

## *DARK SKY THY - OUR WHY*

Light pollution is a growing problem worldwide. The term light pollution refers to artificial and man-made light, which disturbs and illuminates the natural night landscape. This results, among other things, in degraded opportunities for observations of the night sky, energy waste, and not least, disturbances in ecosystems with major consequences for both wildlife and human beings.

A Dark Sky Park is a certified area of deep night darkness and thus extraordinarily starry nights. The intention is to protect and preserve the natural darkness for the enjoyment of all who want to experience the clear night sky and the immense diversity of the starry sky.

### **Project DARK SKY THY**

At Bulbjerg-Troldsting-Lildstrand in DK-Nordthy, however, there is still deep night darkness; the area is probably the darkest place in Denmark.

Since 2018 Hawboernes Association, Lildstrand - in collaboration with the Danish Nature Agency Thy and Thisted Municipality - has worked to get the area certified as a Dark Sky Park - "Dark Sky Thy".

The area is pre-approved by the non-profit Organization International Dark Sky Association (IDA) in Arizona. Light measurements have been carried out with fully satisfactory results.

Elaboration of the formal application is in progress, initiated by the Hawboernes Association.

Dark Sky Thy focuses on four key elements:

1. to preserve the darkness of the night and protect it from future light pollution;
2. to raise awareness of the importance of the darkness for biodiversity and human health;
3. to maintain and continue to develop quiet, sustainable, high-quality year-round tourism;
4. to support business and settlement in the local area