

COMMITTEE	Llyn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	22 November 2023
TITLE	The Dark Sky
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	AONB Project Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The issue of a Dark Sky designation was discussed at the Joint Advisory Committee held in March of this year. At the time it was explained that the AONB Unit was now keen to concentrate on designating a part of the area, namely the Aberdaron community, rather than the whole AONB as an International Dark Sky area.
- 1.2 This was decided because the whole AONB area is fairly large, there is a variation in the quality of the dark sky within the area and that fact that Bardsey was recently designated as a Dark Sky Sanctuary. It was further explained that the intention therefore was, in partnership with the NOS Project, to make an application for a Dark Sky designation for the Aberdaron Community Council area.
- 1.3 At the meeting it was agreed to support the intention of making an application for this area if the Aberdaron Community Council was supportive.

2.0 DARK SKY STATUS FOR THE ABERDARON COMMUNITY AREA

- 2.1 The AONB Officer attended a meeting of Aberdaron Community Council in July 2023 to provide information of the Dark Sky designation, the process of making an application and to respond to any questions. The Community Council then discussed the matter at the meeting in September and decided to support the proposal.
- 2.2 Now, in partnership with the NOS project, the AONB Unit will begin the process of preparing an application for a Dark Sky designation for the Aberdaron Community area. As noted previously it is the IDA (International Dark Sky Association) which has established the concept

of Dark Sky areas and controls the designation process. For information the IDA has recently amended it's name to *Dark Sky International*.

- 2.3 There are various Dark Sky designations - including Dark Sky Park, Sanctuary , Reserve and Community. It appears that a Dark Sky Community designation would be most appropriate for the Aberdaron area.

3.0 MONITORING

- 3.1 Monitoring the Dark Sky is an important part of the process in applying for a Dark Sky status, to measure darkness in different parts of the area. For these measurements an apparatus called a *Sky Quality Meter* is used and the measurements need to be undertaken once, or if possible twice, annually. It is important to undertake the monitoring at a suitable time – when there is no moon and the sky is clear.

4.0 COLLABORATIVE DARK SKY PROJECT

- 4.1 The Llŷn AONB is also part of a collaborative project with the other 4 Welsh AONB's and the 3 National Parks (collectively named The Designated Landscapes). This is financed by Welsh Government through the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places grant
- 4.2 As part of this project the specialist consultancy Ridge have undertaken surveys of the night skies in all the Designated Landscapes, including the Llŷn Peninsula, and has identified areas with bright and intrusive lights.
- 4.3 The intention now is to work with some of the sites identified to offer advice and Financial support to adapt lighting systems so that they are more Dark Sky friendly.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 To accept the report.