

Press Release: 19/10/2016

## Dark Skies at Forsinard

## Dark Skies event with Caithness Astronomy Group is back for a second year.

On Friday 28 October the Dark Skies event returns to Forsinard. Following the success of last year's event Caithness Astronomy Group are back to share their expert knowledge on our solar system including information on how best to observe the aurora and milky way and tips on photography. There will then be a guided walk out to the Flows Lookout which offers a superb elevated position to observe the night sky.

Jenny Middlehurst, Communities Officer said "We're really excited to welcome Caithness Astronomy Group back to Forsinard. With the addition of our new field centre we think this year will be even better than the last. Fingers crossed with see the Northern Lights again!" This event is at Forsinard Flows National Nature Reserve, meet at the new Flows Field Centre from 7.15pm. Warm and waterproof clothing is recommended, along with sturdy shoes or wellies and a torch.

Refreshments will be provided. There is no charge and no booking is required – just turn up. The event is free and open to all.

If you are unable to come along, then you can find out more about what is happening by looking at our website at <u>www.theflowcountry.org.uk</u> or joining us on facebook (The Flow Country) or twitter (@theflowcountry).



Photograph: Last year's Dark Skies Event – Copyright Maciej Winiarczyk

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

The new Flows Field Centre is located at Forsinard on RSPB's Forsinard Flows Nature Reserve, part of which received the accolade of being designated as a National Nature Reserve by Scottish Natural Heritage in September 2016

The Peatlands Partnership includes Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Highland Council, RSPB Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Third Sector Interface, The Flow Country Rivers Trust, The Northern Deer Management Group and The Environmental Research Institute. It liaises with local community groups, , the Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate and the North Sutherland Community Forest Trust. It is independently chaired by John Henderson of Scrabster Farm, Caithness.

RSPB Scotland is the lead partner in The Flows to the Future project, a Peatlands Partnership project, which gratefully acknowledges funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from the following funders and supporters; Environmental Research Institute, European Regional Development Fund, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Peatland Action, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council, RSPB, WREN, Scotland Rural Development Programme, Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage and The Tubney Trust.

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