YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY	**ITEM 6**
Date:	**13 December 2022**
Report:	**DARK SKIES RESERVE STATUS – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

Purpose of the report

1. To inform Members of progress to retain the Yorkshire Dales National Park as a Dark Sky Reserve, and the information required for the Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Authority notes the work outlined in the Annual report (**Appendix 2**) to retain Dark Skies Reserve status for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and agrees 'in principle' to producing a technical advice note to accompany the emerging Local Plan.

Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

   National Park Management Plan Objective 2019-24
   A2 Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can be found, and by 2021 obtain Dark Skies Reserve status to enhance and promote enjoyment of its night sky.

Background

4. International Dark Sky Reserve status is awarded following a successful application to the International Dark-Skies Association (IDA) to show how the area meets their stringent criteria (**Appendix 1**). The Yorkshire Dales National Park become a Dark Sky Reserve in 2020, our application can be downloaded from www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

5. To ensure continued accreditation an annual report has to be submitted to show current activities. The IDA now ask it to be produced in a specific format https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/become-a-dark-sky-place/idsp-annual-reports/ and we need to show how we are performing in relation to the following: night sky monitoring, lighting compliance, outreach (includes tourism), education and media, partnerships, success in light pollution control, leadership and future threats, change in and other information. A copy of our response is shown in **Appendix 2**. Of particular importance are night sky quality readings and outreach/tourism events for 2022. If these are not reported to the IDA's satisfaction, then Dark Sky Reserve status can be suspended by the IDA.

Progressing and retaining Dark Sky Reserve status

6. Designation as an International Dark Sky Reserve has provided a great opportunity to celebrate one of our special qualities – our exceptional dark skies. Through our Dark Sky friendly business scheme and our Dark Sky Festivals we have been able to promote locations, events and businesses which provide opportunities to look up into the night sky and see the Milky Way, planets, shooting stars, and on rare occasions, the northern lights. As well as bringing increased economic benefit to our tourist industry it also enhances habitats for our wildlife, and improves our health and wellbeing. At the heart of Dark Reserve status is the opportunity to enhance our dark skies by giving increased importance to appropriate lighting - sensitive to the impact on its surroundings. An additional benefit is it helps to reduce unnecessary consumption of electricity thereby minimising carbon footprint and energy costs for properties. To help individuals make informed choices we have put further information on our website.

7. Our Dark Skies Reserve annual report is shown in **Appendix 2**; this will be submitted on-line to the IDA. Some of the highlights in relation to our work over the last year are:

    - The Dark Sky Festivals (held in October and February), and Outreach programme have included 44 individual events attended by 2400 participants, including 'a night under the stars' for 35 participants.
        - Dark Skies film showcasing families experience of a walk and activity during a Dark Skies residential. https://youtu.be/9zbp0DzU4Zk
        - 30 tourism businesses in the National Park now specifically promote themselves as Dark Sky friendly https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/things-to-do/get-outdoors/stargazing/dark-sky-friendly-businesses/
    - Tips and examples of Dark Sky friendly lighting have been added to our website, https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/09/Yorkshire-Dales-National-Park-Dark-Sky-Lighting-Guidance.pdf
    - Presentations have been given by the Dark Skies project manager to the National Park's Parish Councils Forum, and 2 Parish Councils.
    - Richmondshire area – 7 parishes have signed up to part-night street lighting in. A total of 78 street lights are now turned off between midnight and 5am.
    - Dent and Sedbergh - In Sedbergh, our Sustainable Development Fund has grant aided the replacement of 26 existing streetlights with dark-sky-friendly LED style units and night time switch off. Dent PC has an application pending for the replacement of 19 existing streetlights with dark-sky-friendly LED style units.
    - A grant programme was launched following designation to encourage lighting improvements for some properties that have a big impact on the night sky such as the Station Inn at Ribblehead. Five lighting audits have been completed.
    - In partnership with other Dark Sky places and lighting professionals, produced a guide to encourage good lighting design. It provides advice for both domestic and non-domestic lighting https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/08/TOWARDS-A-DARK-SKY-STANDARD-Accessibility-Version-1.1.pdf and is called 'Towards a Dark Sky standard'.
    - 54 (out of 64 locations) had readings of 21.2 mpas (*magnitudes per square arcsecond)* or more which is the minimum requirement for a Dark Sky Reserve.

Challenges

8. There are two main challenges for the National Park Authority to retain the National Park as a Dark Sky Reserve. The first is submitting regular 'dark sky' light meter readings to prove that our skies continue to be some of the darkest in the country. We have a team of dedicated volunteers who go out and take manual readings during dark winter nights, as conditions have to be 'astronomical darkness'. However, there are 68 locations a year to measure, so require a lot of volunteers, and is weather dependent with measurements requiring a clear cloudless sky, with no moon. Measurements taken while the moon is visible do not accurately reflect the natural darkness of the location. As you can imagine this is an onerous task, and one for which we are struggling to find enough volunteers. To help, we are looking at permanent light meters, but need to find suitable properties where these can be installed. We are looking for 'hosts' for these permanent light meters in the darkest and more remote areas of the National Park, away from a light source, or anything that might block the clear sky. The permanent light meters need a WiFi connection and to be plugged into electricity.

9. The second challenge is to ensure that any lighting associated with new development in the National Park continues to be dark sky friendly. A comprehensive lighting assessment was undertaken in 2019/20 covering 2000 lighting units across the National Park. At the time of designation within the core zone (**Appendix 3**), residential lighting was already 90% compliant and non-residential lighting was 43% compliant. So the majority of existing lighting in the National Park is IDA-compliant – with the level of compliance already higher than that required by the IDA after five years.

10. The broad principles in the Yorkshire Dales Light Management Plan were adopted by the Authority on 30 June 2020, to ensure future developments within the National Park that include external lighting do not undermine our status as a Dark Sky Reserve. At that time, it was agreed that these principles would be given effect through the development of the new Local Plan. The Local Plan team is currently working with the Friends of the Lake District on a Technical Advice Note (TAN), that will sit alongside our Local Plan. The TAN will enable us to provide much clearer guidance and advice to developers on outdoor lighting, and require developers to show that they are meeting those requirements (note this is not supplementary planning guidance).

Conclusion

11. For many years the dark skies of the National Park have been recognised as one of the special qualities of the area. Obtaining International Dark Sky Reserve status is recognition of our superb dark skies, and realises the commitment made by the Authority and its partners in the National Park Management Plan 2019-24. Dark Sky Reserve status was achieved in December 2020 and gave us, our communities and businesses something to really celebrate in what was a very difficult year. It continues to be something to celebrate, bringing economic benefit to the area, and supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities, visitors and wildlife alike.

Hannah Kay
PA to the Director of Park Services and Dark Skies Project Manager

28 November 2022

Appendix 1

Summary of International Dark-Sky Association (2018) Guidelines

The goal of International Reserve status is to:

- identify and honour public or private lands and their surrounding communities for exceptional commitment to and success in implementing the ideals of dark sky preservation,
- promote eco- and astro-tourism,
- promote protection of nocturnal habitats, public enjoyment of the night sky and its heritage, and/or areas ideal for professional and/or amateur astronomy,
- encourage land administrators, surrounding communities and private interests,
- identify dark skies as a valuable resource in need of proactive protection
- provide international recognition for such sites
- encourage other locations to become environmental leaders on dark sky issues by communicating the importance of dark skies and by providing an example of what is possible with proper stewardship.

International Dark Sky Reserve application process includes:

- Adoption of a quality comprehensive Lighting Management Plan (LMP)
- Recognition of the value of the natural night time environment through long-term planning (i.e. policies in the National Park Management Plan, YDNPA local plan and our partners strategies and programmes).
- Commitment to dark skies and quality outdoor lighting, as shown by at least two-thirds (67%) of existing outdoor lighting fixtures within the core area conforming to the Light Management Plan at the time of application.
- A lighting inventory and a plan to bring 90% of outdoor lighting in the core into compliance with the Reserve's LMP within five years of receiving designation.
- Maintenance of a measurement program to show the evolution of light pollution in the core to assure that the night sky quality does not degrade. (Applicants are encouraged, to submit their measurements to citizen science projects).
- Examples of conforming lighting installations proportional to the size of the population, both on roadways and on different private sites.
- Completion of at least one highly visible demonstration project with night sky friendly lighting or approximately 10% of fixtures outside of the core must be retrofitted or brought into compliance.
- A description of current and suspected future threats to dark skies over the core zone, and a plan to address these threats.
- The importance of dark skies, natural night time darkness, and the benefits of quality lighting should be part of the Reserve's interpretation/education/outreach programmes, with an on-going commitment.
- Official letters of support from the communities, counties, provinces or other jurisdictions to which the lands within the International Dark Sky Reserve are subject, confirming their long-term engagement and commitment towards the creation of the International Dark Sky Reserve.

Appendix 2

International Dark Sky Place Annual Report: October 2021 - December 2022

Yorkshire Dales National Park Dark Sky Reserve

Designation: December 2020

Guidelines Version 2018

Contact: Hannah Kay
PA and Dark Sky Reserve Project Manager

Night Sky Quality Monitoring

IDA uses a standardized approach to monitor changes in zenith night sky brightness across all of our certified Places. The current procedure involves taking measurements with a Sky Quality Meter (SQM) device, whether that is with a handheld or permanently installed device. Please also share with us any other useful observations regarding sky quality for this reporting period. Your repetition in following our procedure ensures this data is accurate and provides the best understanding of how this resource is changing over time, for better or for worse.

* Total average or typical zenith night sky brightness reading reported in the original application: *21.39 mpas average at locations within the core (80 sites),*
(21.12 average at all locations across the National Park – core and buffer (293 sites))

* Total average or typical zenith night sky brightness reading for this reporting period:
21.26 mpas average (64 sites)

* night sky quality raw data documents for this reporting period will be uploaded:
Note – If you are using the handheld SQM or SQM-L device, we recommend that you use IDA's standardized spreadsheet to provide your raw data.

Describe any changes detected in night sky quality from receiving your certification to the present:

In our application the average night sky quality reading for the core area (80 sites) was 21.39 and for all locations (core and buffer) was 21.12. These readings were the very best recorded over a 2-year period. During our application it was agreed with the IDA that we would measure 45 sites in the core area in any one year. The average readings for these sites is less than in the original application because poor weather during October – December 2021, Covid lockdowns and a shorter reporting period meant that there have been less opportunities for our volunteers to revisit sites in better night sky conditions to record improved readings. Fundamentally our original application used only the very best readings at any one location and the lower ones at the same location were discounted.

Communities are much more aware of their impact on the dark skies and have taken steps to reduce light pollution and sky glow so our night skies are darker. Unfortunately, the readings don't show this because of the reasons given above.

Lighting Compliance

This section allows you to report the changes from your compliance rate when you submitted the application to where you are now. As a reminder, Parks, Sanctuaries, and Reserve cores need to provide evidence of having 90% of their lighting compliant within 5 years and 100% of their lighting compliant within 10 years. Both Communities and Reserve peripheries need to show growing compliance with privately owned lighting and periphery community lighting, respectively.

* Reserves, please fill out the following table to describe your lighting compliance rate (%) with your Lighting Management Plan (whole numbers only):

Here you will need to provide the following for both the Core and Periphery (publicly owned lighting):

- Year of Designation 2020
- Compliance % at Time of Application
  Within the core zone, residential lighting is 90% compliant, non-residential lighting 9%, 84% overall. Across the whole reserve 76%
- Current Compliance as above
- Anticipated % for Next Reporting Period 77% across the whole reserve

* What actions have you taken to meet the requirements of your Lighting Management Plan/Policy during this reporting period? Include a summary of any actions taken with privately owned lighting that helped improve your night sky quality as well:

We have been working with local communities and businesses to raise awareness of dark sky friendly lighting and how they can help protect our dark skies. We have given presentations and put guidance on our website see link https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/dark-sky-reserve-guidance-for-residents/ Our project manager has been available to respond to any dark skies queries from across the reserve, either from individuals, businesses or from other organisations.

We have administered a grant scheme to fund dark skies lighting improvements at some key sites on the edge of the core area. These include:

- *The **Station Inn** is situated beside the iconic Ribblehead Viaduct, the backdrop for some of our most spectacular dark skies images. We commissioned a full dark sky lighting audit of the Station Inn and are funding all recommended improvements to make the site dark skies compliant.*

- *The **Stone House Hotel** is in the heart of Wensleydale, in an isolated location, visible from several villages. The outdoor lighting was not dark skies compliant and the area around the hotel is an open expanse of land visible from several viewpoints. We commissioned a dark sky lighting audit of the site and funded recommended improvements to improve the lighting and make it dark skies friendly.*

- ***Yorebridge Sports** a sports pitch with separate gym and changing facilities on the outskirts of Askrigg. It is currently undergoing a revamp. We advised them on how to ensure the lighting of the pitch was dark skies friendly and funded a specialist*

dark skies audit of the site. We are replacing 5 existing lights on the gym and changing facility with 5 dark sky friendly units. We also advised on the use of timers and motion sensors on the pitch.

- ***Wensleydale Creamery** in Hawes. We commissioned a full lighting audit of the site and are funding recommended improvements. We have taken the project in stages and are currently funding the change to lighting at the visitor centre – replacing the 15 non-compliant lights with 5 dark skies lighting fixtures.*

Parish Council support was integral to our successful application and we have been working closely with Parish Council's to help them raise awareness and to support residential lighting schemes. Our Dark Skies project manager gave a presentation to the Parish Council Forum (covering the whole reserve) and this is available on-line https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/10/Parish-council-forum-Dark-Sky-Presentation.pdf Alongside this we have attended a number of individual parish council meetings to advise on dark skies lighting.

For local businesses we held an Astro-Tourism workshop which can be viewed at the following link https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/tourism-in-the-dales/for-tourism-businesses/events-and-workshops-for-tourism-businesses/ This also included a presentation on dark skies friendly lighting from our project manager.

Describe any delays or interruptions, if any, that have impacted your ability to meet your lighting compliance requirements:

The Covid pandemic hit just after our Dark Sky Reserve designation, and working with local businesses to improve lighting has been challenging in 2020 and 2021. The pandemic has led to a number of hospitality businesses closing down and / or changing hands. Business owners have been understandably pre-occupied with keeping their businesses operational which made having discussions about dark sky lighting more difficult. Delivery times on lighting products have been delayed massively, and it has also proved challenging to find electricians available to fit products.

The pandemic has also made working with parish councils more challenging. Parishes have only recently gone back to 'face to face' meetings and were understandably not keen to have external people attending their meetings during the pandemic.

Covid 'lock downs' in the winter months meant we did not have volunteers out in the Park undertaking light metre readings in the best atmospheric conditions for dark skies.

For International Dark Sky Communities and Reserves, have there been any changes to your local outdoor lighting ordinances? If yes, please describe and provide a link to the updated policy if available:

The development of our new Local Plan (for the period 2023 to 2040) is underway with the initial public consultation completed this summer. The stages involved in its development are explained here https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/planning-policy/local-plan-2023-40/local-plan-process/. *The finished document will set out the policies that guide what development can and can't take place in the Yorkshire*

Dales National Park. It's a spatial planning document, which means that it looks at the 'big picture', considering what kind of development Dales communities will need in the future and how best to protect the National Park's special qualities which includes its Dark Sky. The plan will give effect to the principles in the Light Management Plan and ensure external lighting, does not undermine our status as a Dark Sky Reserve. We have already provided clear guidance and advice on outdoor lighting.

- *https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/looking-after/dark-sky/good-lighting-advice/*

- *https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/09/Yorkshire-Dales-National-Park-Dark-Sky-Lighting-Guidance.pdf*

- *https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/08/TOWARDS-A-DARK-SKY-STANDARD-Accessibility-Version-1.1.pdf*

We require developers to show that they are meeting those requirements.

Outreach, Education, and Media

This section allows you to summarize the different types and methods of dark-sky and light pollution-related outreach, education, and media your Place has been involved with during this reporting period. Additionally, within this section, you will be able to showcase your work by uploading photographs, providing links, etc. We would also like to know about how your work is impacting your Place and visitor/public experience, as well as how you are integrating the IDA into your programs and messaging. The information provided here will also be used to promote your Place and efforts on the IDA Dark Sky Places website.

* Please fill out the following table to summarize all outreach efforts from the past reporting period (whole numbers only).

- Total number of events: *44*
- Number of unique efforts offered: *9*
- Total number of attendees for all events: *2400*

Note - "unique efforts" offered represent the number of different programs at your site. For example, all star/astronomy related events should be classified as one type of effort.

* For each *unique* event type your Place hosted, provide all of the following information: Event name; Date or range of dates of all events under that name; Number of attendees; Brief description of the event and the values that you promoted (i.e. wildlife/ecology, lighting, culture/heritage, IDSP status, astrotourism, conservation, human health, etc.).

1. ***Dark Skies Residentials*** *x2 in March 2022; x1 in October 2022; 11-20 participants at each; 35 in total; emphasis on accessibility/support for people from under-represented groups to enjoy dark skies. Benefits: focus on being mindful of surroundings and connecting all the senses, to promote the wellbeing benefits of astronomy/star gazing.*

2. ***Dark Skies Runs / Walks / Cycle rides*** *Februray, March, October 2022; 71 participants free, non-competitive,1 x 6 mile night run in Swaledale during the Dark Skies Festival to celebrate the night skies; marshalled with volunteers and run leaders supported individuals and groups that were less experienced night runners. 1 x Team walking event. 2 x halloween witches ride cycling events. Benefits: Wellbeing of night skies and exercise.*

3. ***Online workshops for Schools*** *November 2021; x1 lesson investigating rocket technology and the future of space exploration; x1 lesson investigating stars/constellations and the protection of dark skies; 600+ children/19 schools within/outside of the National Park; both presented by a UK Space Ambassador; children in class and under teacher supervision. Benefit; Education and awareness raising in future generations.*

4. ***Staff training:*** *October 1-2; 12 staff; staff were trained on interpreting the night sky, light pollution, constellations, cultural diversity, and telescope operation/etiquette. Based on this training, interpreters were able to craft thematic night sky popup*

programs for the visiting public. The training program will be offered to nearby IDSP sites and partners in the future. Benefit; Staff knowledge to disseminate to the public.

5. ***Planet trails and lantern parade**: October / February 2022; 820 participants, Planet trails laid out on nature trails during Dark Skies festival week. Dark Skies lantern making and parade. Benefit; Awareness raising amongst families.*

6. ***Stargazing:** October / February / March 2022; 472 participants, various stargazing events across the Reserve as park of Dark Skies Festival week. Activities included 'Canopy under the Stars' and 'Come Stargazing by Canoe'. Benefits; Wellbeing and mental health from stargazing and knowledge dissemination.*

7. ***Tourism events:** February 2022; 155 participants; various tourism events held at local businesses across the National Park. Benefits; Local businesses increasing custom during quieter seasons by hosting dark skies events.*

8. ***Online events**: February 2022; 40 participants; live online stargazing events called 'In the Night Sky Live' Benefits; Accessible for all, awareness raising, mental health.*

9. ***Photography**: February 2022; 25 participants; 2 events, 1 x Astrophotography Photo Walk at Malham Cove, 1 x Nightscape photography event. Benefits; knowledge sharing and wellbeing.*

* Did you promote the IDA and its mission during your outreach programs/events? If so, describe:

- *Discussed role of IDA during visits with Community groups;*
- *Added IDA logo to 'National Parks Walks – Yorkshire Dales Dark Sky Reserve' film;*
- *Added IDA logo to any new or existing education resources; website references IDA in relation to the YDNPA's designation as a Dark Sky Reserve on main landing page, https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/things-to-do/get-outdoors/stargazing/*
- *Presentations, lectures and training events promoted the role of the IDA*

Is there any programming ongoing or planned blending the arts and/or culture with dark skies? If so, describe:

We are in the process of submitting an Arts Council application with the aim to create opportunities to enjoy and observe dark skies in the city and in the Yorkshire Dales with local communities within with our nearest cities/towns; Leeds 2023, Wakefield 2024 and Bradford 2025 (Year of Culture).

What have you noticed about your visitors' experiences? For example, is attendance/visitation of dark-sky programs consistent, growing, or dropping off? Have visitors provided any feedback on their experiences at your site? Please describe:

Outreach events have been taken up enthusiastically when offered, as they are an opportunity that not many families have the chance to enjoy. Participants are blown away with what they experience and will remember it for many years to come. Evaluations from the events have stated that participants would recommend to others and would want to do it again. See Newsround promo from March 2022: www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60606350

Provide social media handles or website links used to promote dark skies (these will be added to your Place's IDA page):

Dark Skies film showcasing families experience of a walk and activity during a Dark Skies Residential. https://youtu.be/9zbp0DzU4Zk

https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/looking-after/dark-sky/

https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/looking-after/dark-sky/why-does-our-dark-sky-need-protecting/

* Has your Place participated in any IDA-led initiatives such as International Dark Sky Week, the Under One Sky conference, or other relevant promotions during this reporting period? *No*

Upload files of any media coverage (articles, interviews, etc.) about your site or dark-sky efforts you are involved with. This may also be a document with a list of links to the respective coverage.

12 October 2021
Northern Echo – Dark Skies Fringe Festival returns to National Parks

19 October 2021
Gazette & Herald – Festival highlights the delights of dark skies

21 October 2021
The Guardian – Hot tickets for half-term: great ways to spend the October break

22 October 2021
Yorkshire Post – Event to celebrate clear skies of North Yorkshire this weekend

6 December 2021
Out and About Live - Book now for the Dark Skies Festival 2022

17 December 2021
Daily Mirror – Hot tub lodges provide the most romantic stargazing in the UK this winter

28 December 2021
Yorkshire Post – Yorkshire Dark Sky Reserves: Battle to prevent light pollution intensifies

January 2022
Living North Magazine – 'Starry Eyed' (major feature on the Dak Skies Festival)

19 January 2022
Craven Herald – Soothe the soul with some star bathing at February's dark skies festival

February 2022
Yorkshire Living Magazine – 'Heaven's Above' (major feature on the Dak Skies Festival) Page 1

6 February 2022
The Guardian - UK's top 10 Dark Skies festivals and stargazing destinations

13 February 2022
Yorkshire Live – North Yorkshire's Dark Skies Festival
Yorkshire Life – 5 Dark Skies Festival walks in Yorkshire during spring 2022

14 February 2021
Daily Telegraph – The ultimate guide to dark sky gazing (original article behind a paywall)

16 February 2022
Yorkshire Post – Nature trail in the Yorkshire Dales that is out of this world
Gazette & Herald – Dark Skies Festival set for return to the North Yorkshire

21 February 2022
Yorkshire Live – The 30 best stargazing spots in Yorkshire including exclusive 'Dark Sky' club

26 February 2022
Yorkshire Post – Yorkshire's National Parks at forefront of major survey to monitor the night skies

28 February 2022
Craven Herald – Handcrafted Buckden boxes take inspiration from dark skies
Richmondshire Today – Richmondshire entrepreneurs work together on boxes inspired by night sky
5 March 2022
BBC Newsround (CBBC) – Coverage of our Dark Skies Festival on Newsround

14 April 2022
Craven Herald – Dark Skies Festival estimated to have generated £200,000 income
York Press – Dark Skies Festival knock-on for North York Moors and Dales National Parks

19 April 2022
Yorkshire Post – Ran the Dark Skies Festival success story across the centre pages of its Country Week pull out in the printed edition of the paper (same story as 14/4 above)

28 April 2022
Scarborough News - Skies has no limit on potential (our Dark Skies Festival success story)

4 October 2022
The Stray Ferret – Planetarium could open in Harrogate district next month

5 October 2022
The York Press – Meteor shower to mark start of Dark Skies Festival Fringe event
Dales Radio – Stargazing this Half Term as Dark Skies returns to the Dales
Yahoo! News – When you can see a meteor shower across the North East skies

6 October 2022
The Northern Echo – When you can see meteors from the Yorkshire Dales

8 October 2022
The Sun – From farms to waterparks, the best family holidays this October half-term from just £23pp a night

9 October 2022
Darlington & Stockton Times devoted half a page to one of our Northern Lights in the Yorkshire Dales pictures in their print edition

Living North Magazine – The Dark Skies Stargazing Events You Won't Want to Miss in Yorkshire.

17 October 2022
Out & About Live – Dark Skies festival takes place this month

21 October 2022
BBC News – North Yorkshire National Parks to host dark skies events

28 October 2022
Craven Herald - The Craven Herald ran a front-page photo of dark skies at Ingleborough, which we supplied, to highlight the fringe festival.

* To update our records, please provide a photo of your erected sign with your respective International Dark Sky Place label:

Agreed with IDA through our application to erect signs at our visitor centres only

* Briefly describe how educational materials are being dispersed/provided at your Place:

Resources are sent electronically to schools on request, to support teachers direct their learning. We have created teacher activity ideas for Key Stage 2/3 children 'Exploring the Dark Skies of the Yorkshire Dales" see YDNPA Dark Sky Adventures resource pack.pdf

* Briefly describe any efforts undertaken to reach new audiences.

We have provided outreach events such as residentials in the Reserve area; specifically for those living in the East of Leeds, to provide opportunities for people who are under-represented in the National Park's visitor profile (and living in areas of high deprivation) the opportunity to access a Dark Skies event.

Partnerships

This section provides the opportunity to highlight your partnerships and collaborative efforts that are important to the ongoing success of your efforts in combating light pollution, both with the public and with the IDA.

Have you worked with any external partners to promote the dark-sky movement within and outside of your Place's boundaries? If so, identify these partners and explain the result of this collaboration:

North York Moors National *Park Authority. our neighbouring National Park, with whom we submitted a joint application for Dark Sky Reserve status. We continue to run the Dark Sky Festival jointly, and recently produced technical guidance in collaboration. We continue to share experiences; a recent example was use of permanent light meters.*

Friends of the Lake District *(conservation charity) Their Dark Skies Officer has worked closely with us on advising and implement a dark sky friendly street lighting scheme in two of our parishes (Sedbergh and Dent).*

Dark Skies Partnership. *We are part of a UK wide group whose aim is to collaborate on tackling the issue of light pollution and promoting and ensuring the protection of our dark skies in the UK. Members include: protected landscape organisations that are engaged in dark skies work; Commission for Dark Skies; CPRE; Institution of Lighting Professionals; South Downs Planetarium, GoStarGazing. Outcomes so far have been a new infographic with dark skies lighting tips, a technical document looking at lighting standards* https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/08/TOWARDS-A-DARK-SKY-STANDARD-Accessibility-Version-1.1.pdf *and ongoing actions are dark skies briefing notes and an evidence database of light pollution.*

District Councils. *District Councils have the responsibility for some street lighting in the National Park. We have worked with Richmondshire District Councils who have adjusted their night-time switch off schedules and change the type of street lighting they use.*

Dark Sky Friendly Businesses *– we have launched a scheme to help businesses promote their dark sky friendly credentials. Currently 30 businesses are signed up, and meet the criteria* https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/things-to-do/get-outdoors/stargazing/dark-sky-friendly-businesses/

Are there any ongoing conservation and/or research programs at the site? If so, who runs them, and what are the goals?

None known

* Briefly describe future plans (in 2023 and beyond) to engage with existing and new partners and how you will expand the dark-sky movement:

Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Trust Company. *They have run events as a part of our Dark Sky Festival. We are in discussion about the type of lighting used at a number of train stations (in any event all lighting is turned off late at night).*

Success in Light Pollution Control, Leadership, and Future Threats

Leadership and the identification of major threats are the keys to success for all Dark Sky Places. Let us know how your work and ongoing efforts are impacting your Place, your community, and how you are working to mitigate the continued threat of light pollution.

* For Dark Sky Reserves, briefly describe any new (or ongoing) examples of night sky friendly installations on private sites and/or public spaces such as roadways or parks:

Sedbergh Parish Council *– this project focuses on the replacement of 26 existing streetlights in Sedbergh with dark-sky-friendly LED style units. The Parish Council are responsible for maintaining a number of streetlights in the town and this project will result in the majority being upgraded. All the new lighting will be dark sky compliant in terms of colour, intensity and direction and will be wildlife friendly. Once installed the Parish Council also plan to take part in the part-night switch off between 12-6 am.*

Dent Parish Council *– this project focuses on the replacement of 19 existing streetlights in Dentdale with dark-sky-friendly LED style units. The parish council have applied for funding to carry out this project and intend to complete once funding has been approved. All the new lighting will be dark sky compliant in terms of colour, intensity and direction and will be wildlife friendly.*

* Have the "threats" identified in your application for certification: *(Pick one: increased, decreased, stayed the same)*

Stayed the same

* Provide a brief description of how you will continue to manage "threats" over the next year:

Continued work with parish councils, local businesses and district councils to raise awareness of dark sky friendly lighting. Dark Sky principles will be part of new Local Plan. The Local Plan team is currently working in partnership on a Technical Advice Note (TAN), that will sit alongside our Local Plan. The TAN will enable us to provide much clearer guidance and advice to developers on outdoor lighting, and require developers to show that they are meeting those requirements.

Additional Information

What do you consider the greatest single benefit of the IDA certification to your location?

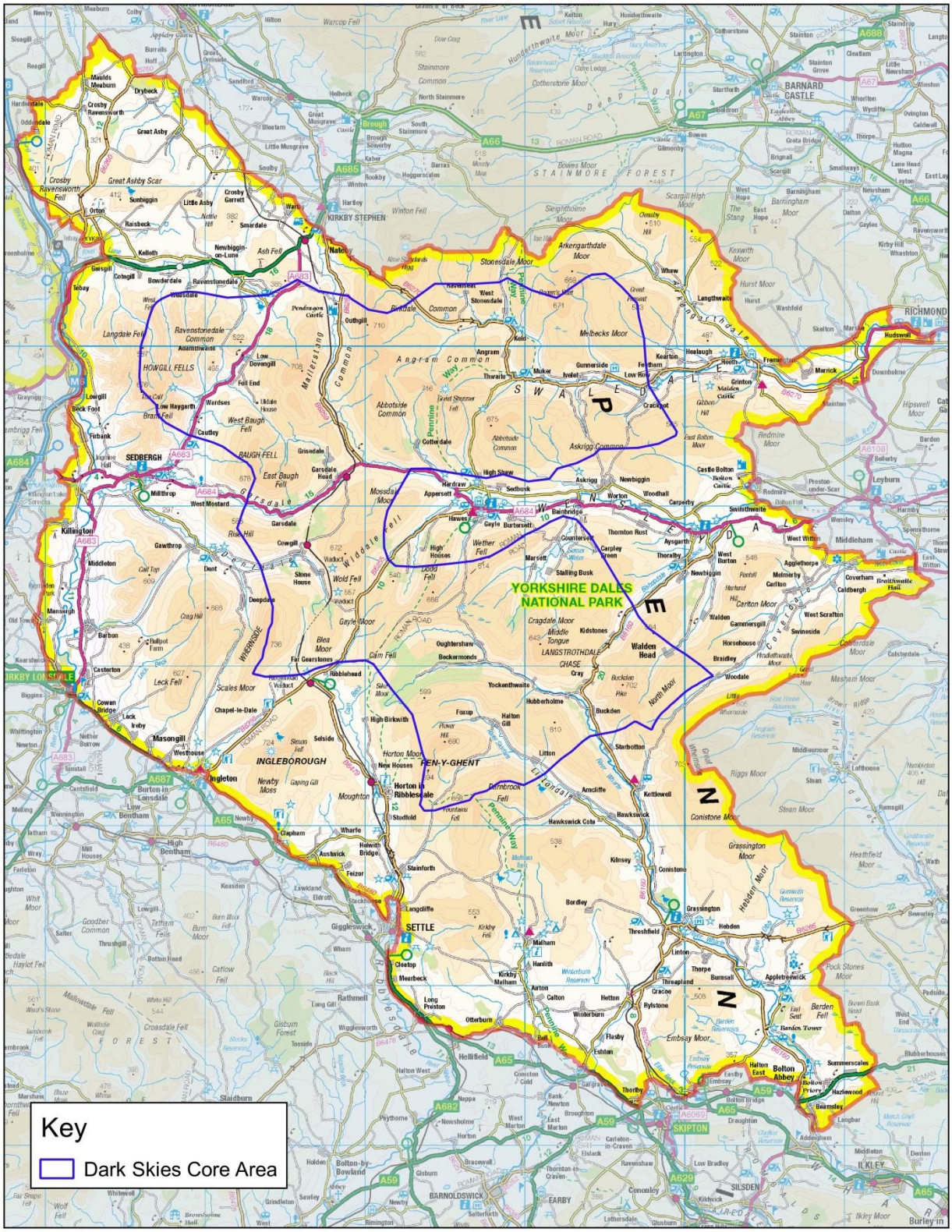
It has raised the profile considerably of one of our areas special qualities, and helped us promote astro-tourism. Until we undertook the work for Dark Sky Reserve status we didn't appreciate fully, how 'dark' our area was in a UK context.

Thank you for completing your 2022 Annual Report!

Appendix 3

Yorkshire Dales National Park Dark Sky Reserve (with core area shown)

Scale 1:300,000


Key
Dark Skies Core Area
YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK
INGLEBOROUGH
PEN-Y-GHENT
SETTLE
SKIPTON
RICHMOND
BARNARD CASTLE
KIRKBY STEPHEN
SEDBERGH
KIRKBY LONSDALE
HOWGILL FELLS
RAUGH FELL
Ingleton
Horton in Ribblesdale
Walden Head
Arkengarthdale Moor
Melbecks Moor
Stonesdale Moor
Bowes Moor
STAINMORE FOREST
Ingram Common
Abbotside Common
Askrigg Common
Mossdale Moor
Widdale Fell
Great Shunner Fell
Baugh Fell
Whernside
Ingleborough
Pen-y-ghent
Fountains Fell
Darnbrook Fell
Conistone Moor
Grassington Moor
Hebden Moor
Embsay Moor
Barden Fell
Pock Stones Moor
Masham Moor
Heathfield Moor
Middlemoor
Riggs Moor
Stean Moor
Colsterdale Moor
Coverdale
Wensleydale
Swaledale
Arkengarthdale
Langstrothdale Chase
Littondale
Malhamdale
Ribblesdale
Nidderdale
Pennine Way
Dales Way
Coast to Coast
Roman Road
A685
A66
A67
A688
A684
A683
A687
A65
A59
A682
A629
A6108
A6069
B6270
B6160
B6265
B6480
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