



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

CPRE Circular

Star Count Week 2011 - Take Part!

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CONSIDER FOR ACTION

Summary of Action

A 'Star Count week' will take place Monday 31 January and Sunday 6 February 2011. This follows on from our successful Star Count in the winter of 2006/7. Branches and district groups may wish to consider arranging Star Count events in their areas or promoting the initiative locally.

Ref

67/10

Date

11.11.10

Subject

Events

1. As many of you will recall, the Star Count initiative we ran in winter 2006/7 was very successful, with almost 2,000 people across the country taking part. Once again, we are organising the event alongside the British Astronomical Association's Campaign for Dark Skies (CfDS). **The 'Star Count Week' will run from Monday 31 January until Sunday 6 February 2011.**

2. If there are poor visibility conditions during that week due to weather then we will re-run the Star Count Week from Monday 28 February until Sunday 6 March 2011. We'll let you know during the first attempt whether it will be necessary to re-run the week.

3. The Star Count is very easy for people to do. We are asking people to count the number of stars they can see within the Orion constellation and then enter the information onto an electronic form on our website. The webpage will be: www.cpre.org.uk/starcount and is expected to be 'live' in early January. We then plan to use the results to produce a Star Count map of the country, which will illustrate how light pollution levels are affecting people's views of the night sky.

4. Please consider whether you would like to promote the Star Count Week in your area. Perhaps you would like to arrange an event with your local astronomical society or promote the initiative in local media. If you have any thoughts or questions please contact Emma Marrington at national office: emmam@cpre.org.uk or 020 7981 2840.

5. If you would like to read more about the 2006/7 Star Count please see the press releases that were issued at the time, which can be viewed in the light pollution news section of our website: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/news/campaign/light-pollution>

6. Information on how to do the Star Count can be found overleaf.

CPRE Circulars are a vital means of communicating national activities to CPRE groups – we appreciate that you will not always be able to implement the actions suggested but your co-operation is appreciated and feedback is welcome.

If you are in any doubt about how to distribute or follow-up this or any other CPRE Circular, please do not hesitate to contact the author for further advice.

An index of earlier CPRE Circulars can be found at <http://www.cpre.org.uk/for-members.htm> (username: 'visitor', password: 'gateway').

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Information on how to do the Star Count

7. People can do their Star Count on any day of the week, but preferably on one where there is no haze so you have the best chance of seeing the stars. It will be sufficiently dark from 7pm.

8. We are asking people to count stars within the constellation of Orion, which will be visible in the southern sky (the same direction that household satellite dishes face). The main area of the constellation is bounded by four bright stars. The star count should not include these four corner stars – only those within this rectangular boundary – but do include the stars in the middle known as Orion's three-star belt.

9. Make a count of the number of stars that can be seen with the naked eye (not with telescopes) and then enter your count onto our electronic survey form via: www.cpre.org.uk/starcount.

10. Thank you for taking part!