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PRESS RELEASE: Rewild the Sussex night sky by tackling light pollution

Take part in Star Count until February 24 to become a ‘cosmic citizen scientist’ and help measure the impact of light on our views of the galaxy.

There are just a few nights left to take part in the annual Star Count event.

Star Count, organised by the national CPRE charity, runs until Friday, February 24, and helps to measure the effect light is having on our views of the galaxy.

You do not need any special equipment and it only takes 20 minutes. All you have to do is register via the charity’s website [here](#).

There is even a Star Count activity pack for children aged five and up which can be downloaded [here](#).

“Dark and starry skies are a sight to behold but our buildings and roads can emit light, affecting our views and causing problems for wildlife,” said **CPRE Sussex director Brian Kilkelly**.

“We want to monitor how much light is obscuring our views of the night sky so we can better mitigate its effects on nature. That is why we are encouraging everyone in Sussex to become a cosmic citizen scientist for the night.”

Artificial light pollution is one of the biggest threats to nocturnal creatures, many of which have suffered sharp population declines.

Artist and campaigner Steve Geliot from Brighton said: “Light pollution and satellite swarms have become a suffocating lid placed over the entire ecosystem. We need to remove the lid and let the stars back in.”

As the rewilding movement gathers pace, landowners, farmers and the government are being encouraged to remember the night sky is an intrinsic part of nature – and vital for the health of people and wildlife.

Environmentalist and broadcaster Chris Packham is supporting this year’s Star Count.

“We have many grave concerns about things which are impacting negatively upon our wildlife and they all urgently need addressing,” he said.

“One which is unfortunately relatively frequently overlooked is light pollution. Light pollution can be a real nuisance. It can interrupt animals’ behaviour and drastically disrupt their ecology, particularly nocturnal species like bats and moths.”

Find out more about what CPRE Sussex is doing to protect dark skies in Sussex [here](#).

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities contact sheena.journalism@gmail.com.

Notes for editors:

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

- Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
- Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health
- Sustainable development for thriving communities
- Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.