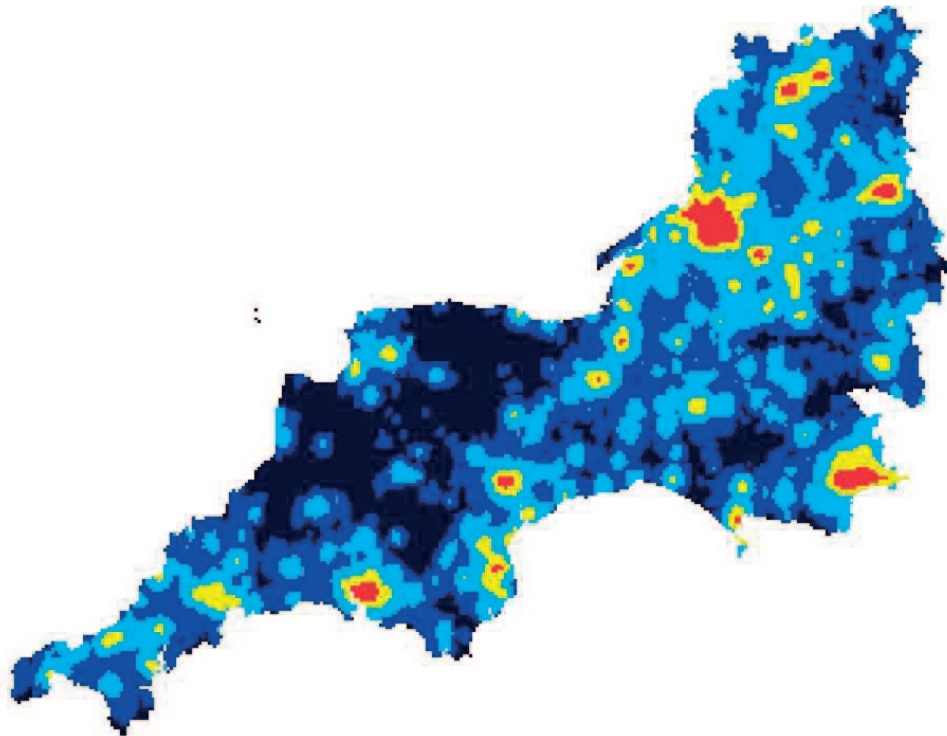


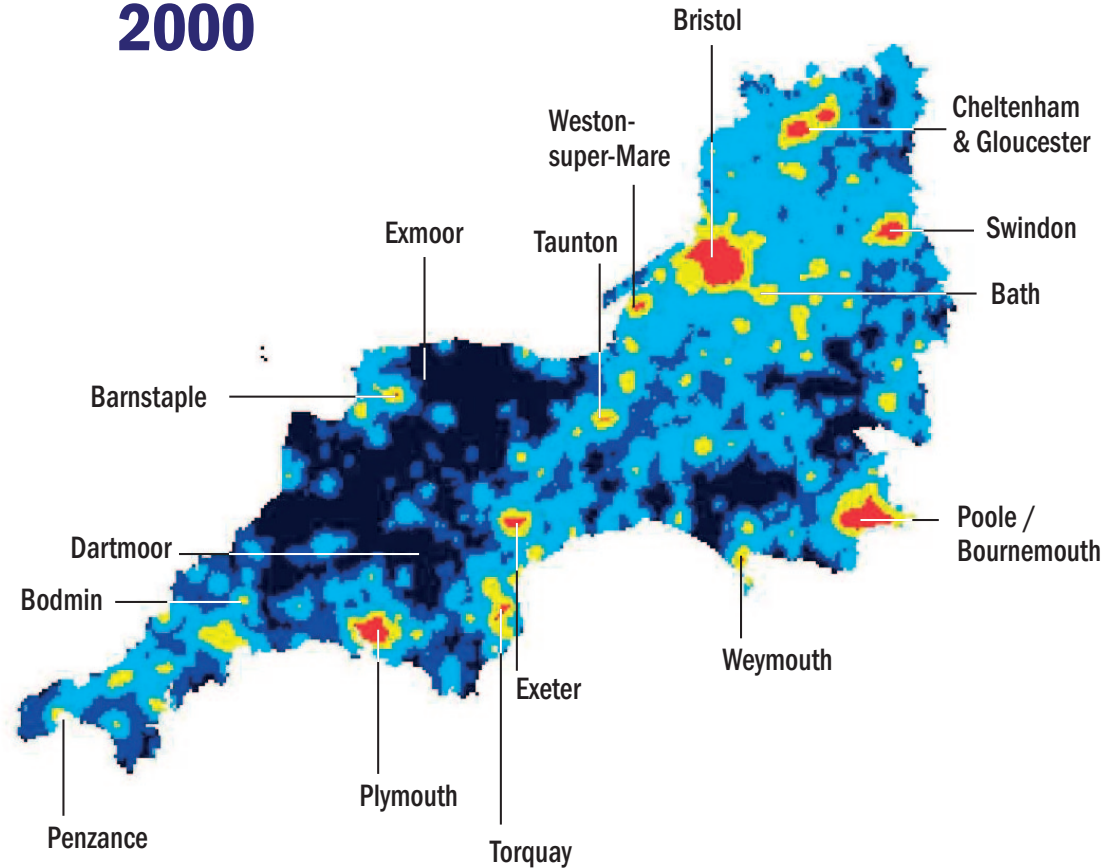
# Night Blight in the South West

Satellite data shows that light pollution is rapidly increasing in the region, leaving less and less countryside where we can still enjoy starry, starry nights

1993

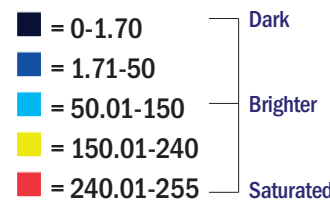


2000



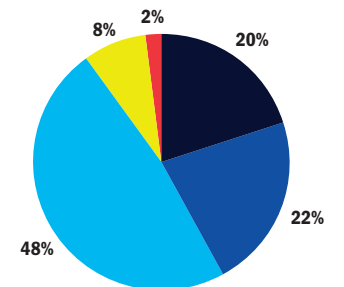
## Key

These maps were created from pixels representing a square kilometre. They are a colour representation of satellite measurements of artificial light at night. The light is measured on a range from 0 to 255; 0 means the satellite is detecting no light in that pixel and 255 means the satellite's detector is saturated with light.



## The South West in 2000

Only 20% of dark skies left



## Why light pollution matters in the South West

The wasteful, careless use of outdoor lights is blighting our night sky, stopping us from being able to see the stars. The problem isn't all lighting, just lights that waste energy by beaming some or all of their light upwards. This causes light pollution, which can be seen as a pinky orange glow lighting up the night sky for miles outside towns and cities.

In the absence of light pollution, you can see thousands of stars on a clear, dark night and our own galaxy, the Milky Way, splashed across the heavens. But where there is light pollution, you can see only a couple of dozen of the very brightest stars. Light pollution wastes electricity and energy, and in doing so it contributes to air pollution and climate change.

CPRE is particularly concerned because darkness at night and starry skies are two of the things that – up to now at least – have defined the countryside and made it so different from towns and cities. That quality needs to be maintained and restored.

## Light pollution in the South West is getting worse

Recent satellite data obtained by CPRE shows us how much night time light is beaming upwards from each square kilometre of the South West. The data shows that light pollution is both a major problem and one that is growing.

Light pollution is rapidly spreading in the South West. Using our indicator, between 1993 and 2000 the region's night skies got 17% brighter. Wiltshire suffered the greatest increase in light pollution, at 25%. The amount of land with truly dark skies appeared to increase by one-third in Dorset, bucking the national trend. But in Devon, which has one of the largest reservoirs of truly dark skies left in England (mostly on Dartmoor and Exmoor), the proportion of land in that category fell slightly to 37%. And Gloucestershire lost half of its truly dark skies – just 2% of the county was in that category in 2000.

## What needs to be done

We can all play a part in stopping the spread of light pollution by ensuring that outdoor lights we are responsible for don't cast any beams upwards. CPRE has produced a leaflet and a background report, both entitled *Night Blight!*, which set out the practical, realistic actions everyone can take to tackle this problem – from Government to individual citizens. These documents tell you more about light pollution throughout the rest of the UK. You can read them, or order printed copies, via our website, [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk), or by contacting CPRE Publications on Freephone 0800 163680.

**Join us!** If you support our campaign against light pollution – which we are running with the British Astronomical Association – and want to support this and our other work to protect and enhance the English countryside, becoming a CPRE member is one of the best ways to help. Call now on 020 7981 2800 or visit our website.

County	Percentage of area in each of the five light pollution bands in 2000 (1993 in brackets) – see key and light pollution scale overleaf					Light pollution change, 1993-2000	
	Dark blue 0-1.70	Blue 1.71-50	Light blue 50.01-150	Yellow 150.01-240	Red 240.01-255	Pixel median, 2000 (1993 in brackets)	Percentage change in median, 1993-2000
Avon*	0% (0%)	0% (7%)	54% (58%)	31% (22%)	15% (14%)	138 (113)	22%
Cornwall	18% (17%)	37% (48%)	39% (30%)	6% (4%)	0% (0%)	48 (43)	12%
Devon	37% (38%)	24% (33%)	33% (25%)	6% (4%)	1% (1%)	36 (31)	16%
Dorset	24% (18%)	21% (39%)	42% (31%)	9% (8%)	4% (3%)	53 (46)	15%
Gloucestershire	2% (4%)	15% (42%)	74% (47%)	8% (6%)	2% (1%)	66 (52)	27%
Somerset	18% (18%)	20% (40%)	58% (39%)	5% (3%)	0% (0%)	56 (48)	17%
Wiltshire	12% (11%)	18% (42%)	61% (39%)	8% (6%)	1% (1%)	60 (48)	25%
REGIONAL TOTAL	20% (20%)	22% (38%)	48% (35%)	8% (6%)	2% (2%)	55 (47)	17%
England total	11% (15%)	16% (29%)	51% (38%)	14% (12%)	7% (6%)	68 (55)	24%

## Campaign to Protect Rural England

128 Southwark Street  
London SE1 0SW  
Tel: 020 7981 2800  
Email: [info@cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@cpre.org.uk)  
Website: [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. CPRE is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England, number 4302973. Registered charity number 1089685.

2003

\* = old county boundary