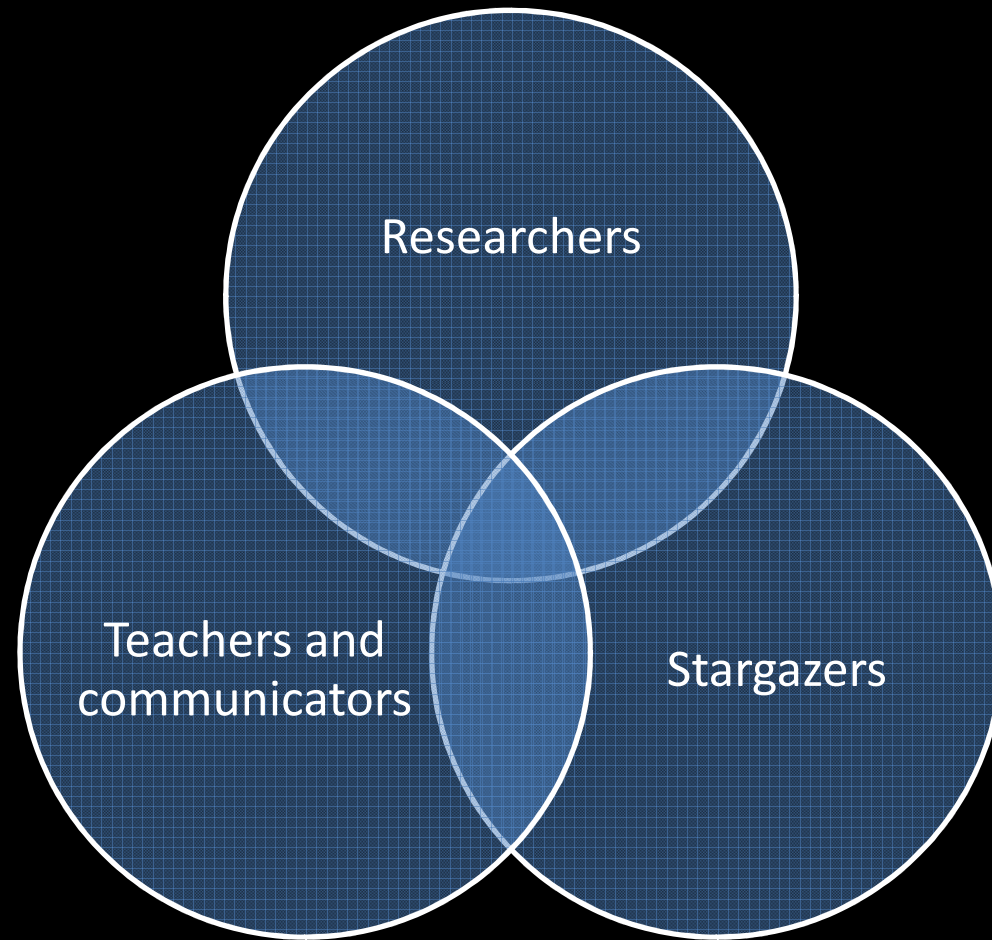


# National opportunities for astronomy outreach

Dan Hillier  
Visitor Centre Manager  
Royal Observatory Edinburgh  
STFC

# Who are the astronomy outreach community?



# Communicating Astronomy Forum

First meeting held on 7 March 2012

## **Present:**

- Science and Technology Facilities Council
- Royal Astronomical Society
- British Astronomical Association
- Association of Science and Discovery Centres
- British Association of Planetaria
- Insitute of Physics

## **Apologies:**

- Federation of Astronomical Societies
- Society for Popular Astronomy
- Campaign for Dark Skies
- UK Space Agency

## **To be invited to next meeting:**

- ESERO UK Space Education Office

# Communicating Astronomy Forum

## **Vision**

A society where people are intrigued, inspired and involved with astronomy and space science.

## **Mission**

To bring together the UK's astronomy engagement communities to share knowledge and maximise opportunities to increase the nation's participation in astronomy and space sciences.

# Communicating Astronomy Forum

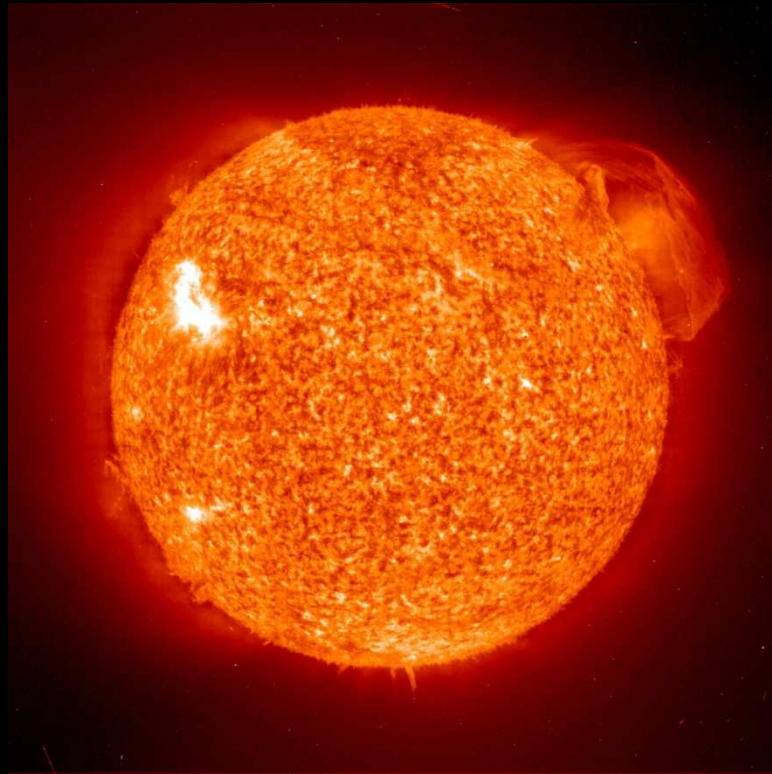
Year Planner of outreach opportunities



# Communicating Astronomy Forum

Special opportunities for national collaboration

Solar Maximum



Oct, Space Week/Dark Sky Season



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[www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk](http://www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk)

One million website hits in January 2012.

# Who is involved in DSD?

## National partnership

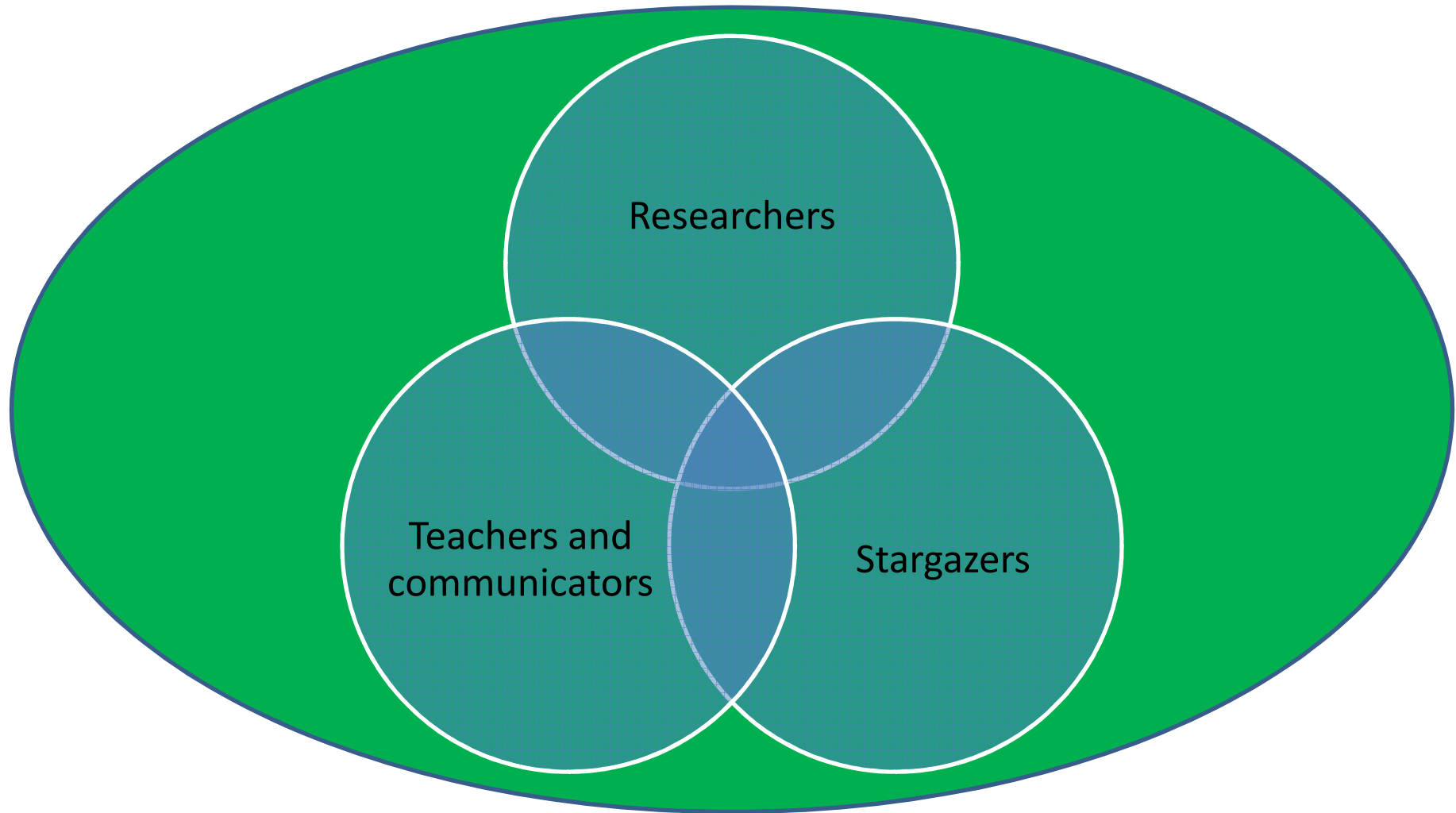
- Science and Technology Facilities Council
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- British Association of Planetaria
- Federation of Astronomical Societies
- Society for Popular Astronomy
- Campaign for Dark Skies

## Country/regional lead partners

North East	Durham Univ.
North West	Daresbury Lab, STFC
York & Humb	Space Connections
West Midlands	Cannon Hill Park
East Midlands	tbc
East of England	Herts Univ.
South West	Exmoor National Park
South	Rutherford Appleton Lab
London	tbc
Scotland	Royal Observatory Edin
Wales	Dark Sky Wales
N.Ireland	Robert Hill/Armagh



# Who is involved in DSD?



# What does DSD do?

## Dark Sky Discovery Sites

“The best local place to see the stars.”

- Low Light Pollution (Orion class, Milky Way class)
- Good sightlines
- Good access



## Dark Sky Activities

Dark Sky-style activities for new audiences:

- New locations
- Naked-eye observing
- Audience-friendly



# What's happening around the UK?

## England

National Project, 2011-2013

Funded by Natural England

Each region will:

- involve local “hard-to-reach” groups in identifying 3 new DSDS.
- write a case study about working with that audience.

Also, showcase events for Stargazing LIVE:

- ~ 15,000 participants in total
- Several events >1,000 participants

## Rest of UK

- New country partnerships
- New DSDS
- Stargazing LIVE events

## Future developments

- More nominations for DSDS
- Dark Sky Trainers network for
  - Organisations
  - Individuals
- Oct, Dark Sky Season/Space Week

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