

Why Stargaze?

Few people have seen a truly dark sky, but here in Northumberland, where there are few people and low levels of light pollution, we've got the darkest skies in England, making it the best place in the country for stargazing. 1500 square kilometres comprising the whole of the Northumberland National Park and Kielder Water & Forest Park have been designated as an International Dark Sky Park.

Big telescopes give the best views of the planets, distant galaxies, comets and other astronomical phenomena. These are used at regular events held at Kielder Observatory and other Dark Sky Discovery Sites throughout the International Dark Sky Park. However, you can enjoy stargazing with just your own eyes or a pair of binoculars and some basic information on how to get started, including star maps.

Why not enjoy an evening stargazing event at Kielder Observatory, in the heart of Kielder Forest, at the National Park Centre, Once Brewed or simply take in the unforgettable sight of the pristine night sky from one of the more remote sites like Stonehaugh Stargazing Pavillion – just you and a few million stars for company!

Why are Dark Skies Important?

Light pollution in our towns and cities is blocking our view of the stars, to the point where it is beginning to creep further into even the more remote areas of our protected landscapes. Here in Northumberland International Dark Sky Park, we are taking steps to keep our skies dark by working with our communities and helping developers to implement measures that will reduce light pollution. Find out how you can make a difference by visiting: www.britastro.org/dark-skies/pdfs/CfDS_guidelines.pdf

Remember, when you go star gazing, use a red-light torch to help you see more stars, as white light makes it harder to see. Red-light torches can be purchased from the National Park Centre, Once Brewed and other outlets in the area.

Find out more

For more information on stargazing in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park, go to:

visitnorthumberland.com/darkskies

Events, places, downloadable resources, apps and other information to help plan your trip.

kielderobservatory.org

Regular stargazing events and activities for beginners, families and experts where you can learn more.

visitkielder.com/play/discover/dark-skies

Information on star gazing events and activities, Dark Sky Discovery Sites and the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park.

northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk

Information on stargazing and conserving the dark skies in Northumberland National Park

darksky.org

More information about conserving our dark skies.

darkskydiscovery.org.uk

Downloadable star maps and other helpful information.

[#NlandDarkSkyPark](https://twitter.com/NlandDarkSkyPark)

Search on Twitter for the latest news and information from the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park.

For further information

Once Brewed Tourist Information Centre: 01434 344396

Kielder Water & Forest Park Information Line: 0845 155 0236

Cover photos clockwise from top: © Cain Scrimgeour, Sycamore Gap Hadrian's Wall; © Gary Fildes, Kielder Observatory; © Cain Scrimgeour, Cawfields Dark Sky Discovery Site; © A King, Comet Lovejoy; © Alisdair Mckenzie, Kids at Cawfields



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NORTHUMBERLAND
AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

Stargazing in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park



Great Places to See Stars

There are lots of great places to enjoy the night sky in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park and North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They are easy to find. Some of them have star maps in place to help you find key stars and constellations. Some have 24-hour toilets and there are places to eat and stay close to most of them. The sky you see from each place is the same, but each one is different.

To see dark skies through big telescopes visit Kielder Observatory. Nestling on a remote hillside, this award-winning building is the ideal place to observe our universe.



1 Kielder Observatory

NE48 1EJ

2 Kielder Castle

NE48 1ER

3 Kielder Camp Site

NE48 1EJ

4 Tower Knowe

NE48 1BX

5 Elf Kirk Viewpoint

Follow the signs at Kielder Water

6 Hawkhope Car Park

Follow the signs at Kielder Water

7 Stonehaugh Stargazing Pavilion

NE48 3DZ

8 Once Brewed, National Park Centre

NE47 7AN

9 Cawfields Picnic Site

NE48 9NN

10 Walltown

CA8 7JD / CA8 7HZ

11 Ingram & Bulby's Wood

NE66 4LT

12 Alwinton Car Park

NE65 7BQ

13 Tarsset Village Hall

NE48 1NT

14 Eildon Village Green

NE19 1AF

15 Falstone Village Hall

NE48 1AA

16 Kirknewton Village Hall

NE71 6XF

17 Byrness

NE19 1TT

18 Rochester

NE19 1TA

Key

- Northumberland International Dark Sky Park
- Hadrian's Wall
- Scottish Border



Some of these places have been designated as 'Dark Sky Discovery Sites' because they are especially dark.

Please note: When using sat nav at Kielder Water - unless you activate 'no toll roads' you may be directed via the Kielder Forest Drive which is an unsurfaced road.