# Trial initiative sees over 600 street lights switched off in East Riding



In a significant development aimed at reducing pollution levels, over 600 street lights have been switched off across major roads in England as part of a trial initiative. The changes, which affect two primary routes in the East Riding area, are set to last for a period of 12 months, during which there will be a close monitoring of driver behaviour, cyclists, and pedestrians.

The specific roads impacted by this measure include the A164, stretching from the Humber Bridge to Willerby and from Cottingham to Skidby, alongside the A1079 from Dunswell Roundabout to Ennerdale Bridge. The decision to turn off the lights is scheduled to take effect from 4 April.

According to the local council, the initiative is part of a broader scheme aimed at decreasing the power consumption associated with road lighting. The council stated that all roadway designs will be equipped to provide necessary visual cues, allowing for safe navigation without the reliance on traditional overhead street lighting.

Karl Rourke, the council's service manager for street lighting, expressed optimism about the project’s potential benefits. Speaking to the Birmingham Mail, Rourke noted, "The East Riding is at the forefront of this innovative project which could lead to a massive reduction in carbon and energy on UK roads." He elaborated that through the use of thermal imaging cameras, the behaviour of road users will be meticulously monitored to ensure their safety.

Community reactions have been mixed, with some locals acknowledging the effectiveness of existing road reflectors and questioning the necessity of street lighting on certain routes. One resident suggested the need for a transition to solar-powered and energy-efficient LED lights, advocating for the trials of motion sensor lights that would dim when there is insufficient movement.

However, others raised concerns regarding the potential hazards posed to wildlife, particularly stating that the lack of lighting could lead certain species, like hedgehogs, to venture onto roads more often, thus increasing the risk of roadkill. This perspective was echoed by another local who expressed scepticism about the approach, suggesting that while carbon reduction is crucial, the methods employed may not be the best fit for ensuring safety on the roads.

As the trial continues, the outcomes will potentially set a precedent for similar initiatives across the UK, with a keen focus on balancing environmental concerns and public safety on the roads.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/12/29/why-councils-are-about-to-switch-off-your-street-lights/> - This article discusses the broader trend of councils across England reducing street lighting to meet budgetary constraints and carbon reduction targets, directly supporting the initiative mentioned in the article about switching off street lights in the East Riding area.
2. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/transport-streets-and-waste/more-transport-streets-and-waste-news-stories/next-phase-of-green-initiative-to-cut-carbon-emissions-and-light-pollution-by-turning-off-or-dimming-streetlights/> - This source details Cornwall Council's initiative to turn off and dim streetlights to reduce carbon emissions and light pollution, aligning with the article's claim about local councils implementing similar measures.
3. <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Report-of-the-Impeachment-Inquiry-of-Joseph-R.-Biden-Jr.-President-of-the-United-States.pdf> - While this source itself does not relate to streetlights, it serves to illustrate the notion of government initiatives impacting local policies, similar to how the local council's decision to alter street lighting reflects broader governmental environmental objectives.
4. <https://www.heritage.org/climate/commentary/more-road-crashes-ahead-britains-dim-future> - This article warns about the potential increase in road accidents due to reduced street lighting, reinforcing concerns from residents in the original article regarding safety for wildlife and road users.
5. <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/492eca/siteassets/publications/benchbooks/evidence/evidbb.pdf> - Although this is a legal document unrelated to street lighting, it serves as a reminder of the importance of evidence and monitoring—principles that are echoed in the article's discussion about monitoring driver behavior and pedestrian safety.
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/12/29/why-councils-are-about-to-switch-off-your-street-lights/> - This source provides insights into public safety concerns amid the reduction of street lighting, highlighting community reactions that parallel those mentioned in the original article regarding local skepticism and safety anxieties.
7. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/motoring/motoring-news/thousands-drivers-england-warned-over-31378200> - Please view link - unable to able to access data