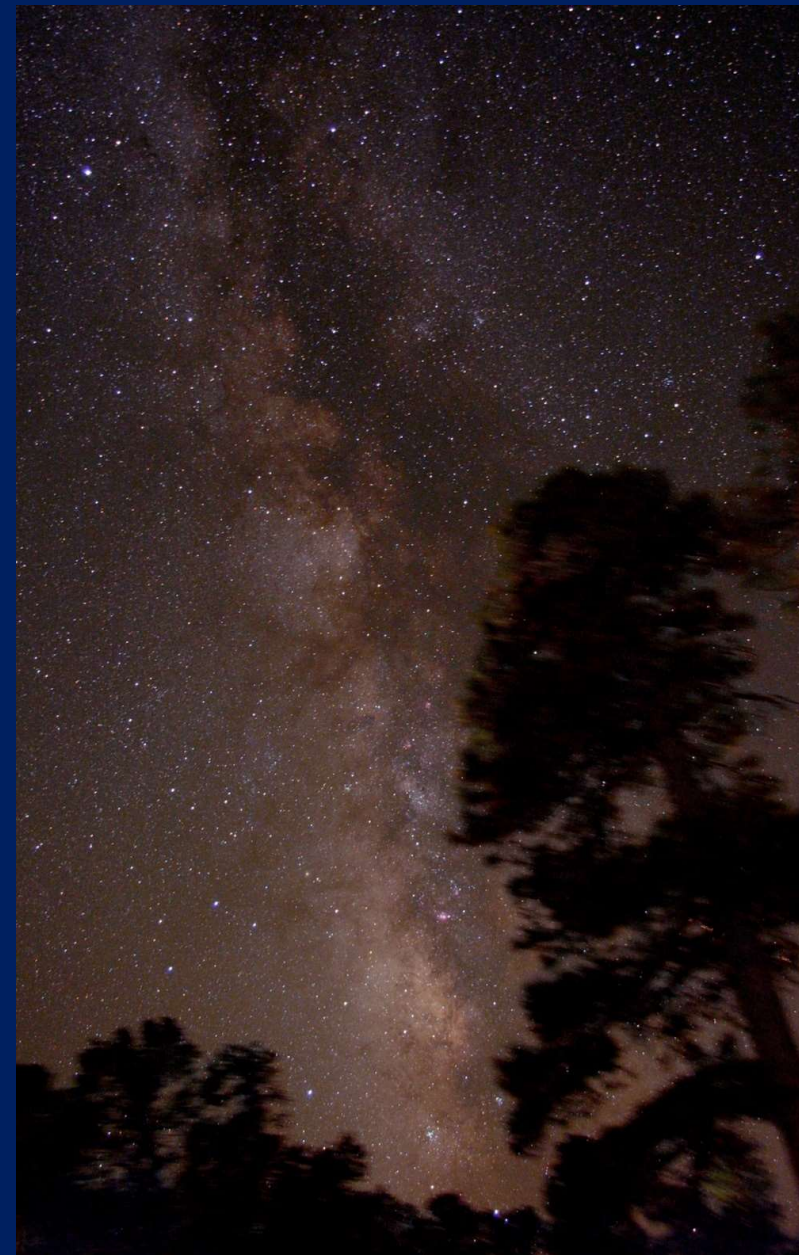




why we need
Dark Skies

Dr Richard Miles,
British Astronomical Association

BAA Back to Basics, Greenwich, 2024 Nov 30



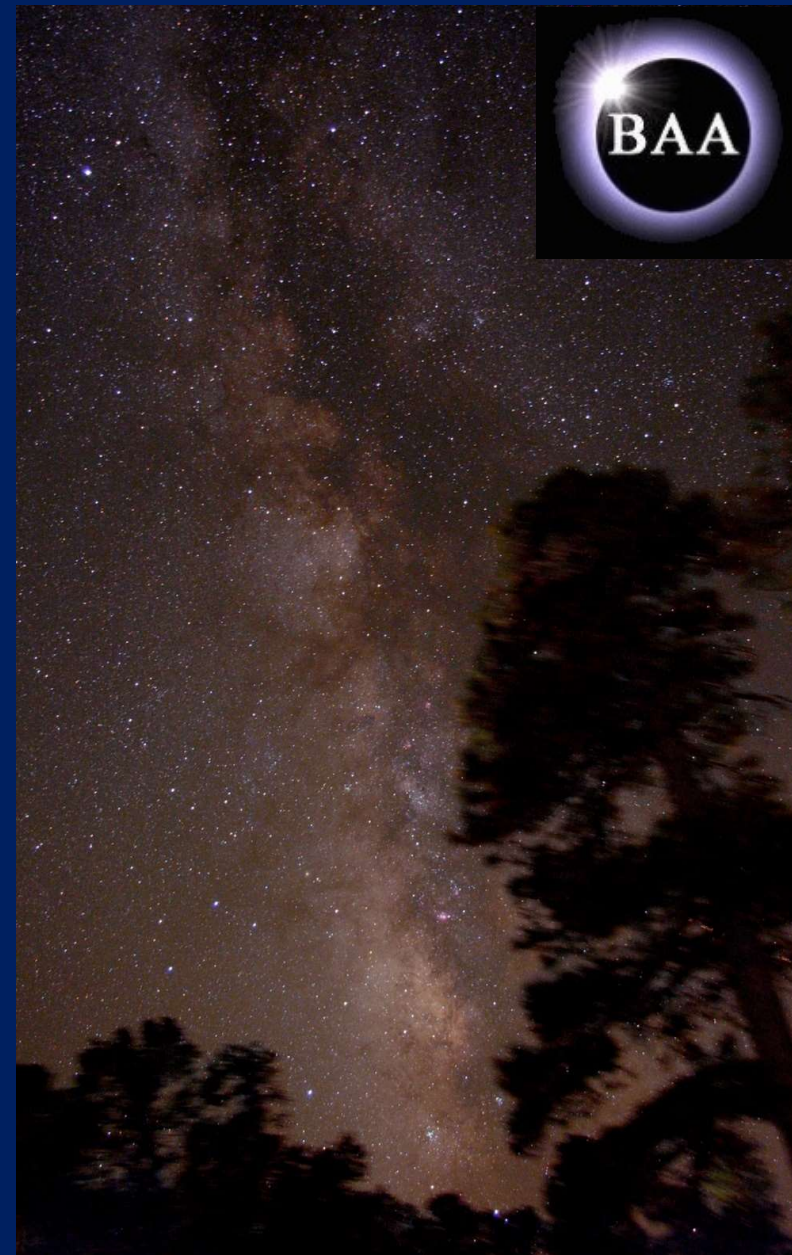


why we need
Dark Skies



Dr Richard Miles,
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Imagine you're outside on a clear night, trying to look at the stars.



Now, think about how many stars you can see.



Not many if you live near a city !



**It isn't just astronomers who are perturbed
by light pollution though !**



**It isn't just astronomers who are perturbed
by light pollution though !**

Let's look at why we should protect the night :



Reasons to protect the night:

- Urban skyglow is polluting dark skies in the countryside

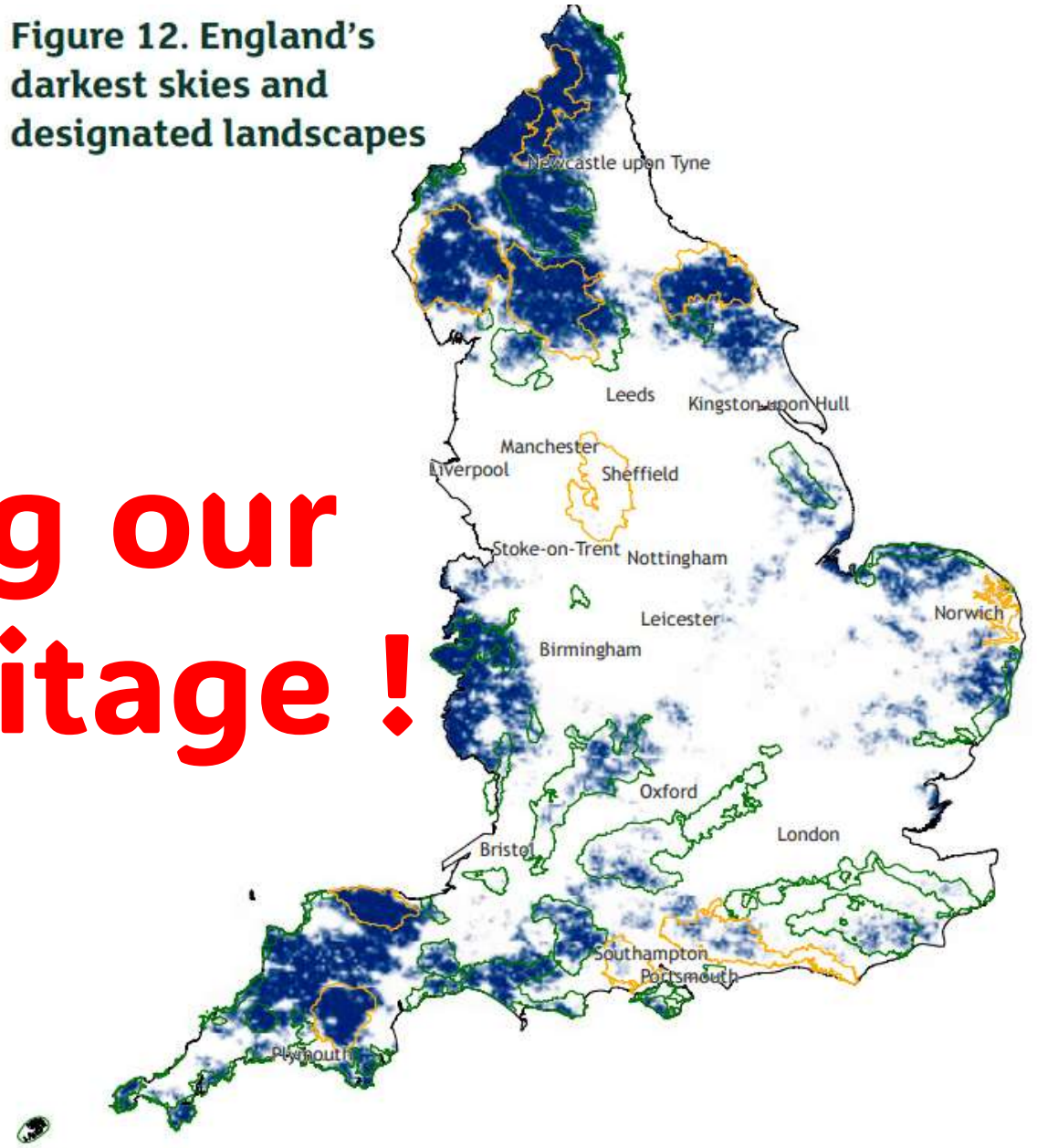
CPRE

Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Standing up for your countryside

Night Blight:
Mapping England's light
pollution and dark skies

**We are losing our
dark-sky heritage !**

**Figure 12. England's
darkest skies and
designated landscapes**



Reasons to protect the night:

- Urban skyglow is polluting dark skies in the countryside
- Too many lights, too bright, and too much glare

“Too much lighting isn't planned - it just happens”

Ian Phillips,

Vice-President, Landscape Institute;

South Downs National Park Authority

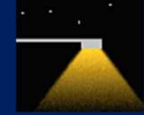


Photo: Adam Kuban



Photos: Bob Mizon

Reasons to protect the night:

- Urban skyglow is polluting dark skies in the countryside
- Too many lights, too bright, and too much glare
- Wasted energy and economic costs for people and the planet

“Glowing to waste”:

Europe alone sends

more than **£3 BILLION**

skywards every year

in the form of

wasted light !

(A. Mohar, Dark-Sky Slovenia)



Reasons to protect the night:

- Urban skyglow is polluting dark skies in the countryside
- Too many lights, too bright, and too much glare
- Wasted energy and economic costs for people and the planet
- Effects on human health

Resources

What is light pollution?

Effects of light pollution

Wildlife and ecosystems

Energy and climate

Human health

Crime and safety

Night sky heritage

Exposure to artificial light at night harms your health

Humans evolved to the rhythms of the natural light/dark cycle of day and night. The proliferation of artificial light at night means most of us no longer experience truly dark nights.

Many studies have shown that exposure to artificial light at night negatively affects human health, including increased risk for:

- Sleep disorders
- Depression
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Cancer

Reasons to protect the night:

- Urban skyglow is polluting dark skies in the countryside
- Too many lights, too bright, and too much glare
- Wasted energy and economic costs for people and the planet
- Effects on human health
- Impact on wildlife: e.g. birds, bugs and bats



Donate



Home > Campaigns > Light Pollution > Curtains for Light Pollution

IN THIS SECTION



Curtains for Light Pollution

Most of the animals on earth are invertebrates, but did you know two-thirds of invertebrates are partially or wholly nocturnal – that means most are active at times when we are all asleep!



Because we don't often see and interact with most of these species, some of their needs are often overlooked. However, many of their jobs are the same as the daytime species, pollinating, recycling nutrients, carrying out natural pest control and providing food for other animals.

Visual Search



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Light Pollution - Buglife
www.buglife.org.uk



Conservation Charity call...
www.buglife.org.uk



Definition & Meaning of "...
dictionary.langeek.co



Fireflies Clin Art Vector I

Reasons to protect the night:

- Urban skyglow is polluting dark skies in the countryside
- Too many lights, too bright, and too much glare
- Wasted energy and economic costs for people and the planet
- Effects on human health
- Impact on wildlife: e.g. birds, bugs and bats
- ... and, of course, astronomical observations

Cranborne Chase first entire AONB to be dark sky reserve

🕒 20 October 2019

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The night sky above parts of Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset has been designated an international dark sky reserve.

**Let's
preserve
and protect
our
dark skies !**

Thank you

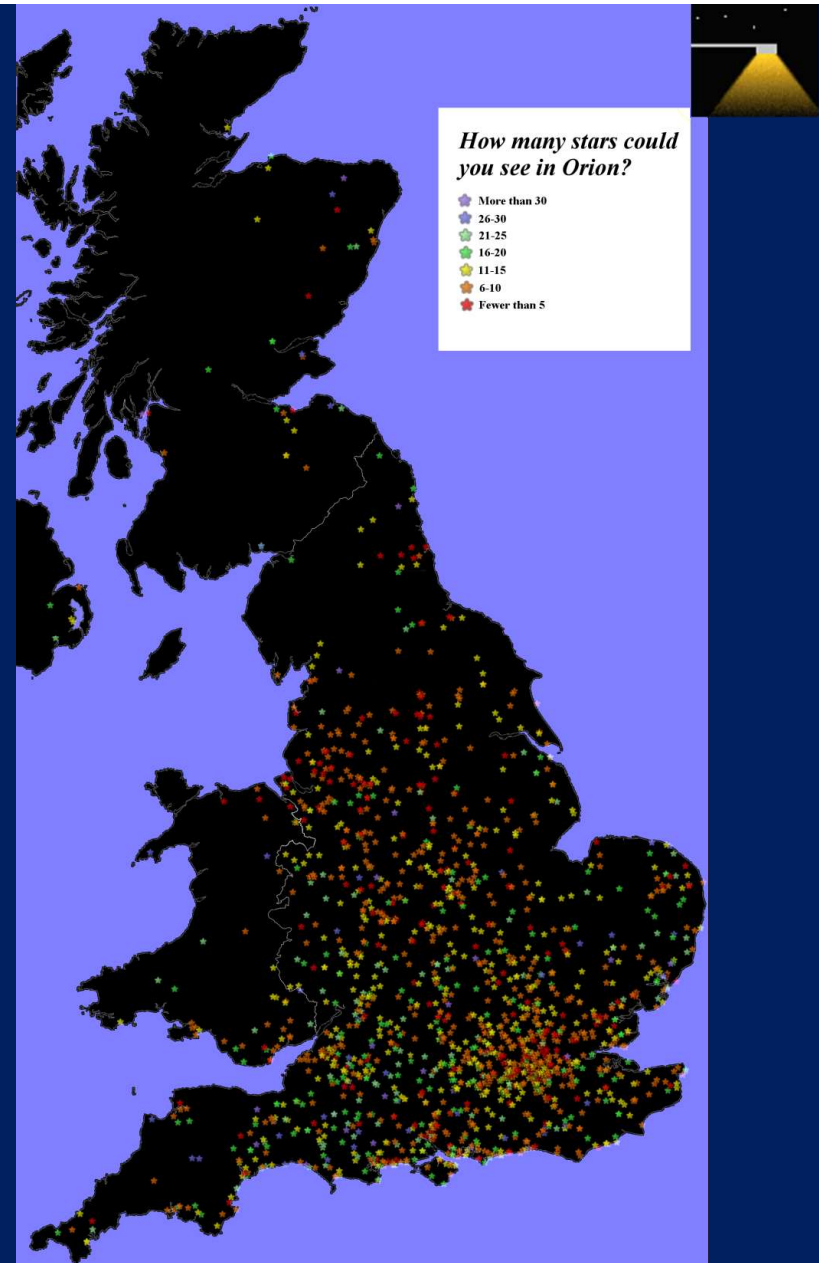


Orion over Ansty, Dorset
(Bob Mizon)

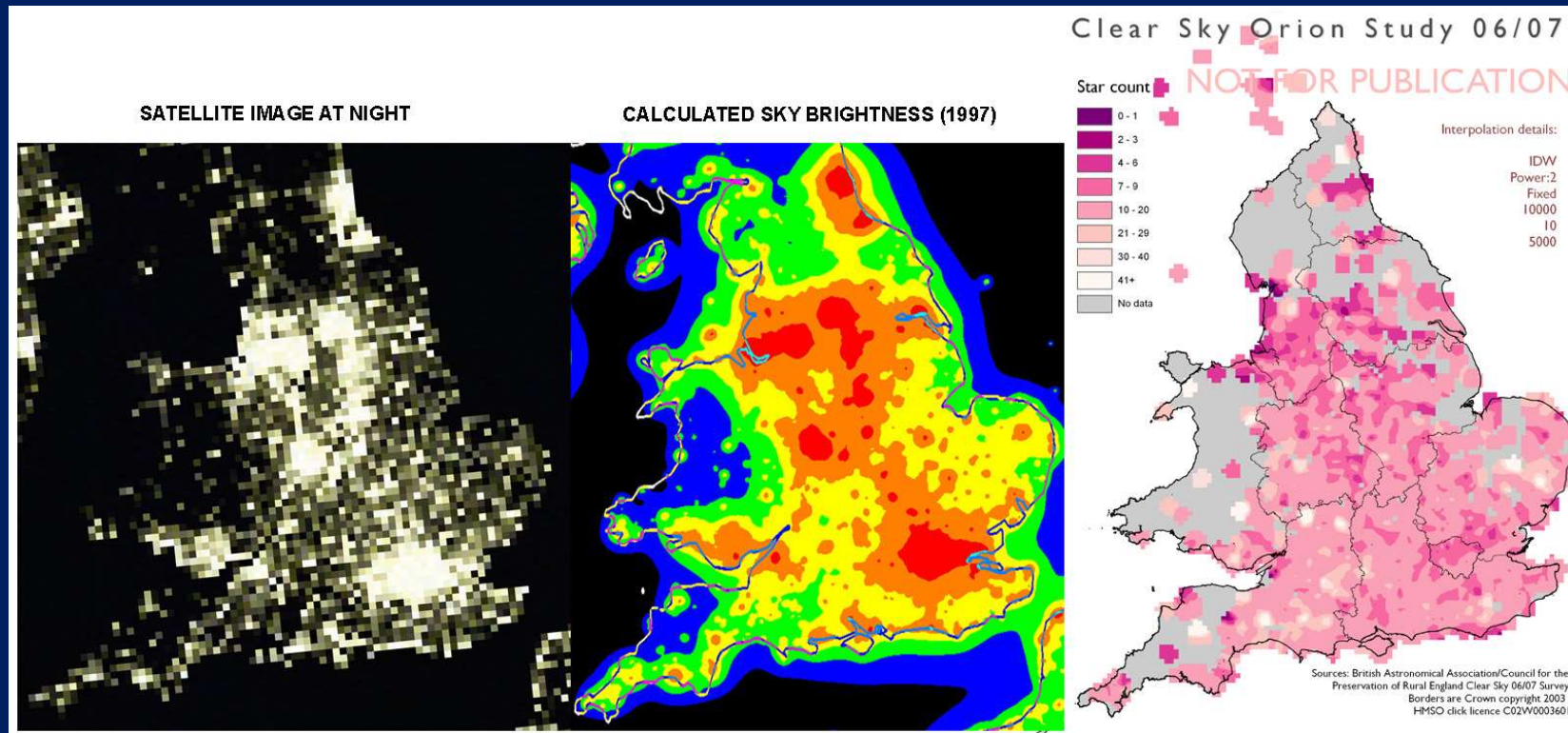


Since 2007, thousands of people have taken part in the annual CPRE/CfDS star count.

2% of respondents see more than 30 stars in Orion, compared to 54% who saw fewer than 10 stars— a level which indicates severe light pollution.



2007 BAA/CPRE Orion Star Count



The Commission for Dark Skies

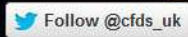
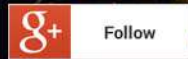
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CfDS > Home



Protect the Night

Safeguarding the Night through Star



The right amount of light, where it is needed, when
© 2015-2018 BAA Commission for Dark Skies

