

SAFETY INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO CLANFIELD OBSERVATORY

Note: It is the responsibility of the organiser liaising with the observatory to draw the contents of this notice to the attention of all other members of their party prior to the visit.

The following information is offered to assist both yourselves and us in making your visit to the **CLANFIELD OBSERVATORY** a safe, comfortable and memorable experience.

CLOTHING

Wear warm clothing!

The domes are not heated. It can become very cold in those domes, especially in the depths of winter. If observing outside, which often happens, one can easily feel the cold, especially if there is a wind.

Therefore we recommend as a minimum –

- THICK PULLOVER
- WINDPROOF COAT
- STOUT SHOES (Walking shoes are ideal)
- GLOVES
- WOOLLY HAT

If you get cold during the visit, return to the heated support building to get warm.

SAFETY

A **safety briefing** is always given to visitors on arrival.

The observatory is predominantly a grassed area. The grass is uneven and frequently damp due to rain and dew, consequently it can be slippery, so extra care is required when walking around the site.

All the domes have reduced height doors and care is needed when entering and leaving them.

LIGHTING

The observatory site is generally very dark and external lighting is minimal. Only low wattage red lighting is used in the domes.

- Carry a small torch to illuminate the ground in front of you, but make sure it is always pointing downwards and not into other people's faces as this will dazzle them.
- If you have difficulty seeing in the dark please advise a member of staff and extra attention can be given to your needs.

MOBILITY

The observatory occupies a six-acre site.

- Be prepared to walk a few hundred metres
- Limited wheelchair access is available to the Support Building and three of the Domes

Please advise the observatory **in advance** should any of your party require assistance with mobility and then every attempt will be made to accommodate their needs.

All domes have additional seating in them if this is required.

Access to some telescopes might involve climbing a short stepladder (depending on what is being viewed), so please advise at the time of attending if you are in need of assistance or are uncomfortable climbing the steps provided.

CHILDREN

The Observatory is recognised as an educational facility. Organised visits for children (under 18 years of age) are welcome, subject to the following –

- Children will need constant supervision throughout their visit by a suitable responsible adult
- Responsibility for their behaviour remains principally with **your** organiser and responsible adults in **your** party
- One responsible adult per 8 children is a typical prerequisite. (Please refer our Safeguarding children policy) This ratio may vary need to be greater depending on the needs of the children

Please remember that children, especially small children can get cold more quickly than adults, so it is important that they are adequately clothed.

RESTRICTIONS

There is a strict **NO-SMOKING** and **NO ANIMALS** policy on the Observatory site which is imposed by the Water Company, who own the site.

RESERVOIRS

The raised **RESERVOIR AREAS**, including the slopes, are strictly out of bounds.

FIRST AID

First aid facilities are available on site in all buildings. In the unlikely event of an accident, the event must be reported to a member of the observatory who should be able to administer first aid and will record the details in the accident book. In the event of a serious emergency an ambulance will be called.

PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

During the autumn, winter and spring the conditions at the observatory can be cold. There is some physical exertion required when walking around the site. Visitors who suffer from a pre-existing medical condition that could be exacerbated by such conditions may wish to discuss the observatory conditions with us in advance of a visit.

A list of possible conditions cannot be exhaustively described in this document but people who have conditions such as COPD and recently diagnosed heart conditions or conditions which may be affected by moderate exertion and by the cold should be advised accordingly.

The current outside temperature of the site, and importantly the wind chill, can be found on the Group's website www.hantsastro.org.uk and by looking in the weather station section.

If in any doubt discussion with your own medical advisor (GP or similar) is advised

FIRE PROCEDURE

If a fire occurs the buildings will be evacuated and we will meet for a roll-call in the car park.

Permission to leave the site will be given once the emergency services have arrived on site. This restriction is imposed in order to allow the emergency services access up to the observatory site along the single track lane – this will avoid the scenario of an ambulance having to try and pass several cars on this single track lane which will delay them arriving on site.

SITE FACILITIES

Seating, toilet and hand washing facilities are available in the support building. Hot beverages may be purchased or can be provided if this is requested or offered as part of your visit.

On site car parking is provided, but please ensure that vehicles are parked with the drive wheels on the hard standing and not on the grass.

Hampshire Astronomical Group

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