

Establishing the Structure

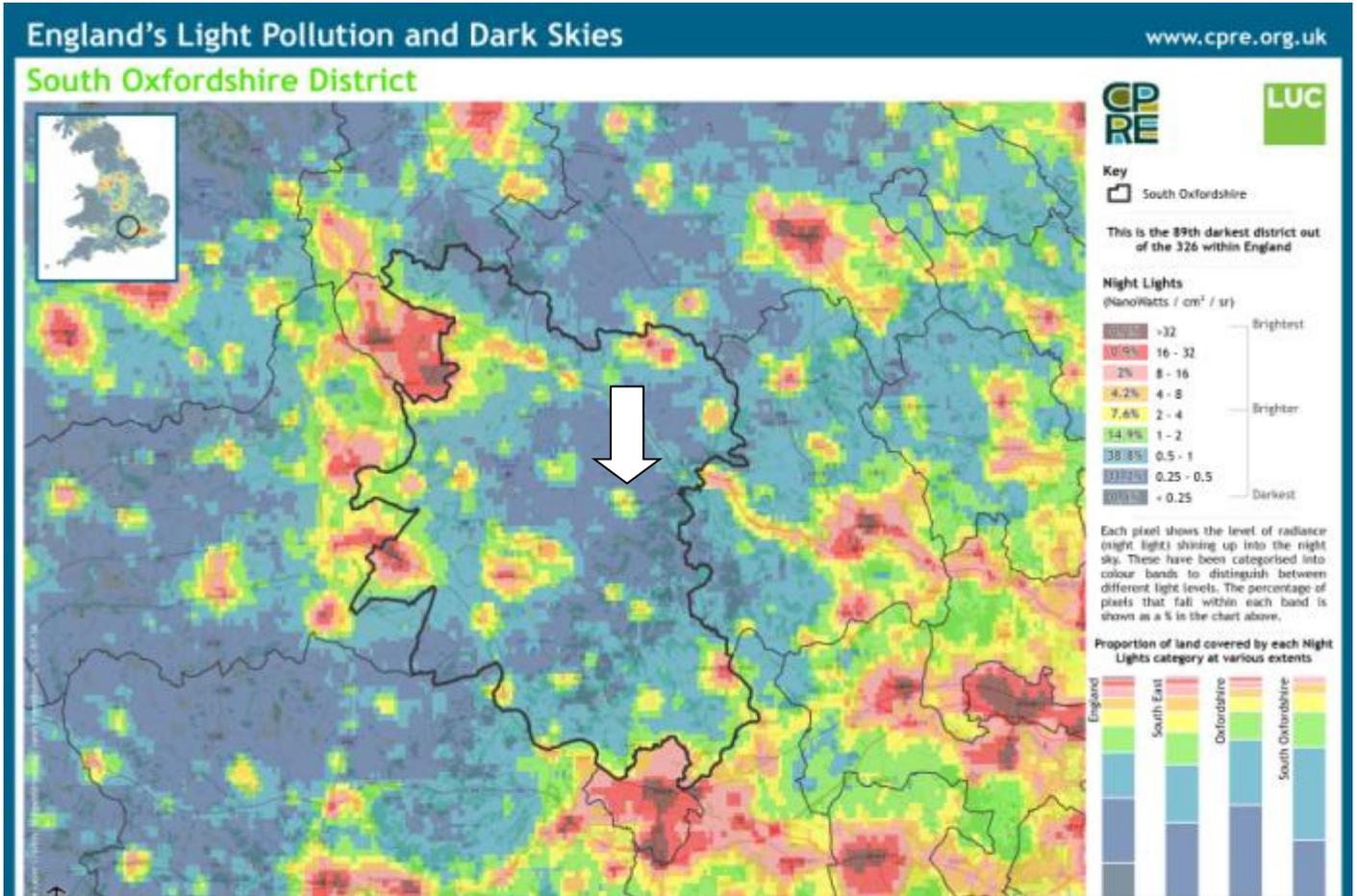
In Watlington attention should be paid specifically to the traditional ambience such as is created at Lilacs Place, an excellent model of modern village architecture and structure of place. New areas of development need to work well as places where people want to live. They need to meet a diverse range of housing needs which are inclusive and easily accessible and where people feel confident and safe to move around. They need to have a good overall design where green spaces, streets and built areas are integrated in a way where each part of the development is an attractive space in itself but also contributes to an overall attractive design. Particular consideration should be given to how people will experience, use and move through the area.



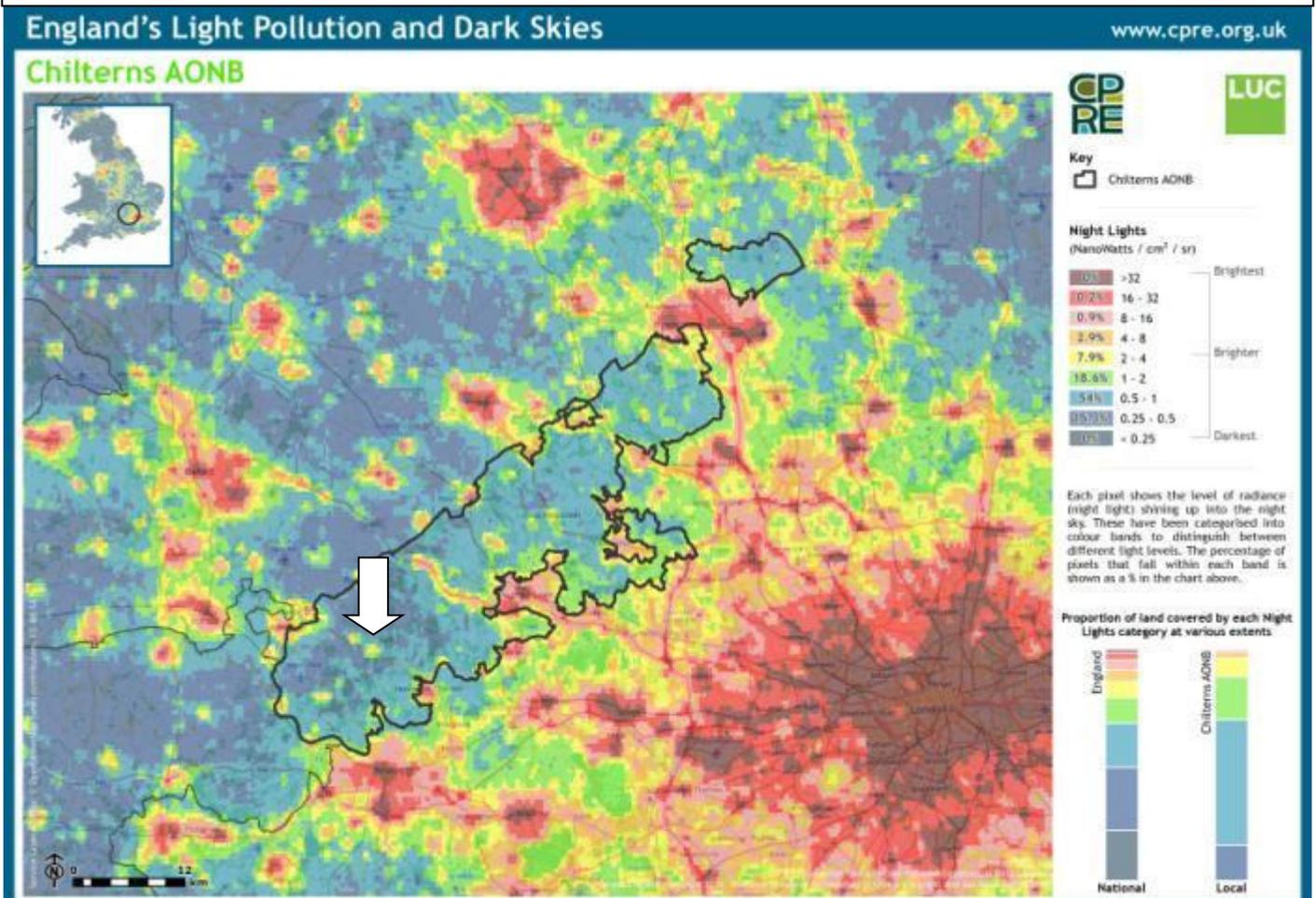
Lighting

External lighting should be avoided on new buildings unless it is absolutely necessary for reasons of security and safety. This will ensure that bat activity within the local area around the building is not adversely affected by artificial lighting. If lighting is required, it should be kept minimal, at low level and at low intensity, with hoods and baffles used to direct the light to where it is required (Bat Conservation Trust 2008, Emery 2008). To minimise the impact on bats, the use of low pressured sodium lamps is recommended in preference to mercury or metal halide lamps which have a UV element that can affect the distribution of insects and attract bats to the area, affecting their natural behaviour (Bat Conservation Trust 2008). Lighting around any integrated bat roost features within the new development should be completely avoided.

Light pollution has become one of the most intrusive threats to our enjoyment of the countryside and its tranquillity at night. This was given prominence by a joint CPRE/British Astronomical Association campaign and report (2003) and subsequently by a 'star-count' survey conducted jointly by CPRE and the Campaign for Dark Skies (CfDS). The CPRE have undertaken research on 'Night Blight' in the South East of England caused by light beaming in an upward direction causing a pinky orange glow which lights up the night skies. In June 2016 the CPRE published new maps of England's light pollution and dark skies. These are far more detailed and are able to identify district, county, National Parks and AONBs. Watlington is one of the first Parishes to use these maps and our dark sky position in South Oxfordshire is illustrated below –



CPRE 'Nightlight' Map focusing on South Oxfordshire including Watlington



CPRE 'Nightlight Map showing the Chilterns AONB (including Watlington)