

## PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until 2 February 2022

### SCOTS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN CREATING BREATHTAKING ARTWORKS ACROSS ICONIC SCOTTISH LANDSCAPES AS PART OF A UK-WIDE CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY

**From today, registration opens to allow a once in a lifetime opportunity to become a “Lumenator” by taking part in unique events across rural Scotland**

Up to 20,000 people across the UK, including over 1000 people in Scotland, are being recruited to create large-scale outdoor artworks in 20 of the UK’s most outstanding landscapes for *Green Space Dark Skies*, part of UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, **from April to September 2022**.

In Scotland, the events will take place in some of the country's most stunning locations including the **Cairngorms National Park**, with more locations to be announced soon. The events will bring together local communities to create a once-in-a-lifetime experience in each place which will be captured on film.

The gatherings will be created at dusk by local participants, referred to as **Lumenators**. They will be guided along pathways or waterways carrying smart lights that 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 landscape and the local areas as part of their involvement.

Developed by graduate engineers at Siemens specially for this project, the lighting technology uses existing wireless programmable 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.

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.

As well as collaborating with cultural partners, including Visit Scotland’s Year of Stories 2022, event producer, Walk the Plank is working directly with the authorities who are responsible for the conservation of each location to create the events for Green Space Dark Skies. Each event will depend on confirmation of landowner permissions,

approval of event plans and local stakeholder engagement and therefore event locations and dates may be subject to change.

**Green Space Dark Skies** will enable people from all walks of life to forge new connections with the countryside by supporting those who face cultural and physical barriers to experience our iconic landscapes. 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.

*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. The project will work with a diverse group of partners to ensure that each event throughout the UK is implemented with the greatest care and precautions to protect the environment and communities of the locations. With a track record of experience in managing large-scale public events, Walk the Plank aims to bring people from all different backgrounds together to enrich lives through shared creative experiences.

**Keren McKean, Walk the Plank's Producer for Scotland** says, *"Scotland's landscapes are rich, unique and diverse. The country's dramatic backdrop is globally recognised and attracts over 10 million tourists per year, but often local people and people from particular communities can feel like the great outdoors isn't for them. Green Space Dark Skies is about engaging with communities and encouraging people to feel connected to the land, to enjoy it and to protect it."*

The Green Space Dark Skies team is working with Dark Skies representatives in many locations to explore how the project might highlight the value of minimising light pollution in our towns, cities and rural landscapes to support wildlife to flourish.

John Wassell Creative Producer UK, Walk the Plank says, *"The moment when darkness falls, and we switch the lights off, is going to be the most important collective act of connection between people and nature within each event"*.

*Green Space Dark Skies* is one of 10 major creative projects commissioned by UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, a celebration of creativity taking place across the UK in 2022, designed to reach millions and bring people together. UNBOXED features free large-scale events, installations and globally accessible digital experiences in the UK's most ambitious showcase of creative collaboration.

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

*"UNBOXED is the result of collaborations across science, technology, engineering, arts and maths that share an ambition to find new solutions and present optimistic ideas for the future."*

*"Green Space Dark Skies perfectly demonstrates the innovation and creativity seen throughout the UNBOXED projects. By bringing together artists, engineers and members of the public in the creation of unique experiences, it will enhance people's understanding of our natural environment and relationship to countryside and show the power of creativity to bring about change."*

**Grant Moir, Chief Executive of the Cairngorms National Park Authority**, says: *“We are delighted to welcome Green Space Dark Skies to the UK’s largest national park here in the Cairngorms. The project promises to create a unique spectacle celebrating nature, our responsibility to protect it and everyone’s right to explore the countryside.*

*“As a National Park open to all we are particularly pleased that the organisers are reaching out to such a diverse range of participants, and it is great to see an event of this scale aiming to make a net positive contribution to our collective carbon reduction targets.”*

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:

- 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); **Sperrin AONB** (June) and **Causeway Coast AONB** (date tbc).
- Scotland: **Cairngorms National Park** (August) with more locations to be announced soon.
- Wales: **Gower AONB** (13 May); **Brecon Beacons National Park** (July) and **Anglesey** (date tbc).

*Green Space Dark Skies* will be a carbon net-positive project\* combining exemplar low-emissions production with climate investments.

*\*The Green Space Dark Skies project is measuring and balancing 100% of its unavoidable Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. The project 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 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

#### Events in Scotland include:

About Us (Paisley, 1 to 6 March, public preview on 28 February 2022), Dandelion (across Scotland, April to September), Dreamachine (Edinburgh Dates tbc), Green Space Dark Skies (across Scotland, April to September 2022), PoliNations (Edinburgh, dates tbc) and StoryTrails (Dundee and Dumfries).

#### 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

Images can be downloaded [here](#)

For further information and images

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**NOTES FOR EDITORS**

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 70<sup>th</sup> 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.

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