every day of the year, 24hrs/day. The approach to the building through the trees can be very dark in the winter months and improving access is seen as an important part of this project.

2.00 External Lighting

- 2.01 As part of the external lighting design the following guidance documents have been consulted:
- Lighting in the Countryside: Towards Good Practice 1997
 - Northumberland Dark Sky Park – Exterior Lighting Masterplan V2 2013
- 2.02 The Dark Sky document states it's principal aim as '*to provide practical advice on mitigating stray light, which astronomers, and others, may find obtrusive, within the boundaries of Northumberland National Park*' and this has been taken into account during the design process. This document refers to a Sky Quality Measurement of 21.47 at the Bulby's Wood car park which is good for viewing the night sky. The nearby village of Ingram is classified as being Environmental Zone E0-5 within the Basic Light Elimination Plan and is slightly higher than the assessment of E0-250 for the whole of the Dark Sky Park. The policies set out in this section of the document have been considered during the design of the external lighting. In addition reference has been made to the Design Methodology Checklist in Section 3.1.

2.03 The lighting has been designed by a qualified electrical engineer and technical information supplied by the manufacturer is attached to this report. Representatives from Northumberland Dark have been consulted over this proposal.

3.00 Operational methodology

3.01 The external lighting will be controlled by a photo electric cell which switches the lamps on after sunset and a time switch set to 9.00pm to switch off the lights. It is therefore likely that between mid- May to mid-August the lights will not operate at all unless conditions are particularly overcast.

A manual override key switch will allow the external lighting to be switched off as required, for example if an astronomy group wish to operate from the car park as they occasionally do.

4.00 Conclusion

4.01 The design brief for the toilet block at Bulby's Wood is to improve facilities throughout the year for visitors to the valley. This includes making the toilets more pleasant for users, currently the block is within a rather dark and dank setting and is particularly unpleasant on a dark winters afternoon. Improving the external lighting to illuminate the front elevation, particularly the entrance doors to the toilets, disabled users toilet and information point, is seen a key part of these improvements.

The design takes into account the relevant guidelines and has achieved a scheme which conforms to those guidelines and produces an attractive and appropriate lighting scheme for the building.

5.00 Appendices

5.01 Appendix A - technical details supplied by Designplan Ltd. – attached.