
Embargoed until 2 February 2022

MASS PARTICIPATION ARTWORKS AT ICONIC WELSH LANDSCAPES PART OF UK-WIDE CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY

- *Green Space Dark Skies* is one of five major projects presented in Wales as part of UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, a celebration of creativity taking place across the UK in 2022
- 20,000 Lumenators are being recruited to help create artworks for *Green Space Dark Skies* in Gower, Brecon Beacons and Ynys Mon Anglesey, and across the UK
- The first of the five UNBOXED projects in Wales opens on 31 March in Caernarfon with *About Us*. Later this year will see *GALWAD: A story from our future*, commissioned by Creative Wales.

Across the UK, 20,000 people are being recruited to create large-scale outdoor artworks, including in four of Wales' most outstanding landscapes, for *Green Space Dark Skies*, part of UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, from April to September 2022.

The creative project is the first of its kind in Wales and will be taking place in Gower AONB (13 May), Brecon Beacons National Park (July) and Ynys Mon Anglesey (date tbc), with a finale location to be announced.

The Green Space Dark Skies artworks will be created at dusk by participants, referred to as Lumenators. They will be guided along pathways or waterways carrying smart lights that have been especially designed by Siemens' engineers and will enable digital choreography captured on film, while also being sensitive to the night-time environment. Each short film will incorporate the stories of the people and places featured and will be broadcast online after the event. Lumenators will also be encouraged to share their own connections to the Welsh landscape and the local areas as part of their involvement.

Green Space Dark Skies will enable people from all walks of life to forge new connections with the Welsh countryside by supporting those who experience cultural and physical barriers to experiencing our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to access events. The series of gatherings will celebrate the countryside and people's right to explore it as well as encouraging our responsibility to take care of it for future generations.

Outdoor art experts Walk the Plank are the lead creative organisation in the production of *Green Space Dark Skies*. Liz Pugh, Creative Producer, Wales said:

"The focus for the gatherings in Wales is shaped by the geology and the history of extraction – from the neolithic marks on the common lands of Gower to the geopark of the Brecon Beacons to the minerals under the ground on Anglesey. The short films we make in each place will tell a story specific about each location – collectively, we will illuminate how people are connecting with each place right

now, in 2022. Sign up to be part of something magical, outdoors, in a place you love and want to cherish.”

Developed by graduate engineers at Siemens specially for this project, the lighting technology uses existing wireless programmable low impact lights and incorporates something that’s never been done before: the ability for these lights to be animated through geo-positioning, where the position of each light can be known in relationship to the others; as well as the potential for this lighting technology to be adopted for use at future major outdoor events.

The *Green Space Dark Skies* team is working with Dark Skies representatives to explore how the project might highlight issues around light pollution in our towns, cities and rural landscapes to support wildlife to flourish.

Catherine Mealing-Jones, Chief Executive of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority said:

*“We are delighted to be working with Walk the Plank on this momentous event. We hope that **Green Space Dark Skies** will inspire people to protect our landscape and showcase the National Park as a welcome space for all. We’re excited to see how local artists and volunteers translate the stories of the Beacons into a unique experience for all to enjoy. I’m very much looking forward to seeing how the project develops.”*

The UNBOXED programme of ten UK-wide projects features free large-scale events, installations and globally accessible digital experiences produced by creatives from across science, technology, engineering, arts and maths. UNBOXED kicks-off in Wales with About Us on 31 March, a spectacular, free open-air event in Caernarfon that celebrates the entire history of the universe from the Big Bang to the present day and includes GALWAD, a project that sees Wales projected thirty years into the future across TV drama, digital platforms and live events in Blaenau Ffestiniog, Merthyr Tydfil and Swansea.

Martin Green CBE, Chief Creative Officer of UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK said:

*“**Green Space Dark Skies** perfectly demonstrates the innovation and creativity we have seen harnessed through the development of the ten UNBOXED projects to explore new ideas for a better future. By engaging artists, engineers, landowners and members of the public to create a series of unique experiences, **Green Space Dark Skies** will both enhance people’s understanding of our natural environment and relationship to the countryside as well as show the power of creativity to inspire change.”*

John Watkins, Chief Executive of the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty said:

*“The UK’s 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are within half an hour’s journey time for the majority of people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. **Green Space Dark Skies** will give people a truly once in a lifetime experience and the opportunity to develop their own relationship with the nationally valued landscapes on their doorstep.*

*The AONB family is thrilled to be part of **Green Space Dark Skies**, a project committed to opening up spaces for people while protecting nature. We hope that the Lumenators will continue to return to their AONBs, benefitting from the peace and rootedness that comes with a deep connection with place, and become the environmental guardians of the future.”*

Deputy Director of Creative Wales, Gerwyn Evans, said;

“We’re delighted to welcome Green Space Dark Skies to Wales as part of the UNBOXED celebrations. Seeing the creative plans unfold is very exciting, this is a great opportunity for people to participate and get involved - and we’d encourage everyone to do so. We look forward to seeing many communities across Wales taking part in events during 2022.”

To protect these amazing places, the exact locations will only be revealed to the people who have registered to take part. There will be no spectators, but anyone can take part for free as long as they sign up in advance and everyone can watch the films of each event online.

The *Green Space Dark Skies* artworks in Wales are part of a UK-wide celebration of creativity. 20,000 people, from the Cairngorms to The Chilterns, Gower to North York Moors and Dartmoor to the Lagan Valley in Northern Ireland are being recruited as Lumenators.

Events will take place across the UK from 23 April with the finale in September featuring events in all four nations of the UK, more details to follow soon.

Walk the Plank is working with each National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to create an event as part of *Green Space Dark Skies*. Each event will depend on the confirmation of landowner permissions, approval of event plans and local stakeholder engagement and therefore event locations and dates may be subject to change.

- Wales: **Gower AONB** (13 May); **Brecon Beacons National Park** (July); and **Ynys Mon Anglesey** (date tbc).
- England: **Peak District National Park** (23 April); **Dartmoor National Park** (May); **Exmoor National Park** (28 May); **Dorset AONB** (11 June); **Broads National Park** (June); **North York Moors National Park** (date tbc); and **The Chilterns AONB** (date tbc).
- Northern Ireland: **Lagan Valley AONB** (30 April); **Causeway Coast AONB** (date tbc); **Sperrin AONB** (June).
- Scotland: **Cairngorms National Park** (August) with more locations to be announced soon.

Walk the Plank is working with the University of Salford to develop some of the major public engagement for *Green Space Dark Skies*. Walk the Plank is working with the National Trust as creative and delivery partners in a number of locations across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Green Space Dark Skies places environmental and social sustainability at the heart of its design and delivery; highlighting the value of the natural environment as a core purpose and delivering significant measurable positive impact. *Green Space Dark Skies* will be a carbon net-positive project* combining exemplar low-emissions production with climate investments.

**The Green Space Dark Skies team is measuring and balancing 100% of its unavoidable Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. The team also acknowledges its Scope 3 emissions and the complexity associated with calculating these, and is working hard to rise to the challenge with its stakeholders.*

UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK is presented across the four nations from 1 March to 2 October 2022. Events in Wales include: [About Us](#) (Caernarfon, 30 March to 6 April) [Dreamachine](#) (Cardiff, details to be announced), [Green Space Dark Skies](#) (across Wales, May to September 2022), [StoryTrails](#) (Newport and Swansea, August) and, commissioned by Creative Wales, [GALWAD](#): A story from our future (Blaenau Ffestiniog, Swansea and Merthyr Tydfil, September to October).

UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK is funded and supported by the four governments of the UK and is commissioned and delivered in partnership with Belfast City Council, Creative Wales and EventScotland.

Listings information

Green Space Dark Skies part of UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK

23 April – 30 September 2022

To take part in *Green Space Dark Skies* register at <https://greenspacedarkskies.uk/get-involved/>
[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK

1 March – 2 October 2022

[Unboxed2022.uk](https://unboxed2022.uk)

Images can be downloaded at <https://greenspacedarkskies.uk/media-centre>

For further information and images

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

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1. [Green Space Dark Skies](#) part of UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, is produced by UK outdoor arts pioneers Walk the Plank working in collaboration with technology company Siemens, the University of Salford, National Parks UK and The National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which are responsible for the management of the project's event sites; and working with diverse artists and creative collaborators in different locations, including integrated circus company Extraordinary Bodies, the collaboration between Diverse City and Cirque Bijou, Activate Performing Arts and film production company CC-Lab.
 2. [UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK](#) is a celebration of creativity taking place across the UK in 2022, designed to reach millions and bring people together. It features free large-scale events, installations and globally accessible digital experiences in the UK's most ambitious showcase of creative collaboration. Produced by some of the brightest minds in science, technology, engineering, arts and maths, UNBOXED features ten major multi-site and digital creative projects that share new ideas and possibilities for the future. Events and activities take place from 1 March to 2 October 2022 – from the Outer Hebrides to Dover and from Omagh to Swansea, and across traditional and online media. UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK is funded and supported by the four governments of the UK and is commissioned and delivered in partnership with Belfast City Council, Creative Wales and EventScotland.
 3. [Walk the Plank](#)'s team of outdoor art experts work together to dream up, create and produce outstanding moments of outdoor theatre and participation. They have a long track record of making large-scale events that bring people together in public celebration. This is based on their ability to come up with big ideas that connect people from all paths in life. Storytelling is at the heart of everything they do, and the arena for their work is the great outdoors. Their mission is to enrich lives through shared creative experiences.
 4. [About UK National Parks](#). There are 15 National Parks in the UK, covering 10% of Great Britain. National Parks are visited over 100 million times each year. 2021 saw the 70th anniversary of the first four National Parks – Peak District, Dartmoor, Lake District and Snowdonia.
 5. [Siemens](#) is a technology company focused on industry, infrastructure, transport and healthcare. From more resource-efficient factories, resilient supply chains, and smarter buildings and grids, to cleaner and more comfortable transportation as well as advanced healthcare, the company creates technology with purpose adding real value for customers. By combining real and digital worlds, Siemens empowers its customers to transform their industries and markets, helping them to transform the everyday for billions of people.
 6. [The University of Salford](#) is located in the heart of Greater Manchester. They have more than 20,000 students, 2,000 staff and a global community of over 170,000 alumni. They pioneer exceptional industry partnerships leading the way in real world experiences by preparing students for life. They work with industry to co-create the curriculum producing

job-ready graduates primarily in health and wellbeing, engineering, digital and creative sectors. They are continuing to invest in their campus and facilities with a £300 million masterplan that will make them fit for the future.

7. [The National Association for AONBs](#) (NAAONB) is a charity that provides a strong collective voice for the UK's 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). Its objectives are to promote the conservation and enhancement of AONBs, advance the education, understanding and appreciation by the public of AONBs, and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of AONBs. It does this by taking a collaborative and partnership-based approach to working with our membership and other organisations at a national level to achieve shared goals.
8. [About the National Trust](#). The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people: Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley, who saw the importance of the nation's heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. Today, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we continue to look after places so people and nature can thrive. Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline and 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves.

GREEN SPACE
DARK SKIES



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