

Deer Park Archers Observation Site

Cotswold Astronomical Society now holds its regular monthly meetings at the clubhouse of the Deer Park Archers. On a Sunday evening later in each month observation sessions have been held here. In the past weather conditions have not been too helpful, but for February 26th there were at last clear skies.

Shortly after sunset Venus and Jupiter, approaching their close conjunction were already conspicuous in the western sky as observers made their telescopes ready..



Later in the evening as skies darkened it was possible to assess the quality of the site with regard to light pollution. To this end a fish-eye picture of the whole sky was taken from the centre of the grounds adjacent to the clubhouse normally used as the archery range.



Apart from the inevitably over-exposed Moon (approaching first quarter) the appearance of the sky in this image approximates that presented to the naked eye. Venus and Jupiter are seen setting in the west while Orion and his entourage are prominent in the southern sky. Around the horizon the glow of Cheltenham can be seen to the northeast; Gloucester to the west. Nonetheless the overall darkness of the sky seems to compare very favourably with other sites in our immediate vicinity and shows good potential for future observing sessions.

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