



SI Salisbury Streetlights Audit (2025 update)

Background

Since February 2022, Salisbury Soroptimists have been carrying out night time audits of Salisbury streets, checking for streetlights that weren't working, CCTV coverage, dark corners, alleys and lanes, car parks, open spaces and footpaths as well as tunnels and underpasses. All non-working streetlights, graffiti and overgrown foliage were reported on the MyWilts app immediately and full reports were produced and presented to the meetings of the Salisbury Area Board of Wiltshire Council.

We are pleased that members of the Area Board have requested that this item remains on the agenda at every Area Board meeting. This is our update for the February 2025 Area Board Meeting.

1. Audit approach

We undertook our audits on two evenings in late January: Monday 27 and Wednesday 29. We were delighted to be joined by Cllrs Sharon Rideout, Charles Mc Grath and Sven Hocking and by PCSO Jack Hammond. We are grateful for their support.

2. Findings

This year we took the decision to start by checking all the street lights that were listed as not working last year and to check those specifically, but noting and reporting any additional lights that were not working – or dark spaces – as we followed the audit route. While preparing the list we checked MyWilts but were disappointed to find that the messages on the system had not been updated in any way, so we had no way of knowing whether the Council believed the reports had been actioned or not.

Below is a table setting out our findings, in all 13 of the light reported last year as not working are now working. However a further nine lights reported last year are still not working, which is disappointing. We identified and have reported on MyWilts a total of 12 additional street lights that are not working on MyWilts and made two reports to National Highways about lights that are not working in the Ring Road.

Two instances of graffiti in the Exeter Street underpass and the Friary underpass were reported on MyWilts – especially disappointing as they have defaced the lovely artwork carried out by the young people through the Underpasses Working Group.

We had previously identified that floodlighting the Poultry Cross provided good lighting in that dark corner of Silver Street and Minster Street; these lights were not switched on when we carried out our audits.

We were unable to directly report the following findings:

The bridge which runs across the Bridge Steet to the Old Mill pub has a light at each end, neither of which are working

We would like to suggest that a full assessment is made of the paths between the Central car park/River Park and Waitrose as parts of this are very dark. We appreciate the need for directed lighting on to the path so as not to upset the wildlife balance in this area, but we hope that once the works are complete, this area will feel much safer for everyone to walk after dark

Similarly the stretch of Ashley Road to the bridge is very dark and Marsh Lane between Meadow Road and Middleton Road seems to have no lighting at all so it was not possible to report this on MyWilts.

We noted that the grounds of the Arts Centre in Bedwin Street are very dark – the lights that are present are working but it is very dark on the Bedwin Road side and the passageway between the Arts Centre and Bourne Hill Offices is extremely dark. We noticed that the Secret Garden at Bourne Hill and the Bourne Hill car park are well lit, if this lighting could continue down to Bedwin Street it would make this area feel much safer at night.

Coming out of the Greencroft underpass is very dark and some additional lighting is needed on the ramp on the Kelsey Road side of the Ring Road.

List of findings:

MyWilts /Nat Highways case no	Description	Unit number/reference	Comments	Info
	Greyfriars Close, by playground St John's Street, above St Anne's Gate	SHSL5 4371	residents OK with current lighting out	
00095541	Light above Boston Tea Party, High Street	0010	now working	
00078550	Light above New Look, High Street		now working	NEW

00207632	Light above Sloan's Hairdresser High Street		out	NEW
00095543	Milford Street, opposite Red Lion Catherine Street, next to Cancer Research		now working	
00059454	Catherine Street, above Specsavers	003	still out	
000595545	New Canal, opposite Clarks	66A	still out still out - double light	
00095546	New Canal, opposite Odeon		still out - double light	
00207627	New Canal above Sarum Jewellers		out	NEW
	New Canal, by crossing opposite Boots	8A could be 0003?	still out	
00059463	New Canal, outside old Top Shop		now working	
00207621	Silver Street outside Boots	431/13?	out	NEW
00095548	Silver Street, above Café Nero		still out	
00207629	Silver Street by Hat Shop, opposite Cote / St Thomas Sq	#3	still out	
	Bridge Street	434/5A, 434/1 9/10, 13/14, 17/18, 436/19, 15/16	now working	
	Blue Boar Row	#3?	still out	
	Rutherford Walk , next to Fish Shop	DP138	now working	
	Harcourt Terrace			
	Fisherton St/Bridge St, above Bridgeside Hair	012	now working	
	Fisherton St, by bridge	#12	now working	
00078542	Summerlock Approach, opposite Chapel Place		still out	
	Bridge from Bridge St to Old Mill pub	see commentary	2 lights out at each end of bridge	NEW
			was floodlit to add extra light?	NEW
00208752	Poultry Cross	see commentary	out	NEW
	Minster St opp The Haunch			
00208749	River Path just beond Millstream	see commentary	2 lights out and no light under bridge	NEW
	Ramp up to Ring Road from			
FMS7061552.	Waitrose	Natonal Highways	out	NEW
	Waitrose to River Path	see commentary	no lights	NEW
	Ashley Road	see commentary	up to bridge no lights	NEW
	Approach to Central Car Park from Ring Road	see commentary	no lights	NEW
			needs mirror and lights	NEW
00208722	Pedestrian tunnel from Shell station	see commentary	light out	NEW
	Kivel Court			
	Marsh Lane	see commentary	no lights, very dark	NEW
FMS7061566.	St Paul's Roundabout, 3 headed light in centre	National Highways	now working	

FMS7061566.	St Paul's roundabout, outside Everest	National Highways 2 strip lights under bridge	now working	
	Railway bridge	Railtrack	out	
00095549	Brown Street Car Park, light by Bell and Crown	0003	now working	
	Kelsey Hill		now working	
00208711	Endless St opposite Everyman Cinema		out	NEW
00208706	Anchor and Hope Winchester Street	light at top of gable	out	NEW
00208705	Castle Street by Carter and May	#9	out	NEW
00208702	Castle Street House no 140 opp Millstream Approach		out	NEW
00208700	Campbell Rd/Queen's Road	180/1	out	NEW
00208760	Exeter Street underpass	Graffiti		NEW
00208762	Friary Underpass	Graffiti		NEW

3 Atkins Report on dark spaces

We are grateful to the Area Board for the Atkins Report (June 2024) on the dark spaces in the city and especially that work will start soon on lighting improvements at Antelope Square.

As part of our audits we revisited all the dark spaces included in the report to assess the need for improved lighting in each case. When the time comes to look at the next stage of implementing that report, we would like to suggest that College Road is the next area to be improved. There are no lights at all near the car parking spaces and returning to cars there after dark must be very intimidating

4 Conclusion

We have tried whenever possible to respond to reports made to us by members of the public who have told us where and why they feel unsafe after dark in the city and we have tried to include all of these areas in our audits, while encouraging them to use the MyWilts report system themselves.

Thanks to the Area Board for including this in the agenda and thank you to the councillors who took part in our audits this year. Thanks also to Wiltshire Police for their interest and support in this process.

SI Salisbury
30 January 2025