



## Enhancement Lighting Policy

### 1. Background

The Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust is a not-for-profit charity established in 1953 to act as custodian of the bridge, ensuring its maintenance and preservation. It is entirely funded by tolls, which have paid for its upkeep since it first opened to the public on 8th December 1864. Our free Museum preserves our collections and provides educational visits / tours for schools and the public. The purpose of the Trust is to “celebrate the bridge as an icon of human ingenuity, British engineering, and Bristolian identity.”

### 2. Context

There have been permanent illuminations on the Clifton Suspension Bridge since 1967; lighting the bridge 365 days each year first with individual electric bulbs, and from 1997 with energy efficient LED systems. During 2025 and early 2026, the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust installed new energy efficient enhancement lighting to the bridge. For the first time, it is possible to light the bridge in colour.

The Clifton Suspension Bridge is a Grade I listed structure, and the new enhancement lighting has been designed to be discrete and unobtrusive, providing subtle illumination of the bridge’s architectural features at night. For the majority of the time, this new enhancement lighting will be set to an appropriate warm white light to complement the fixed functional lighting and highlight the features of the structure. This is the default position.

### 3. Default illuminations

The warm white illuminations will be lit from dusk until midnight and pedestrian safety lighting will remain on throughout the hours of darkness.

Illuminations may be switched off due to maintenance activities, during activities relating to our sustainability policy (e.g.: Earth Hour), and periods of national mourning. There may be other occasions when it is necessary to turn off the enhancement lighting and these will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### 4. Lighting Requests

There are hundreds of local, national and international celebration and commemoration days each year and a very large number of worthy charitable causes, many of whom may want the bridge illuminated to support their cause. Unfortunately it is not possible to support them all. The Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust cannot accept requests for specific lighting formats or for sponsorship for the lighting of the bridge.

### 5. Coloured Lighting Events

The Trust is limited to a certain amount of coloured lighting events each year, in line with planning conditions and has consulted with a number of organisations including Visit West, Bristol Culture, Visit England and the London Eye who have advised on the creation of this policy. Coloured lighting events will be approved by the Trustees and publicised on social media.

## 6. Rationale for Coloured Lighting Events

Coloured lighting events may be deployed to highlight or celebrate specific events on chosen dates throughout the year. The Trust **will** light the bridge in colour for the following reasons in line with our charitable objectives and statement of purpose:

- Celebrating key events in the history of Clifton Suspension Bridge.
- Celebrating relevant events on the themes of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), museums, archives and heritage.
- Celebrating major events within Bristol and its surrounds.
- Celebrating museums, archives and heritage.

Coloured lighting events will **not** include:

- Commercial causes.
- Promotion of political campaigns.
- Events that are contrary to the Trust's Values Policy.
- Charitable causes outside the rationale of the Enhancement Lighting Policy.
- Any subject matter that compromises or has the potential to compromise the reputation of the bridge.

Extraordinary events of national significance will be considered at the discretion of the Trustees on an individual basis.