

## Consultation Statement prepared in accordance with Regulations 12 & 14 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Consultation on a first draft Dark Night Skies Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) took place for a six week period between 23 June and 7 August 2023. Following approval for adoption at the Authority's Planning Committee on 12 October the document was subsequently published for a further four weeks of consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Local Plan Regulations. No adverse comments were received.

Consultation took place with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory consultees, including all parish councils within the National Park, and those landowners, planning agents and members of the public included on the Authority's Local Plan consultation database. The draft document was also made available to view on the Authority's website, along with an online response form.

Sixteen responses were received, comprising 5 responses from Parish Councils, one local authority, 5 statutory bodies, 2 non-statutory interest groups, one developer, one major landowner and one member of the public.

A summary of the responses received, together with the Authority's own response to the views expressed, is set out in the following schedule.

### Dark Night Skies SPD - Schedule of consultation comments and proposed response - initial round of Consultation Summer 2023.

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Summary Comments received</b>	<b>Authority proposed response</b>
Lythe Parish Council	The Council would appreciate it if street lights in small rural villages remain illuminated at night.	Noted but this issue is outside the direct control of the NPA and the scope of the SPD.
Cloughton Parish Council	Fully support the SPD.	Noted
Helmsley Town Council	Support the SPD.	Noted
Nawton Parish Council	Fully support all the NYMNP work regarding Dark Skies and the NYM's guidelines.	Noted
Eskdakeside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council	Ridiculous to suggest that no external lighting is fitted to new developments in remote areas. Lighting is required in remote normally unlit areas for emergency, i.e. storms, or for use during criminal activity events. Lighting should be available but restricted in its use and any lighting should face downwards.	Local Plan policy ENV3 identifies 'remote areas' as areas more than 1km from an address point and therefore comprising mainly areas of moorland, forestry or remote dale head locations representing the most tranquil areas of the National Park. In recognition of the value of these locations the Policy sets out a very restrictive approach to new development, being limited to only that essential for

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Summary Comments received</b>	<b>Authority proposed response</b>
		environmental conservation or effective land management. This Policy is supported by Policy ENV4 Dark Night Skies, which states that no external lighting will be permitted in Remote Areas. As this Policy is established in the adopted Local Plan it is neither practicable or appropriate to set out a different approach in the SPD. Proposals for external lighting on development in remote areas can be considered on a case by case basis as exceptions to the restrictive approach in the Policy, where sufficient justification exists. It is considered that this approach remains appropriate.
North Yorkshire Council	Support the guidance and wish to engage with the NPA in future regarding lighting issues, particularly where development is proposed near to but outside the NP boundary. Suggest further consideration could be given in the document to requirements for Landscape and Visual Assessment relating to night time impacts.	It is agreed that there may be a need for landscape and visual assessment of the nighttime impacts of some developments. However, the focus of the SPD is on technical lighting standards. Other elements of policy, guidance and legislation provide a mechanism for addressing the nighttime landscape and visual impacts of development more generally. It is considered that the new Design Guide SPD, in preparation, will provide an opportunity to publish more specific guidance on this topic.
Historic England	Welcome the recognition in the document of the need for some flexibility in lighting standards where development of heritage assets is concerned.	Noted
Natural England	No comment	Noted
National Highways	No comment	Noted
Marine Management Organisation	No comment	Noted
The Coal Authority	No comment	Noted
CPRE North East region	Suggest improvements to the dark skies pages of the website to help emphasise the cultural and ecological importance of	It is agreed that these messages are important in the context of dark night skies issues and that the Authority's webpage relating to

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Summary Comments received</b>	<b>Authority proposed response</b>
	dark night skies, and to further stimulate interest in these issues for residents and visitors of all ages.	dark night skies be reviewed, in order to provide further emphasis to these particular issues.
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	Would like to see reference made to the guidance published jointly on the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals websites, which provide a wealth of useful information.	It is agreed that a link to this source of information should be included in the SPD.
Anglo American Woodsmith Ltd c/o Lichfields	Consider that the draft SPD and, in particular, the Careful Lighting Checklist is helpful in setting out practical guidance as to how dark skies can be respected within NYMNP and that many of the principles contained within the Checklist are already adopted by Anglo American as part of the construction activity associated with the Mine. Consider that the SPD should acknowledge that its content is intended to act as a guide to applicants and that there may be circumstances under which deviation from its guideline standards are justified.	The advice in the SPD does by definition constitute guidance rather than adopted planning policy and is not intended to be applied rigidly in all circumstances. The SPD already provides a number of references to circumstances where a degree of flexibility is required but it is not considered necessary or practicable to identify all such circumstances in the document.
Duncombe Park Estate	Note that it is essential people are able to live and work safely during darkness hours, and best practice guidance is helpful. Whether or not it should become policy as opposed to guidance is another matter. There is safety, security and general wellbeing (especially in winter months) to consider. Considers the external lighting at the recently constructed Bransdale View extended care home in Helmsley is an exceptionally poor example of dark skies sensitive lighting. It is so bright it must irritate residents as much as it annoys neighbours.	Noted. The SPD constitutes guidance rather than adopted planning policy. The document also acknowledges the need for lighting, including for safety and security purposes, but seeks to ensure that such lighting is compatible with protecting the dark night skies special quality as far as practicable. This is considered to represent a reasonable balance. The comments regarding lighting at Bransdale View are also noted. A number of changes have been implemented recently to help reduce lighting impact at this location.
Member of the public	Supports the aims of the document but does not consider that the technical aspects of	Whilst this comment is noted it is an isolated view not expressed in other responses to consultation.

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Summary Comments received</b>	<b>Authority proposed response</b>
	lighting and light pollution are well communicated and that many people would struggle with the way technical terms are introduced and used. Comments that street lighting is not specifically covered whilst accepting that this may be due to responsibility lying with the Highways Authority.	The SPD states that further information can be sought from the Authority where necessary and includes a glossary of technical terms. It also provides links to other sources of information on dark skies and lighting issues.

### **Dark Night Skies SPD - Schedule of consultation comments and proposed response - second round of Consultation Autumn 2023.**

A further four weeks of consultation took place in the Autumn of 2023, ending on 4 December 2023. The following responses were received:

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Summary Comments received</b>	<b>Authority proposed response</b>
North Yorkshire Council	Support.	Noted.
Forestry England	Support, note that FE has a responsibility for the safety of its staff, lighting schemes will need to take this into account.  Guidance needs to be disseminated to all residents of the National Park to raise awareness of the initiative (or at least those residents within the reserve boundaries).	Noted. The Authority has produced guidance, available on our web site: <a href="https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/things-to-do/stargazing-and-dark-skies/help-protect-our-dark-skies">https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/things-to-do/stargazing-and-dark-skies/help-protect-our-dark-skies</a>
Helmsley Town Council	Support.	Noted.
Eskdakeside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council	No further comments	Noted.
KVA Planning on behalf of CPRE North East and Yorkshire	CPRE NEY fully supports the Dark Night Skies SPD and welcomes the detail contained within the document	Noted.
Member of the public	Concerned that will affect glass in garden rooms/patios and that blinds and curtains will be required.	Noted. The document does not require the installation of darkened glass, curtains or blinds, all of which fall outside the scope of the planning system.

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Summary Comments received</b>	<b>Authority proposed response</b>
The Coal Authority	No comment	Noted
National Highways	No comment	Noted