

SKYWATCHER NEWSLETTER

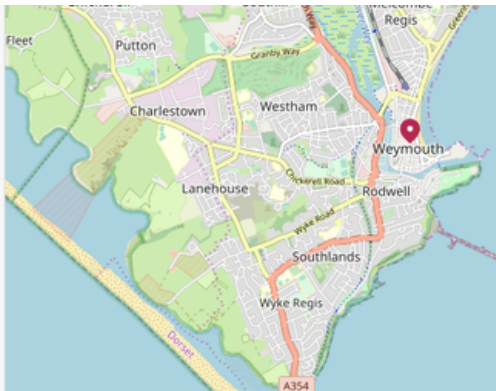


50°36'37.1"N,
2°27'13.1"W
Partial solar eclipse
(93.43%)

Obscuration 93.43%
Magnitude 0.9412
Duration 1h, 49m, 57s

Partial begins 12 Aug, 18:18:40
Maximum 12 Aug, 19:15:13
Partial ends 12 Aug, 20:08:37
Times shown in local time (BST)

Weather Not available for this location
Avg. Cloud Cover 82% (since 2000)



LATEST NEWS

A reminder that on the **12 August**, the UK will be in an amazing position to see the partial solar eclipse. The Dorset area should see over 90% of the sun covered which will be impressive indeed! Fingers and toes crossed already for clear weather across all of the British Isles for this. If you are heading to the line of Totality, let me know!

Until next month ~SLK

Photographing a Partial Solar Eclipse - TIPS

To photograph a partial solar eclipse safely and successfully, you must use a specialized ISO-certified solar filter on your camera at all times. Mount your camera on a stable tripod, use a telephoto lens (300mm or longer) to get a large sun disc, and shoot in manual mode.

1. Essential Gear & Safety

Solar Filter: A certified solar filter (like Baader AstroSolar film or a screw-on glass filter) is mandatory. Do not use regular ND filters, as they will not block the intense infrared/UV light and will melt your camera sensor and damage your eyes.

Tripod: Even though the sun is bright, the slightest camera shake will ruin long telephoto shots.

Remote Shutter: Use a cable release or wireless intervalometer to trigger the shutter without touching the camera.

Safety Rules: Never look through an optical viewfinder without certified solar glasses. Always use your camera's digital Live View screen to frame and focus.

2. Camera Settings

File Format: Shoot in RAW so you have maximum flexibility to recover details in the sun's edge.

ISO: Set to your camera's base sensitivity, typically ISO 100 or 200 to minimize digital noise.

Aperture: Aim for around f/8 to f/11. This is generally the "sweet spot" for sharpness on most telephoto lenses.

Shutter Speed: Test your settings before the eclipse begins. Usually, shutter speeds between 1/500th and 1/1000th of a second are required for a properly exposed, crisp orange/yellow solar disc.

3. Focusing and Tracking

Manual Focus: Do not rely on autofocus or the infinity mark on your lens. Use Live View, zoom in digitally on the sun's edge, and focus manually until it is razor-sharp.

Tracking: The Earth rotates, meaning the sun will drift out of your frame quickly. You will need to periodically adjust your tripod head to keep the sun centered.

4. Planning Your Shot

Scouting: Check exactly when the eclipse begins and peaks in your specific region so you can arrive an hour early. Tools like PhotoPills are excellent for visualizing where the sun will be in the sky.

Alternative Compositions: If you want a wide-angle shot that includes a local landmark or skyline, use a 24-70mm lens and plan your frame so the sun tracks beautifully through your desired background.

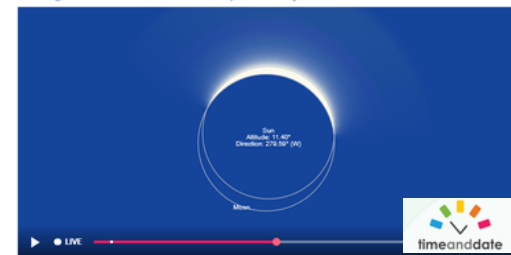
12 Aug 2026, 19:15



Max View in Weymouth, England

Global Event: Total Solar Eclipse
Local Type: Partial Solar Eclipse in Weymouth, England
Begins: Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 18:18
Maximum: Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 19:15 0.941 Magnitude
Ends: Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 20:08
Duration: 1 hour, 50 minutes
All times shown on this page are local time.

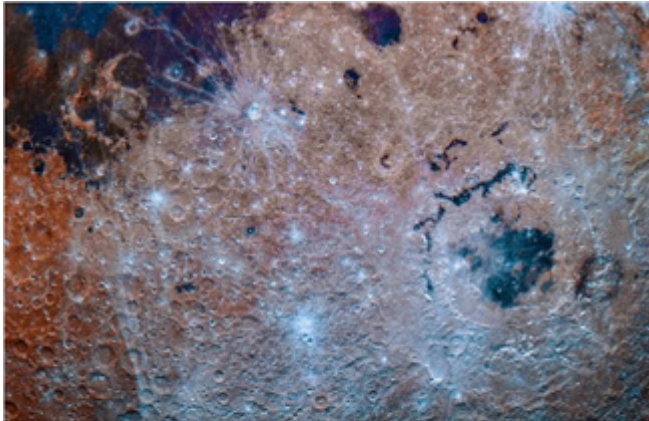
12 August 2026 — Total Solar Eclipse — Weymouth



LOCAL EVENTS

- 2 June - WAS - Dr. Matthew Bothwell – How far away are the stars? Climbing the cosmic distance ladder.
- 27 Jun 2026, 11:00 - 17:00 - FA - Frogham Fair
- 7 July - WAS - Dr. Meganne Christian – From Antarctica to Space
- 4 Aug - WAS - Social and Equipment Night with observing session if the sky is clear - No Zoom
- Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 17:00 - 21:00 Partial Eclipse of the Sun - FA - [Abbots Well Carpark](#)
A large partial eclipse of the Sun will be viewed this afternoon from Abbotswell Rd Car Park in the New Forest. At its maximum, the eclipse will be almost 96pc eclipsed.
- 1 Sept - WAS - Dr. Brad Gibson – Polar Astronomy
- 6 Oct - WAS - The Bob Mizon Memorial Lecture – Bill Coombes – Backyard Radio Astronomy - AGM

ASTRO-NEWS



NASA's Artemis 2 commander and astrophotographer team up to capture breathtaking, never-before-seen shots of the moon's far side

"It's the best data I've ever worked."

S Space / May 9

<https://tinyurl.com/24d5hace>

<https://tinyurl.com/yc2rkchb>

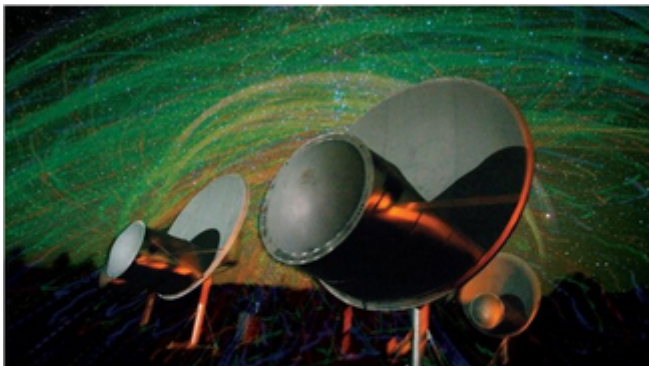


Scientists propose spraying chemicals into Earth's magnetic field to protect us from powerful solar storms

"When you apply some really serious physics to it, it does work."

S Space / Jun 8

<https://tinyurl.com/yra3es6d>

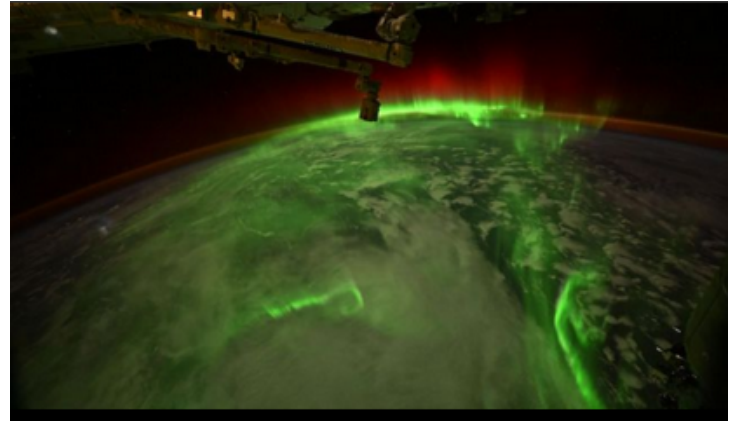


How should we handle alien detection in a world of AI, deepfakes and social media? This committee is writing the rulebook

If and when SETI discovers alien life, then a revised Declaration of Principles guarantees that once the discovery has been verified, its disclosure will come soon thereafter.

S Space / 01:00 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/4ztcc8mt>

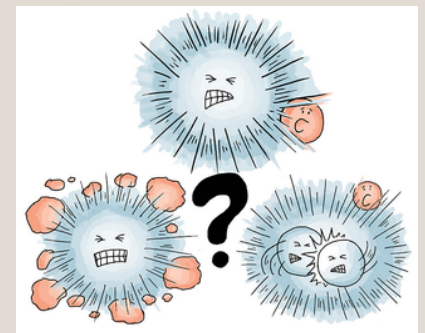


Astronaut captures snake-like auroras from a SpaceX Dragon | Space photo of the day for June 9, 2026

An unbelievable view from a strange location.

S Space / Jun 9

<https://tinyurl.com/24d5hace>



WAC Upcoming Events

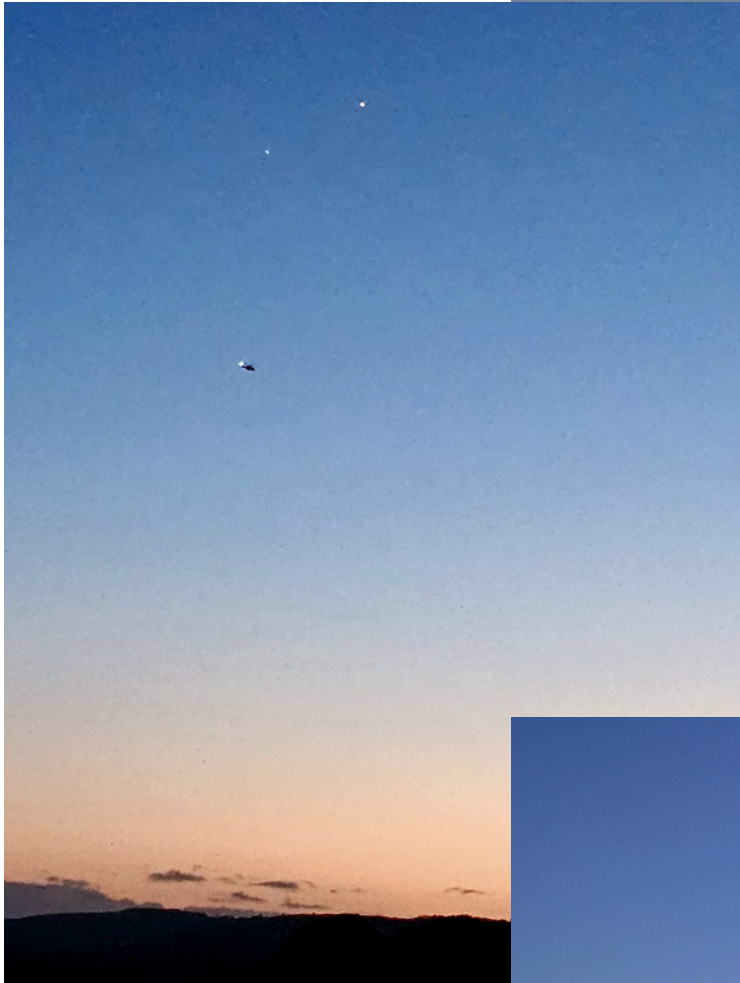
JULY - TBC

AUGUST - NO MEETING THIS MONTH

12 AUGUST - PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

11 SEPT - VICTORIA FAWCETT - OBSERVING THE BRIGHTEST OBJECTS IN THE UNIVERSE (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)
9 OCT- LOUISE MCKENNA - ASTRO PHOTOGRAPHS (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

MEMBERS SECTION



Some excellent images of Venus and Jupiter this month as they converge in the evening sky. Images taken by (above) Sarah, (left) Geoff and (below) Angelina. From the group WhatsApp feed. If you are not part of the group[and would like to be added, please let any of the club committee member know.



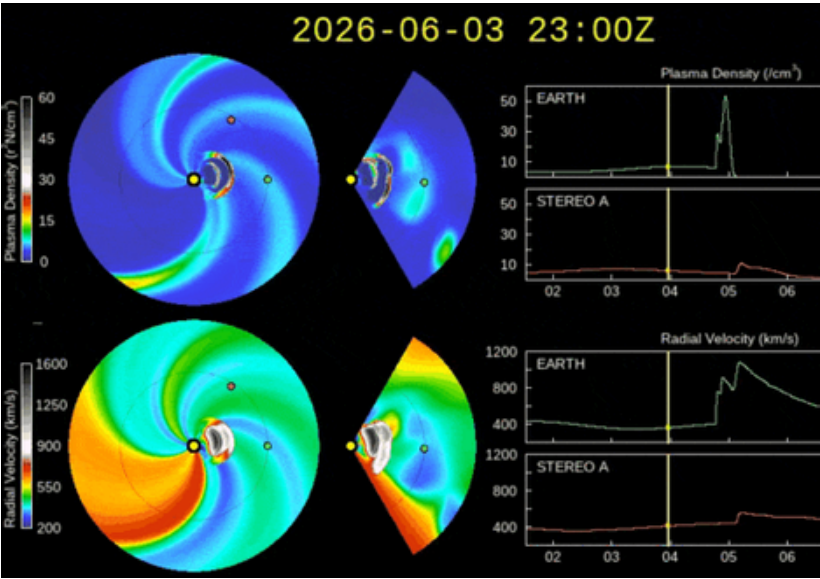
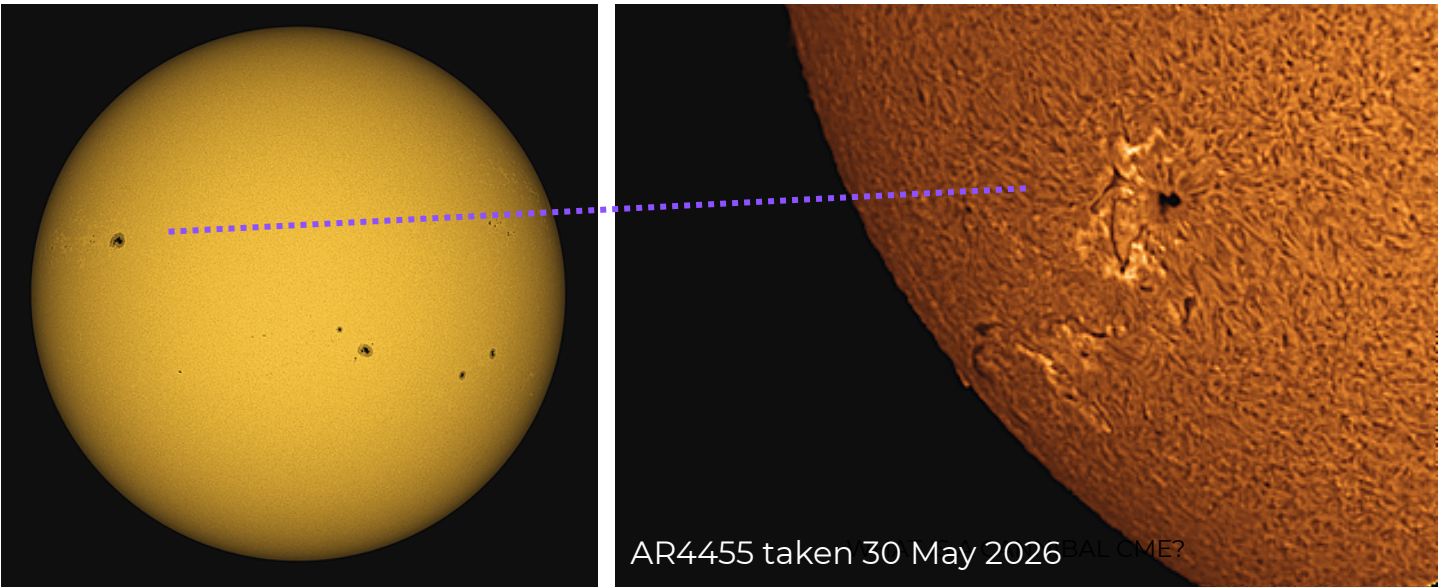
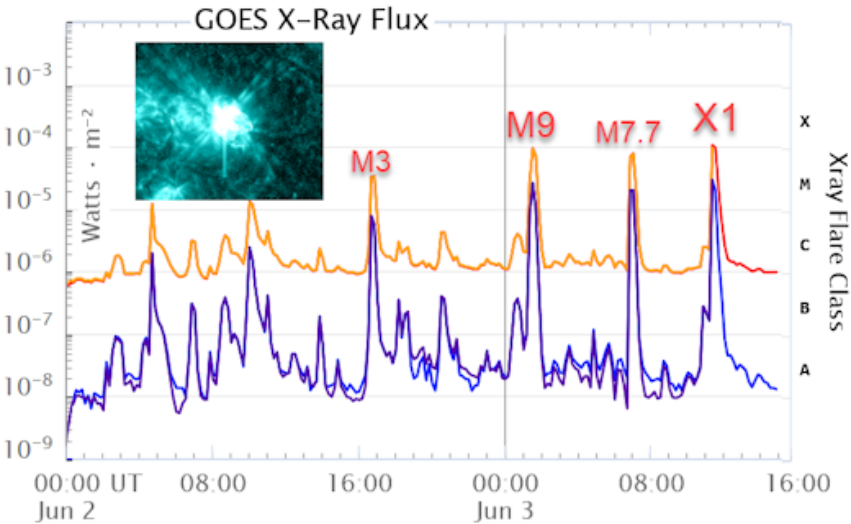
WEYMOUTH ASTRONOMY



Spaceweather.com 3 June 20026

AN ANTI-HALE SUNSPOT IS X-FLARING: This was not in the forecast. During the early hours of June 3rd, sunspot 4455 unexpectedly began to erupt, producing a series of X-class and almost-X-class solar flares:

Sunspot 4455 is a rare anti-Hale sunspot. "Anti-Hale" means the sunspot has a reversed-polarity magnetic field, which makes it unstable. Studies show that about 3% of all sunspots fall into this category. According to a 1982 survey by Frances Tang of the Big Bear Solar Observatory, reversed-polarity sunspots are more than twice as likely to develop complex magnetic fields and, thus, explode.



Just what it sounds like. A CME that eats other CMEs. Yesterday, sunspot 4455 exploded several times and hurled multiple CMEs into space. One of the CMEs was so fast, it caught a slower CME and swallowed it. This NOAA model shows what happened:

The combined Cannibal CME is expected to reach Earth during the late hours of June 4th or June 5th. This is good news for sky watchers because Cannibal CMEs are very good at producing geomagnetic storms and auroras. Remember the great geomagnetic storm of May 2024? That was caused in part by a Cannibal CME. Tonight's storm will not be as intense as May 2024, but it could be good if NOAA's model is correct.

Meanwhile, don't be surprised if there is another strong solar flare today. Sunspot 4455 is a rare anti-Hale sunspot. "Anti-Hale" means the sunspot has a reversed-polarity magnetic field, which makes it unstable and explosive.

Skymaps.com—Feel free to download the full article directly each month.

The Evening Sky Map

FREE! EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

Sky Calendar – June 2026

Follow us on Bluesky
[skymaps.com/bsky](https://bsky.app/profile/skymaps.com)

- 1 Moon at apogee (farthest from Earth) at 5h UT (distance 406,366km; angular size 29.4').
- 1 Mercury at northernmost declination (25.6°) at 19h UT.
- 8 Last Quarter Moon at 10:02 UT.
- 9 Venus 1.6° NNE of Jupiter at 21h UT (37° from Sun, evening sky). Mags. -4.0 and -1.9.
- 10 Moon near Saturn at 8h UT (morning sky). Mag. 0.9.
- 12 Moon near Mars at 19h UT (morning sky). Mag. 1.3.
- 13 Moon near the Pleiades at 14h UT (evening sky).
- 14 Moon at perigee (closest to Earth) at 23:20 UT (distance 357,197km; angular size 33.5').
- 15 New Moon at 2:55 UT. Start of lunation 1280.
- 15 Mercury at easternmost elongation at 20h UT (24.5° from Sun, evening sky). Mag. 0.6.
- 17 Moon near Jupiter at 9h UT (evening sky). Mag. -1.8.
- 17 Moon near Venus at 18h UT (evening sky). Mag. -4.0. Occultation visible from the Contiguous United States, Canada, Brazil and Venezuela.
- 18 Moon near Beehive Cluster (M44) at 2h UT (evening sky). Venus nearby.
- 19 Moon near Regulus at 13h UT (evening sky). Occultation visible from South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.
- 21 June solstice at 8:23 UT. The time when the Sun reaches the point farthest north of the celestial equator marking the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and winter in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 21 First Quarter Moon at 21:55 UT.
- 23 Moon near Spica at 20h UT (evening sky).
- 27 Moon near Antares at 13h UT (evening sky). Occultation visible from Antarctica, south-eastern Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania.
- 28 Moon at apogee (farthest from Earth) at 7h UT (distance 406,265km; angular size 29.4').
- 29 Full Moon at 23:57 UT.

More sky events and links at [Skymaps.com/skycalendar/](https://skymaps.com/skycalendar/)
 All times in Universal Time (UT). (USA Eastern Daylight Time – UT – 4 hours.)


[skymaps.com/bsky](https://bsky.app/profile/skymaps.com)




 Support The Evening Sky Map

• Helping curious minds to explore the night sky since January 2000 •
 Recommended Products for Sky Watchers: skymaps.com/store/
 All sales support the production of this free resource. Thank you.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

JUNE 2026

SKY MAP SHOWS HOW THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS
 EARLY JUN 11 PM
 LATE JUN 10 PM
 SKY MAP DRAWN FOR A LATITUDE OF 40° NORTH AND IS SUITABLE FOR LATITUDES UP TO 55° NORTH OR SOUTH OF THIS

The Big Dipper is an easy-to-recognize asterism in the constellation Ursa Major (the Great Bear). The center of the map is the part of the sky directly overhead (zenith) and the outer circle is the horizon. Compass directions are indicated along the horizon circle (for daytime use only).

Job's Coffin is the name given to the box-shaped asterism in the constellation Delphinus (The Dolphin). Almost directly overhead as it appears on certain dates and times, the center of the map is the part of the sky directly overhead (zenith) and the outer circle is the horizon. Compass directions are indicated along the horizon circle (for daytime use only).

Symbols
 Galaxy
 Double Star
 Variable Star
 Diffuse Nebula
 Planetary Nebula
 Open Star Cluster
 Globular Star Cluster

Star Magnitudes
 -1 0 1 2 3 4

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