
From: West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
Subject: FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#262]

Section 1: Margaret Arscott

**Your
personal
and contact
details**

1.1 Name *

1.2 Are you? a member of the public

*

**Select a
topic to
comment
on** Suggest sites for protection

Protection Dark Sky Sites in Sleat area

Site 1

3.1 Address

/

**Description
of Land**

3.2 FCS and Clan Donald Trust
**Landowner's
name (if
known)**

3.4 Why should the land be protected?

I am interested in ensuring that the established Dark Sky Sites in Sleat are not compromised by unnecessary or inappropriate lighting on public or commercial buildings or car parks.

Dark skies are a major asset to the area, especially now that there are hardly any areas except the Highlands left in Western Europe which have properly dark skies. They make it a pleasure to live here and are increasingly important to tourism. A particularly dark clear starry night with the Milky Way, constellations and planets visible is always a topic of conversation in the area. The Northern Lights have been a delight to generations of Highlanders. The moonlight glistening on the water of Sound of Sleat with the mountains of Knoydart silhouetted in the background is a major

feature of east Sleat. From Teangue, the moonlight roun Knock Castle on its promontory is particularly striking.

Dark Sky tourism is becoming increasingly important in the tourism agenda, helping to extend tourism beyond the summer season. There are Dark Sky sites at Clan Donald, Kinloch Forest and Kylerhea all of which would be effected by inappropriate and excessive lighting.

These sites registered through the Dark Sky Discovery scheme at Edinburgh Observatory have benefited from the support of the following public funded bodies – Forestry Commission (support in kind), Highland Council and CNAG who funded leaflets and a web site.

It would be very disappointing if HC having using public resources to support setting up the Dark Sky sites did not use their authority to ensure that appropriate lighting was installed in the Kilbeg/East Sleat developments and that the Dark Skies are preserved.
