

Sky lanterns (1)

SKY LANTERNS – THE DANGERS

Sky lanterns may look pretty, but the frames can kill or harm farm animals, and the candles are a major fire risk to crop fields and buildings.

The NFU continues to call for an outright ban on the sale of sky lanterns and will lobby government until action is taken. The NFU welcomed the introduction of a sky lanterns code of practice in 2014, but insists they should be banned.

Here are details of how you can get involved, support our call for a ban and help protect the great British countryside.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

SEND A LETTER

Find our sample letters at www.nfuonline.com/BackBritishFarming

Our letter writing guidance notes will help you write to:

- Your local MP
- Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
- Local council/authority
- Local venues that regularly hold events/weddings

Drop us an email campaigns@nfu.org.uk to let us know who you've written to.

SPREAD THE WORD

Tell your friends, family and work colleagues how dangerous sky lanterns are.

RISK FREE ALTERNATIVES

We don't want to stop anyone having fun so why don't you suggest they try one of these alternatives?

- Bubbles – there's a lot of choice when it comes to bubble kits from small bubbles to giant bubble makers.
- Plant a tree to create a long lasting memory of your occasion.
- Pop a balloon – put raffle tickets in a few balloons before blowing them up. Get people to pop them rather than release them.

THE RISKS



RISK TO ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK – frames can contaminate forage crops which are later fed to the animals. The frames of sky lanterns can harm or even kill farm animals if they are eaten. Animals can get tangled or injured from the sharp wire frames, and bamboo framed lanterns can splinter causing serious injuries if ingested.



MAJOR FIRE RISK – once lit and set off into the sky you don't know where an ignited lantern will land. Fields of standing crops, hay and straw stacks, farm buildings and thatched roofs are all at significant risk of being set alight.



LITTER NUISANCE – farmers and other land owners have to clear up the remnants of sky lanterns from their fields.



FALSE ALARM – the Coastguard has reported incidents of sky lanterns being mistaken for distress signals, and the Civil Aviation Authority are concerned with airborne lanterns being drawn into aircraft engines. They can also delay take-off and landing.

LOVE YOUR
COUNTRYSIDE



www.nfuonline.com/BackBritishFarming



Source

<http://www.nfuonline.com/back-british-farming/love-your-countryside/the-dangers-of-sky-lanterns/>
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Reading

1. Which of the following best describes the intended audience of the 'Risk Free Alternatives' box on the poster?

- a. local MPs
- b. the coastguard
- c. party organisers
- d. sky lantern retailers

The question tests your ability to identify the audience of a text. Use inference and deduction skills to analyse the language and content.

2. Which of the following groups are negatively affected by sky lanterns?

- a. land owners
- b. fire services
- c. the Civil Aviation Authority
- d. all of the above

This is an inference question. Use deduction skills to select the answer.

3. Is the following statement true or false?

| | True | False |
|---|------|-------|
| The use of sky lanterns was banned in 2014. | | |

4. List three reasons why farmers might object to sky lanterns, as presented in this poster.

This is a retrieval question. The answers can be found by closely reading and understanding the text.

7. The poster suggests that people take action by writing to local councils, MPs and wedding venues. Write a letter to your MP or local council calling for a ban on the use of sky lanterns and explaining your reasons. Write around 200-300 words.

Use persuasive language to convince the reader to agree with you.

Oracy

8. A local group which you are a member of was planning to launch 1,000 sky lanterns as part of a charity fundraising event. There have been a few objections to the idea from local farmers and landowners so they have decided to consider other ideas. Work in groups of three or four to consider alternative ideas which might appeal to the group.

Choose your best idea and work together to create a presentation to persuade the local group to choose it.

Remember to listen as well as speak and make sure that every member of the group has an opportunity to share their views.

9. You have been selected to give a short talk about sky lanterns on behalf of one of the following groups. You should raise some of the concerns that you think the group might hold about sky lanterns. Use persuasive language to convince your listeners to agree with you.

You will need to research your presentation.

- Coastguard or RLNI
- Farmers
- 'Eco Friendly' sky lantern sales company
- Animal welfare charity

Speak clearly and remember to look at your audience.