



## **Moffat Community Observatory**

### **Health & Safety at Your Visit**

#### **Introduction**

Our objective is to make your visit to the observatory a rewarding but also a safe experience and reading these paragraphs beforehand will help ensure that this is the case.

#### **Lighting**

Once you have parked or walked to the car park area, there are no lights and procession must be by torchlight. If you have a red torch, please bring it with you, but please avoid using white light as it takes some time for night vision to develop. If you don't have a red torch, one will be provided.

#### **Path and Steps to the Observatory**

The path is gravel and fairly smooth and leads to a ramp or a small set of stairs. Please be careful in where you are stepping and can you bear in mind that the observatory is in a sheep field.

#### **The Observatory Lighting**

The observatory will be lit by red lamp only and it and the surrounding area will be relatively dark.

#### **Steps to the Observatory Turret**

There are 3 steps from the observatory cabin to the turret. When staff and visitors are in the turret, the steps area will be covered over, but the door behind it may **not be shut**. Take care when standing near that corner of the turret.

#### **The Telescope and Slewing**

The telescope and its counterweight will move both vertically and horizontally to find the astronomical object to be observed. This is known as slewing and is motor driven and controlled by a computer. The staff member will advise beforehand that the telescope will slew and at that point the visitor should stand with his or her back to the observatory walls and remain there until the telescope has stopped.

#### **The Dome**

The turret has a rotating dome which is mechanically driven and will rotate in either direction depending on where the object is located. The dome will not be rotated at the same time as the telescope is slewing. When it is being rotated, staff and visitors must stand away from the turret walls.

#### **Fire Safety**

The fire safety precautions will be gone through in a short briefing session on safety before the observing session begins.