

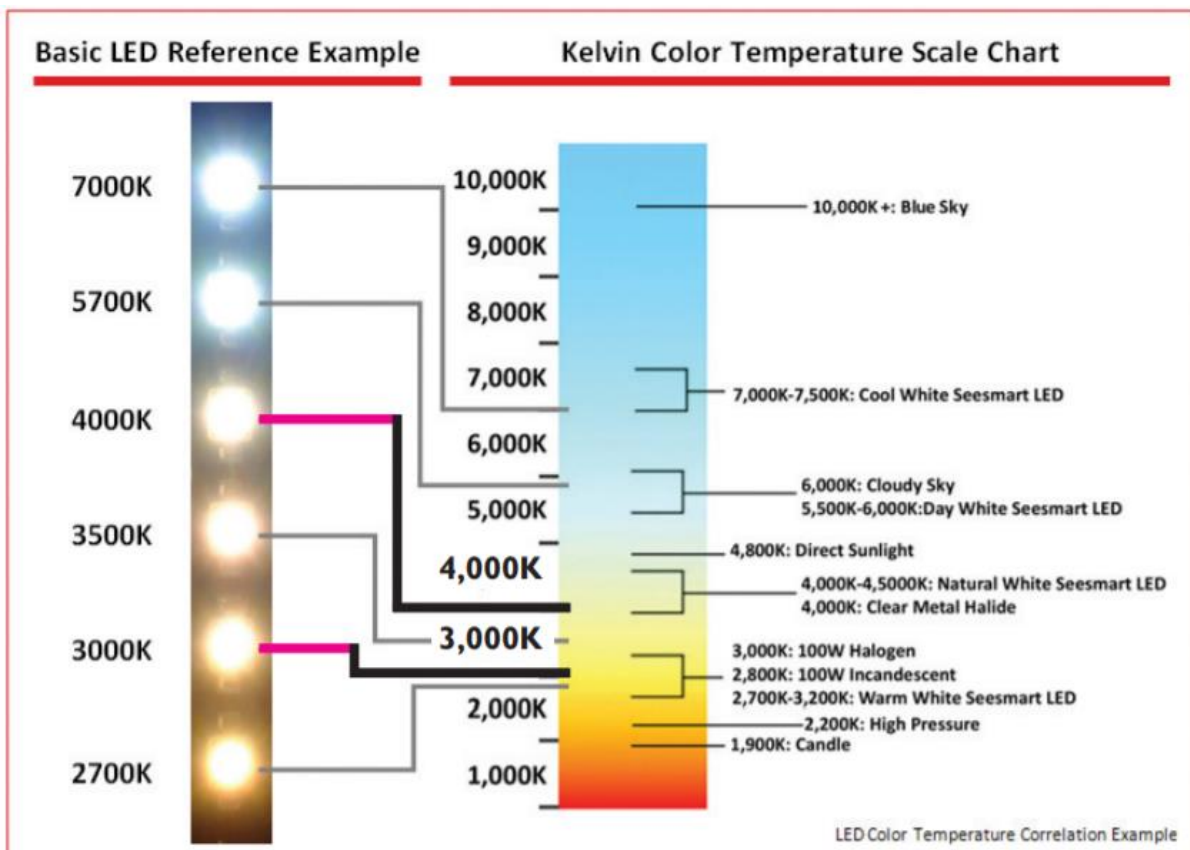
Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 2 December 2019

Gower Dark Sky Community Application – Update

Our consultant Allan Trow (Dark Sky Wales Training Services) has been in regular contact with International DarkSky Association (IDA) regarding the completion of our application, but there is one remaining issue that it is going to take further time to resolve with the IDA.

In summary, the issue is around having safeguards in planning guidance concerning the ‘colour temperature’ of development lighting on Gower. The IDA is seeking thresholds of 3000kelvin in the AONB. 3000kelvin is described as a ‘warm-white’ colour, and the threshold would limit blue-spectrum light that is linked with impacts of on human health and wildlife.



Source: Northumberland National Park

The 3000kelvin threshold is not referenced in the 2010 AONB lighting guide Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – so, part of the ‘Lighting Management Plan’ in our application to the IDA was that we would update the SPG with this threshold and report back on that in our first annual report.

That approach is no longer acceptable to the IDA; they want to ensure that the threshold limit is included in the SPG before deciding on our award. I am working with Planning Policy colleagues to put this in place, but obviously this will take some time – it will be well into the New Year before the SPG will be ready.

I am not anticipating any issues with implementing the 3000kelvin threshold – our highways lighting engineers have confirmed that they will accept street lighting systems of 3000k lighting within the AONB – when their standard elsewhere across the authority is 4000k; 3000k has also recently been agreed in the planning conditions for a housing development in Southgate.

However, the remaining actions for our project as I see it are:

- The need to conclude Dark Sky Wales’ commission to assist us in the application – they have completed what was required of them and we should be arranging their final invoice/payment
- Gower Society grant-aid – I need to discuss with the Society what grant claim we may make – although all of the work is complete, we do not have a final application to the IDA.
- I need to work with Planning Policy to progress the SPG update as quickly as we can.

Chris Lindley
Gower AONB Team Leader
21 November 2019