

International Dark Sky Place Annual Report: October 2021 - December 2022



Date

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

General Information

International Dark Sky Place Name

Sark

International Dark Sky Place Category

International Dark Sky Community

Designation Year

2011

Guidelines Version

2011

Your Name

Steve Lord Society Member

Email Address

stlord@gmail.com

Primary Contact

Jo Birch Treasurer

Primary Contact Email Address

jo.birch@cwgsy.net

Primary Contact Phone Number

+44 (1481) 832788

Secondary Contact

Reg Guile Secretary of Society

Secondary Contact Email Address

regguilef@cwgsy.net

Secondary Contact Phone Number

+44 (1481) 832788

What is the physical address of the Place?

SAstroS, La Ladrie
Sark, Channel Islands, GY10 1SF
Guernsey

Is the site currently under Provisional Status?

No

Are you an IDA Delegate, Affiliate, or Chapter Representative?

No

Night Sky Quality Monitoring

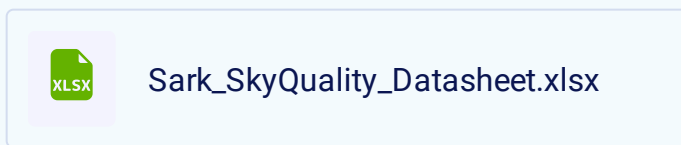
Total average or typical zenith night sky brightness reading reported in the original application:

21.5

Total average or typical zenith night sky brightness reading for this reporting period:

21.36

Upload your night sky quality raw data documents for this reporting period:



Upload a map (PDF or image) that shows the locations and names of the places that were used to take SQM measurements:



Describe any changes detected in night sky quality from receiving your certification to the present:

Nothing significant (Note that Sark lacks street lighting and has the most expensive energy costs in Europe).

Lighting Compliance

Parks, Sanctuaries, and Communities, please fill out the applicable row to describe your lighting compliance rate (%) with your Lighting Management Plan/Policy (whole numbers only):

	Year of Certification	Compliance % in Original Application	Current Compliance %	Anticipated % for Next Reporting Period
Communities	2011	75	75	75

What actions have you taken to meet the requirements of your Lighting Management Plan/Policy during this reporting period? Include a summary of any actions taken with privately owned lighting that helped improve your night sky quality as well:

We have assessed public buildings and contacted people with reference to the agreed lighting plan. We had 1 incident this year with the committee office that hadn't implemented dark-sky friendly lighting and entered into discussions about implementing timers and shielding to stop it from shining upwards.

Have you used any fixtures from the IDA Fixture Seal of Approval (FSA) Program?

No

Outreach, Education, and Media

Please fill out the following table to summarize all outreach efforts from the past reporting period (whole numbers only).

Total # of Events	# of Unique Efforts Offered	Total # of Attendees for All Events
68	5	713

Note - "unique efforts" offered represent different programs at your site. For example, all star/astronomy related events should be classified as one type of effort, "night hikes" as another type of effort, etc.

For each unique event type your Place hosted, provide all of the following information (up to 100 words per entry; 1000 total word limit): Event name; Date or range of dates of all events under that name; Number of attendees; Brief description of the event and the values that you promoted (i.e. wildlife/ecology, lighting, culture/heritage, IDSP status, ordinance/policy, astrotourism, energy security and conservation, human health, etc.).

Event 1 - Star Festival. 18-22 August Bob Bower FRAS. 19 August at Island Hall, Talk "Our Solar System" at Island Hall. 38 attendees. 20 August at Island Hill. Talk "Life Beyond our Solar System, SETI and Exo Planets" 48 attendees. 21 August star-gazing in A Dachinger's Garden, approximately 50 attendees.
Event 2 "A Weekend of Stars", 23 and 24 Sept Paul Fellowes FRAS, chairman of Cambridge Astronomical Society, Star-gazing at the Dachinger Observatory. 24 Sept, Lecture "Hawking's Black Holes and the Edge of Physics" at Island Hall. 42 attendees. Star-gazing session afterwards at observatory. 13 visitors

Did you promote the IDA and its mission during your outreach programs/events? If so, describe:

Leaflets giving information about the "British Astronomical Campaign for Dark Skies" available at observatory

Is there any programming, ongoing or planned, blending the arts and/or culture with dark skies? If so, describe:

No

What have you noticed about your visitors' experiences? For example, is attendance/visitation of dark-sky programs consistent, growing, or dropping off? Have visitors provided any feedback on their experiences at your site? Please describe:

Visits to the Observatory have increased and visitors have remarked on Sark Island's dark skies and the easy access to star-watching, eg while walking around in the evening after dining out. The visitors' book shows just how delighted people are to be shown the skies at night, in particular families with children are

always very excited.

Provide social media handles or website links used to promote dark skies (these will be added to your Place's IDA page):

<https://www.sastros.sark.gg/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SarkAstronomySociety>

Has your Place participated in any IDA-led initiatives such as International Dark Sky Week, the Under One Sky conference, or other relevant promotions during this reporting period?

No

To update our records, please provide a photo of your erected sign with your respective International Dark Sky Place label:



Briefly describe how educational materials are being dispersed/provided at your Place:

We have leaflets on the British Campaign for Dark Skies and several books on stars and Dark Skies. We have an current almanac with star maps.

Briefly describe any efforts undertaken to reach new audiences. If this was not part of your efforts last year, describe what you plan to do to engage new visitors in the 2023 reporting period:

None (see additional information)

Partnerships

Are there any ongoing conservation and/or research programs at the site? If so, who runs them, and what are the goals?

A new citizen science research project was started to track Russian and American weather satellites as they pass over the island, including downloading data. This is separate to the observatory, but on-island.

There have been discussions about building a sky quality meter network on-island for continuous dark sky monitoring and conservation activities.

These projects and discussions have been led by Steve Lord.

A project to replace the observatory telescope is ongoing, this is being led by Anthony Beaumont.

Briefly describe future plans (in 2023 and beyond) to engage with existing and new partners and how you will expand the dark-sky movement:

The island was hit hard by COVID with full Bailiwick-wide lockdowns. A senior member of SAstroS passed away, another left, and some of those remaining in senior positions are to retiring in 2023. There have been substantial handover gaps and this is reflected in both our submission and dark sky activities.

While there are new, younger SAstroS members, discussions have started about moving the custodianship of the dark sky accreditation from SAstroS to a separate island-wide committee more aligned with island-wide tourism than a single location. This will require support from our island government. We're working on a plan that we can hopefully take to Chief Pleas for a decision in the spring.

We look forward to re-engaging with IDA in the new year to discuss our plans and how we can support and expand the dark-sky movement but largely expect 2023 to be a year where we restructure and re-establish links on and off-island then lay the groundwork for further efforts in 2024.

Success in Light Pollution Control, Leadership, and Future Threats

For Dark Sky Communities, briefly describe any new or ongoing projects and/or renovation activities that have taken place during this reporting period:

Weather proofing of observatory, New telescope is being ordered. Improvements to access of observatory.

Have the "threats" identified in your application for certification:

Stayed the same

Provide a brief description of how you will continue to manage "threats" over the next year:

We will look to build and implement a threat and risk register for use from the next year onwards. Providing our committee plan is approved, once established the committee will appoint a formal Dark Sky Officer who will maintain this register, and update it throughout the year. If the committee plan isn't approved in time, the register will be established and maintained by volunteers at SAstroS.

Change in Ownership, Place Size, or Access

Have there been any changes to the size, access and/or boundaries of your Place (this could be property acquisition, sale, road development/closure, easement access, etc.)? If so, please describe:

Our population remains around 500, rising to 800 over the summer. The island is still the same size with no significant coastal erosion.

What is the total size of your Place (in square kilometers only)?

12

For Dark Sky Communities and Reserves, what is the current population size?

500

Additional Information

What do you consider the greatest single benefit of the IDA certification to your location?

Dark Sky status is a big draw for tourists, particularly during the months of April, May, September and October. Helping to combat the light pollution of the night skies and also encouraging the conservation of electricity.

Did you have any dealings with IDA over the last 12 months regarding any certification issues? How were they handled by IDA?

None, although we would like to re-engage with IDA about the next 12 months so that we can properly structure our approach.

Thank you for completing your 2022 Annual Report! Please provide us with any additional information that you would like us to know about your Place and/or your efforts to combat light pollution:

Our signs don't have an IDA logo on them. To the best of everyone's knowledge, there was no requirement but nobody is aware of a formal permission. This might be due to permission being granted in 2011.

As mentioned earlier, the island was hit hard by COVID (both lockdowns and deaths), and many of the people involved in the original accreditation have left the island, retired or passed away. We would like to properly re-engage with IDA in the new year while we attempt to restructure our local dark sky efforts.