

# Cibse Lighting Guide 6 The Outdoor Environment

## CIBSE Lighting Guide 6: Illuminating the Outdoor Environment

Designing effective and energy-efficient outdoor lighting is crucial for safety, security, and enhancing the aesthetic appeal of public and private spaces. CIBSE Lighting Guide 6, specifically focusing on the outdoor environment, provides comprehensive guidance on achieving optimal lighting design. This guide offers a wealth of information, impacting everything from street lighting design to the illumination of parks and building exteriors. Understanding its principles is vital for architects, lighting designers, and anyone involved in creating well-lit outdoor spaces. This article delves into the key aspects of CIBSE Lighting Guide 6, exploring topics such as **light pollution**, **energy efficiency in outdoor lighting**, **lighting design for security**, and **appropriate luminaire selection**.

### Understanding the Scope of CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 for Outdoor Applications

CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 offers a practical framework for designing outdoor lighting schemes that are both effective and sustainable. It moves beyond simple illumination, addressing critical factors like light pollution, glare control, and the impact of lighting on the environment and human well-being. The guide emphasizes the importance of considering the specific context of each project, factoring in factors like the surrounding environment, the intended use of the space, and the needs of users.

This holistic approach contrasts with older, less nuanced approaches to outdoor lighting, which often prioritized sheer brightness over nuanced illumination. CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 actively promotes responsible lighting design, minimizing light trespass and promoting the preservation of nocturnal ecosystems.

### Minimizing Light Pollution: A Key Focus of CIBSE Lighting Guide 6

One of the central themes of CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 is the mitigation of light pollution. This refers to the excessive or inappropriate use of artificial light, impacting the night sky, disrupting ecosystems, and even affecting human health. The guide stresses the importance of:

- **Directional lighting:** Using luminaires that direct light downwards, minimizing upward light spill and reducing light trespass onto neighboring properties or into the night sky.
- **Shielding:** Employing appropriately shielded luminaires to prevent glare and unwanted light spread.
- **Appropriate light levels:** Choosing light levels that meet functional needs without excessive brightness. Over-illumination is both wasteful and contributes to light pollution.
- **Choosing the right colour temperature:** Warmer colour temperatures (e.g., 2700K to 3000K) are often preferred for outdoor spaces as they are less disruptive to nocturnal wildlife and perceived as more aesthetically pleasing.

The guide provides detailed calculations and recommendations to help lighting designers achieve optimal levels of illumination while minimizing light pollution. This is crucial for maintaining dark sky areas and protecting biodiversity.

### Energy Efficiency in Outdoor Lighting Design

The guide emphasizes the importance of **energy-efficient lighting** in outdoor applications. This is not only environmentally responsible but also economically beneficial in the long term. CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 suggests several strategies to improve energy efficiency, including:

- **Using high-efficiency light sources:** LED technology is highlighted as the preferred option due to its long lifespan, high efficacy, and energy savings compared to traditional lighting technologies.
- **Intelligent control systems:** Implementing smart lighting systems with features like dimming, occupancy sensing, and astronomical timers can significantly reduce energy consumption.
- **Careful luminaire selection:** Choosing luminaires with high luminous efficacy and optimized optical design to maximize light output while minimizing energy waste.

- **Regular maintenance:** Ensuring that lighting systems are regularly maintained to optimize performance and prevent premature failure.

## Security Lighting: Balancing Illumination and Safety

CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 also provides valuable guidance on **security lighting**. Effective security lighting aims to deter crime and enhance safety without creating overly bright or intrusive environments. The guide advises on:

- **Strategic placement of luminaires:** Properly positioned lighting can create visibility in key areas, such as entrances, pathways, and parking lots, deterring potential threats.
- **Appropriate light levels:** Adequate illumination is necessary for security, but excessive brightness can be counterproductive, creating glare and obscuring details.
- **Uniformity of illumination:** Consistent lighting across the area enhances visibility and reduces shadows, which can be hiding places for criminal activity.

## Choosing the Right Luminaires for Outdoor Applications

The selection of appropriate luminaires is paramount for successful outdoor lighting design. CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 provides detailed guidance on selecting luminaires based on factors such as:

- **Optical performance:** The guide emphasizes the importance of selecting luminaires with appropriate light distribution patterns to meet specific functional and aesthetic requirements.
- **Durability and robustness:** Outdoor luminaires must be designed to withstand harsh weather conditions, including rain, snow, wind, and extreme temperatures.
- **Maintenance requirements:** Selecting luminaires that are easy to maintain and clean can reduce long-term costs.

## Conclusion

CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 offers a comprehensive and practical approach to designing effective and sustainable outdoor lighting. By emphasizing energy efficiency, light pollution mitigation, and the creation of safe and secure environments, the guide helps lighting designers create outdoor spaces that are both functional and aesthetically pleasing. Adhering to its principles is crucial for responsible and effective outdoor lighting projects.

## FAQ

### Q1: What is the main difference between CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 and older lighting design standards?

A1: Older standards often prioritized brightness over energy efficiency and light pollution control. CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 takes a more holistic approach, emphasizing responsible lighting design that considers environmental impact, human well-being, and energy conservation. It promotes the use of modern, energy-efficient technologies and sophisticated control systems.

### Q2: How does CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 address the issue of glare in outdoor lighting design?

A2: The guide emphasizes the importance of using appropriately shielded luminaires and selecting light sources with suitable colour rendering properties to minimize glare. Properly positioned luminaires and careful consideration of light levels also help to mitigate glare and improve visual comfort.

### Q3: What are the key benefits of using LED lighting as suggested by CIBSE Lighting Guide 6?

A3: LEDs offer superior energy efficiency, longer lifespans, and improved controllability compared to traditional lighting technologies. This translates to lower energy bills, reduced maintenance costs, and a smaller environmental footprint. They also offer greater flexibility in terms of colour temperature and light distribution.

### Q4: How can I determine the appropriate light levels for a specific outdoor space according to CIBSE Lighting Guide 6?

A4: CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 provides detailed guidance on determining appropriate illuminance levels based on the function of the space and the needs of its users. Factors such as the activity being undertaken, the surrounding environment, and safety considerations all play a role in determining the appropriate lighting levels. The guide offers tables and calculations to

aid in this process.

**Q5: Does CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 address the impact of lighting on wildlife?**

A5: Yes, the guide recognizes the impact of artificial light on nocturnal wildlife and encourages lighting designers to minimize light trespass and select lighting that is less disruptive to ecosystems. This includes considerations of colour temperature and light levels.

**Q6: How can I implement smart lighting controls as recommended by CIBSE Lighting Guide 6?**

A6: Implementing smart lighting involves integrating intelligent control systems that can adjust lighting levels based on occupancy, time of day, or other factors. This can be achieved through the use of sensors, timers, and programmable control units. The guide offers guidance on selecting and integrating these systems.

**Q7: Where can I find the complete CIBSE Lighting Guide 6?**

A7: The complete CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 can be purchased directly from the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) website or through authorized distributors.

**Q8: Is there specific guidance in CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 for lighting heritage sites?**

A8: While not explicitly a separate section, the principles of CIBSE Lighting Guide 6, particularly concerning minimizing light pollution and preserving the integrity of the environment, are highly relevant for lighting heritage sites. Careful consideration of light levels, color temperature, and the directionality of light are crucial to avoid damaging sensitive materials and preserving the historical ambiance.

## **Illuminating the Night: A Deep Dive into CIBSE Lighting Guide 6: The Outdoor Environment**

CIBSE Lighting Guide 6: The Outdoor Environment is a comprehensive resource for lighting designers and anyone involved in creating bright outdoor spaces. It provides a treasure trove of information on achieving effective and energy-efficient outdoor lighting, going beyond mere beauty to address safety, security, and environmental concerns. This article will investigate key aspects of the guide, clarifying its complexities and highlighting its practical implementations.

The guide's significance lies in its holistic approach. It avoids simply prescribe brightness but instead delves into the relationship between lighting design and its wider surroundings. This includes assessing the impact on wildlife, minimizing glare, and optimizing energy expenditure. The guide stresses the crucial role of lighting in improving safety and security, preventing crime, and producing attractive and inviting public spaces.

One of the key themes within CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 is the notion of appropriate lighting levels. This isn't a matter of simply increasing brightness; in contrast, the guide promotes a balanced approach that customizes lighting levels to the specific requirements of the space. A crowded city street will require different lighting intensities than a quiet residential area, and a park will have yet another set of demands. The guide provides detailed guidance on calculating appropriate illuminance values employing various methods, taking factors like environmental light, surface reflectance, and the function of the space.

Another significant aspect of the guide is its emphasis on decreasing light pollution. This involves thoughtfully selecting light fixtures with directed light output, limiting stray light, and applying appropriate shielding techniques. The guide provides useful advice on choosing luminaires with reduced upward light emission, reducing glare, and accounting for the effect on the night sky. This is not merely an aesthetic consideration; reducing light pollution safeguards biodiversity, improves astronomical study, and assists to total energy efficiency.

The guide also tackles the growing importance of energy efficiency in outdoor lighting. It advocates the use of sustainable lighting methods, such as LED lighting, and stresses the significance of optimal lighting control mechanisms. This includes the deployment of smart lighting controls that dynamically adjust lighting intensities based on environmental light conditions, occupancy monitoring, and pre-programmed schedules.

Implementing the principles outlined in CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 demands a team-based effort involving lighting designers, stakeholders, and other concerned individuals. Effective implementation necessitates a clear comprehension of the project's particular demands, careful planning, and suitable choice and implementation of lighting technologies. The guide presents a structure for achieving this, enabling experts to develop and install outdoor lighting projects that are both efficient and environmentally responsible.

In conclusion, CIBSE Lighting Guide 6: The Outdoor Environment is an indispensable resource for anyone involved in outdoor lighting design. Its holistic approach, emphasis on energy efficiency and light pollution minimization, and practical guidance constitute it an vital instrument for creating secure, beautiful, and ecologically mindful outdoor spaces. By observing its guidelines, designers can assist to generating a improved built environment for everyone.

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. **Q: Is CIBSE Lighting Guide 6 mandatory to follow?** A: While not legally mandatory in all jurisdictions, it represents best practice and is widely considered the industry standard. Following its guidelines demonstrates professional competence and responsible design.
2. **Q: How can I access CIBSE Lighting Guide 6?** A: The guide is available for purchase from the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) website.
3. **Q: What software can be used to assist with the calculations mentioned in the guide?** A: Various lighting design software packages can be employed, many of which incorporate the principles outlined in CIBSE Lighting Guide 6. Examples include Dialux evo, Relux, and AGi32.
4. **Q: How does the guide address the needs of people with visual impairments?** A: The guide emphasizes the importance of considering accessibility and providing sufficient luminance for those with visual impairments, especially in navigating pathways and crossing points. Specific guidance on appropriate lighting levels and design considerations is provided.

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