

SOLAR VIEWING SAFETY CODE

Partial eclipse in Herefordshire

20th March 2015

- **DON'T** ever look at the Sun without proper eye protection
- **DON'T** view the Sun through sunglasses of any type (single or multiple pairs) or filters made of black and white or colour photographic film, or any combination of photographic filters, crossed polarisers or gelatin filters, CDs, CD-ROMs, or smoked glass. These are **NOT** safe.
- **DO** view the Sun **ONLY** through special filters made for safe solar viewing, e.g. aluminised mylar filters, or black polymer filters, identified as suitable for direct viewing of the Sun, bearing the CE mark AND a statement that it conforms to European Community Directive 89/686/EEC, or use welder's glass rated at no.14 or higher. Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- **DO** check filters thoroughly for any damage **BEFORE** use. **DON'T** use them if they are scuffed, scratched or there are pinholes in them

- **DON'T** stare through the special filter for more than 3 minutes at a time. Intermittent use of the filter is the best way of viewing the Sun
- If you use eclipse glasses **DON'T** ever use them to look at the Sun through any optical instrument, e.g. telescope, binoculars or camera. Such devices concentrate the Sun's harmful radiation and will cause severe eye damage or permanent blindness in a fraction of a second.
- **If you are not certain** that a filter is approved and safe, or you have any other doubts, **DON'T USE IT.**

Herefordshire Astronomical Society

<https://sites.google.com/site/hsastro/home>