



Castle Point Astronomy Club safe observing code

Warning Accidentally looking at the sun through telescope or binoculars can cause permanent eye damage

1 Observing in remote areas.

- a) There should always be two people as a minimum when observing in a remote area; it's more fun with two anyway.
- a) Always carry a working mobile phone to alert others if in danger.
- b) Tell a family member or friend where you are going and what time you will be coming back.
- c) Check vehicle tyre pressure, water and fuel levels before driving to a remote site, it may be difficult for recovery vehicle to get to you if you break down.
- d) Check tides before accessing Wallasea Island, if caught out stay in safe location and wait for the tide to go out do not drive on the road while it is flooded as there are ditches on both sides of the road.

2 Daytime and solar observing.

- a) When using a telescope for solar observing it must be fitted with the correct solar filter covering the end of the telescope unless using solar projection or a dedicated solar scope. Never use glass Sun filters screwed into the eyepiece. Don't forget to cover the finderscope!
- b) All telescopes should remain covered if not being used during the day.
- c) To prevent sun burn use sun screen on exposed areas of skin, and wear a hat.
- d) Members of the public, especially children should be closely supervised at all times when using solar equipment.

3 General observing Practices.

- a) Stepladders and hop ups should be only be used on solid ground. Persons using the hop up or ladder to be supported; children shall be supported by the responsible Adult.
- b) Equipment and cables should not be placed where it would cause a tripping hazard.
- c) Be aware of uneven ground and tripping hazards such as low fences etc.
- d) Torch to be carried at night.
- e) Telescopes should be set up in a designated area that is free from parked cars, and away from roads and grass verges.
- f) Don't get caught out! Temperatures at night can fall to 4 Deg C in summer and -6 Deg C or more in the winter. Wear suitable worm clothing and footwear for the weather and ground conditions. Carry enough food and drink for the duration, warm flask in winter.
- g) Children shall always be supervised by the responsible adult.

4 Bites and Stings.

- a) If you're outside at a time of day when insects are particularly active, such as sunrise or sunset, cover your skin by wearing long sleeves and trousers; consider using insect repellent on exposed skin.
- b) Avoid observing near water such as ponds and swamps; beware of ticks in grassy areas. Check for ticks at end of observing, ticks can carry Lymes disease, call NHS 111 if concerned.



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5 Government Covid-19.

- a) A group of no more than 30 people are allowed at club observing sights including the key holder. You should try to avoid shared equipment. For example you should use your own telescope and eyepieces. Any equipment that is used should be cleaned frequently. Cleaning should be particularly thorough if it is to be used by someone else.
- b) All persons shall give contact details to the observing organiser.
- c) 2m social distancing to be maintained at all times.
- d) The committee will constantly monitor the government's guidance on Covid-19 and update the club members accordingly.