

International Dark Sky Park

Where to watch Dark Skies and find more information

You can look at the sky from just about anywhere in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park. However, here we describe some of the places that will give you a better view and a more memorable experience.

Kielder Observatory

Set high in Kielder Forest, far from the nearest light pollution, Kielder Observatory is home to Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society. Here professional and amateur astronomers work together to deliver a stunning and exciting experience like no other. Experienced astronomers will explain and introduce the marvels of our universe. Inside there are two permanently mounted telescopes that let you see the most distant objects in the night sky. Your journey to the cosmos starts here!

The observatory is open to the public during events. These are popular, so be sure to book ahead at www.kielderobservatory.org. You can also follow us on twitter at www.twitter.com/kielder_obs

Once Brewed National Park Visitor Centre

Once Brewed is the gateway for the southern part of the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park. Here you'll find a programme of events, information and merchandise to help you enjoy dark skies.

Dark Sky Discovery Sites

There are lots of good places in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park from which to observe the night sky. Use the interactive map to find those you'd like to visit. Most have off-road car parking, some have 24-hour toilets and many have restaurants and pubs nearby so you can combine your

stargazing trip with a meal! At some, you'll find star maps in situ. Some of these places are so dark that they have been designated as Dark Sky Discovery Sites.

They all offer a slightly different experience, ranging from developed sites, like Walltown and Cawfields, which have toilets, to remote sites like Bulby's Wood in the Breamish Valley and Elf Kirk in Kielder Forest. The Stargazing Pavilion at Stonehaugh was built through a unique collaboration between the local community with Newcastle University School of Architecture and Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust's Art and Architecture programme.

Dark Sky Events

A programme of stargazing events takes place at Kielder Observatory and at other locations throughout the International Dark Sky Park – search the events listing for details.

Dark Sky Accommodation

Several accommodation providers in and around the International Dark Sky Park offer stargazing weekends and provide information to help you enjoy star watching. Look out for this symbol, or search for Dark Sky Friendly or Dark Sky Stay and Gaze Accommodation.

