Bats

No, not an acronym, but the actual cute little furry flying mice/horror vampire creature (depending on your leaning). And they need our help. There are a number of endangered species out there and they need protecting, and one of the reasons they are in such danger is poor external lighting.

Why does lighting hurt the bats? Well, poor lighting positioning illuminates their flight paths to and from their nesting sites, and their feeding areas (generally located around hedgerows and overgrown areas). This makes them far more visible to predators. To avoid being eaten by a hawk or owl, they will avoid even coming out at dusk and dawn, and so will starve. The light fittings themselves actually attract insects as well, making bats far easier targets as they gather around the light fittings.

How can we make sure we protect bats while also allowing us to have some form of external lighting where it is needed? There are a few basic design choices we can make that will help:

Glare Control - dont have bright, glarey lamps. have them pointing downwards and ideally mounted low, rather than lighting up into the sky.

Check bat flight routes - If you have conditions on your planning for protection of bats you should have an ecologist report. Part of that report will show bat nesting and feeding sites, and potential bat flight routes. Plan the landscaping around this to avoid the need for lit areas in these places, and if required, make sure the light avoids these as much as possible (definitely no light over bat nesting site entrances).

Colour Temperature - dont go above 2700K. Anything above this is distruptive to nature. Ideally we would be going even lower, at around 2200K, since warmer whites are not as disruptive.

Avoid Floodlighting - there is no need to floodlight the space. You can still have lighting and security with PIR sensors without it looking like a football stadium.