

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
<b>DATE</b>	March 29 <sup>th</sup> 2023
<b>TITLE</b>	Dark Sky Designation
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Inform members and seek support
<b>AUTHOR</b>	AONB Project Officer
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Support the intention to work towards a Dark Sky status application for the Pen draw Llŷn area

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 For some time the AONB Unit has been working towards seeking International Dark Sky status for the Llŷn AONB area. The matter has been discussed in the Joint Committee but so far no decision has been made.
- 1.2 It is realized that the entire AONB area is quite large and there are differences within the area. Collecting data about the whole area is quite a challenge.
- 1.3 Rather than trying to designate the whole AONB as an area of International Dark Sky the AONB Unit is now considering focusing on a specific area on the tip of the Peninsula.

## **2.0 DARK SKY SANCTUARY- YNYS ENLLI**

- 2.1 Ynys Enlli was designated as a Dark Sky Sanctuary on the 23rd of February 2023. Enlli is the first site in Europe to receive this certification, thanks to the island's low light pollution.
- 2.2 This is what the executive director of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) had to say "Wales is fast becoming one of the leading nations in protecting dark skies as a valuable resource that benefits people and wildlife,"
- 2.3 The news that Ynys Enlli had been designated as a Dark Sky Sanctuary was broadcasted throughout the country, raising awareness about Enlli and Llŷn. This designation can benefit the tourism sector at quieter times of the year. Snowdonia National Park is already seeing the benefits of being designated a Dark Sky Reserve.

## **3.0 APPLICATION FOR DARK SKY STATUS FOR PART OF LLŷN AONB**

- 3.1 It is the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) which has established the concept of Dark Sky areas and it is the body responsible for designations. There are a series of designations possible – including Sanctuary, Community, Park and Reserve. The AONB Unit staff have taken part in an online meeting with representatives of the IDA and there is support for an application for this area.

- 3.2 There has been a previous discussion in the Joint Committee about the possibility of supporting an application for a dark sky status. At that time there were some concerns about the potential impact of the designation.
- 3.3 The AONB area as a whole is quite large, and there is considerable variation in terms of night darkness etc. Also monitoring the dark skies across the whole area is quite a challenge.
- 3.4 Because of that and the fact that Ynys Enlli has now received Dark Sky Sanctuary status, the AONB Unit, in collaboration with Project NOS, is considering seeking Dark Sky status for the area on the tip of the Peninsula – the “Pendraw Llŷn” Community area. This is also one of the darkest areas in the AONB.
- 3.5 As part of the application process for the Dark Sky Status it will be necessary to prepare Supplementary Planning Guidance and create a program of events to raise awareness.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 To support the AONB’s Unit intention to work towards making a Dark Sky designation application in relation to the Pen draw Llŷn area.