

Orion in the Peak

Familiarise yourself with these instructions, and then from 8PM, between 16 February and 23 February 2012 (making sure that it isn't raining or totally overcast):

1. Pick Your Location

Find a safe location, away from external lighting, that gives you a clear view of the night sky to the south. Once you have found a good spot, get comfortable and wait 10 minutes before moving onto the next step (this allows your eyes to become adjusted to the dark).

2. Find Orion

Using the finder chart on our website, locate the constellation of Orion in the southern sky.

3. Make Your Observation

Compare the night sky where you are to the sky quality charts you downloaded from our website, and select the one that is the closest match. Make sure that you record the date and time; the nearest postcode, grid reference, or the latitude/longitude of your observing location; then estimate the cloud cover.

4. Tell Us

Visit our website to submit your findings.

5. Have Another Go!

You can submit as many readings as you want from different sites in and around the Peak District.

Observing Safety

As you'll be moving around in the dark, please make sure that you consider your safety before making any observations. We suggest that you carry torch (with working batteries) to help you get to and from your observing location, and that you wear warm visible clothing.

If you decide to make an observation away from your home, please make sure that you are familiar with the area during the daytime, that you are a safe distance away from any hazard (such as a road or a steep drop), and that you let somebody know where you are and when you plan to return.