

Risk Assessment – Public Activity

ACTIVITY ASSESSED Star Party		ASSESSMENT DATE March 2007 (last reviewed: January 2010 , EJR)	
ACTIVITY LOCATION Wynyard Woodland Park		ASSESSED BY Ed Restall Planetarium Director	
HAZARD	Who's at risk?	PRECAUTIONS	RISK LEVEL
Non-CRB checked members of the public	Children & Vulnerable Adults	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision Level: A star party is a one-off and infrequent observing event where members of the public can mingle with members of local astronomical societies, look through their telescopes & ask them questions. Star party's are run in conjunction with the Cleveland & Darlington and Durham astronomical societies, all assisting members of which have a valid enhanced CRB check (every 3 years) and are registered volunteers with Stockton Borough Council. Telescope Usage: In line with public observing events, members of the public are not encouraged to bring their own telescopes to a star party, they are expected to look through instruments belonging to members of the local astronomical societies and the planetarium/observatory. All observing activity being monitored by CRB checked astronomers. Volunteer Supervision: In the unlikely event of the planetarium director's absence from a star party, all volunteers are CRB-checked astronomers experienced in this activity over many years. They are all made aware of the operating guidelines of observing events and should have no problem in coordinating the event. 	Low
Non-CRB checked members of other astronomical societies	Children & Vulnerable Adults	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At a star party where members of other astronomical societies are invited (other than Cleveland & Darlington and Durham) we cannot guarantee that these members are CRB checked, (although it is increasingly unlikely that in the current social climate other societies will be able to organise observing events for themselves without having enhanced CRB checks on their members who actively observe with the general public). There will therefore be a minimum of 5 enhanced CRB checked volunteers supervising at a star party, mingling with observers and the general public and ensuring that everything runs smoothly. 	Medium

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Tripping hazard: Telescopes and ancillary equipment	All visitors	1. Telescopes, tripods, mounts, cameras and electrical/electronic leads can all represent a tripping hazard in the dark. Volunteers are asked to make people aware of the hazards from protruding parts of telescopes. All electrical/electronic leads are routed well away from the areas of public access to telescopes.	Medium
Red & Green lasers under 50mW (class 2, 3R & 3B)	All visitors plus aircraft	1. Only registered volunteers who have signed and understood laser safety guidelines and good practise agreements are allowed to use lasers. 2. A separate risk assessment is carried out for laser usage at school and public events 3. Only lasers of class 3B <50mW or below are allowed.	Medium