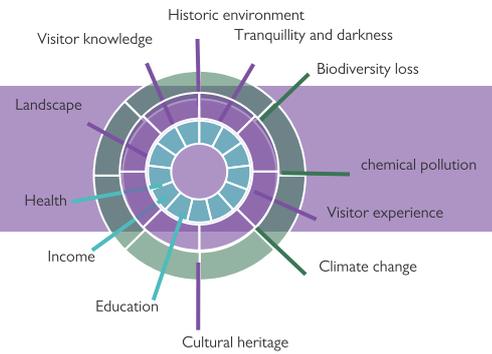


We will protect and enhance the night time environment and our dark skies so that current and future generations can experience the wonder and tranquillity of a truly dark sky, and to benefit wildlife and human health

Increasing light pollution is a global and local problem which, amongst other negative impacts, is causing damage to the special qualities of the Brecon Beacons National Park and is contributing to bio-diversity decline and climate change. To address this issue measures to control light pollution have been put in place which, along with other actions, resulted in the Brecon Beacons gaining International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) status in 2012.

However, the high level of threat of light pollution due to the installation and use of inappropriate lighting units is continuing and increasing. If it is not countered the night-time environment of the Park will be destroyed, leading to impact on the Park's day environment and its level of biodiversity.

DARK SKIES



Why this is important

Our dark skies are a precious resources providing opportunities for quiet and deep reflection connecting the individual to the wonders of the universe, yet they are fragile and easily lost to future generations if not protected.

Absence of darkness impacts our health and wellbeing. Humans live by circadian rhythms, and absence of darkness can interrupt this causing health impacts such as immune system suppression.

It's not just people. Our ecosystems are also remarkably sensitive to light effects. Moonlight influences animal behaviour, not just for nocturnal species. In keeping our dark skies dark we are keeping the natural balance of the natural world.

The energy to supply a single 500W light left on for 8 hours per night is equivalent to around 1.4 tonnes of CO₂ in a year meaning that excess light is not only damaging to humans, biodiversity, it is also having an impact on the health of our planet.

How the policy will be implemented

The National Park's statutory planning powers provides a clear mechanism to control light from new development but that is only part of the picture

Communication and advocacy will help us to counter the biggest impacts come from existing development and we will work with partners to develop a 'Responsible External Lighting' campaign to help reduce unnecessary lighting.

Working with other agencies such as Highways and Trunk Road Agencies to minimise lighting for road safety, and neighbourhood, local and place planning. Local Planning Authorities to develop light sensitive area policies to limit light spill from our peripheral areas.

Working with our communities and visitors to understand, value and protect the special nature of our Dark Sky Reserve Status and its role in supporting both human health and wellbeing, and that of nocturnal creatures which need dark nights to forage, hunt and migrate.

What success looks like

Controlling light pollution has provided benefits to the environment, greenhouse gas emissions, people's health and wellbeing, and nature recovery.

The ongoing resource requirements of retaining the IDSR status are met by the NPA and its partner organisations in the Dark Sky Reserve

All adjacent Local Planning Authorities have appropriate dark sky protection policies in place and operational, streetlight operators are committed to appropriate lighting options.

How we will measure progress

By 2026 we will have developed a 5-year Action Plan for the IDSR and secured appropriate resourcing operating with relevant partners.

By the end of the Plan period we will have re-surveyed the external lighting in the Core and Critical Buffer Zones to assess progress with the aim of observing 100% compliance with management recommendations.