

TECHNICAL NOTE No. 53

April 1992

Updated January 2006

Floodlighting of Buildings

Scheme proposals should give details of the lighting units they propose and how they are to be fixed. Bolting, screwing or bracketing, directly in contact with the building should be carefully considered. Often lighting situated further away from a structure will have a better coverage and allow a more complementary scheme. This also avoids damage to the building. If a fixing is agreed it must be achieved using non-rusting or non-staining elements, i.e. stainless steel, bronze, plastic or the like should be employed. The lighting units and the cable routes must be designed in a way that does not impede the rainwater run off from the building. This means they must avoid cill, drip courses, etc and other architectural features.

The designer's overall aim should be to make the installation as discreet as is practically possible for both the light fittings and the cable runs. The following must also be considered:

Listed building consent must be sought, if the fittings would affect the special architectural or historic interest of the building.

Where possible, light-fittings should be set on the ground or on a nearby structure, not attached to listed fabric.

Fittings mounted at ground level should be concealed in the curtilage of a building, in basement wells, or in planting, or set into the ground; they should not normally be mounted on new columns.

A building should normally be lit by only one colour of light; in some circumstances, a second colour can be used to good effect, but, in any event, the colour of the light source should be chosen to complement the building materials.

A new scheme should complement neighbouring lit buildings, not compete with them.

Environment and Heritage Service

Built Heritage

Protecting Historic Buildings

Waterman House

5-33 Hill Street

BELFAST

BT1 2LA

Tel: 028 9054 3145

