The annular solar eclipse of 2003 May 31

This interesting eclipse was annular at sunrise in the far north of Scotland, and also in Iceland a few degrees from the horizon. For details and circumstances see Peter Macdonald, JBAA 112(1), 29 (2002 February). The remainder of the British Isles experienced a deep partial eclipse at dawn. Most places later enjoyed a magnificent warm spring day, but visibility of the eclipse itself was widely affected by dawn cloud and mist. A selection of images received is presented here.

Composite of images by John Rogers, recorded at Cawdor Castle on the coast of Nairn. The mist-enshrouded foreground encapsulates the experience of most observers of this event.

Above: Douglas Arnold obtained these images of annularity from the north coast of Iceland, using a Nikon 1400mm lens at f/16 and Agfa RSXII Professional film. Left: 04.02.46 UT; right: 04.04.16 UT.

Right: Photograph taken at North Bay, Scarborough by Melvyn Taylor.

Below: Martin Mobberley travelled as far as his Essex bedroom window to take this image of the rising eclipsed Sun at 03.55 UT, using a Nikon Coolpix digital camera at 280mm.

Tony Rickwood had a good view of the partial phase as the Sun rose above the mist at Durness. He used a 4.5-inch Newtonian and a Fuji Finepix digital camera.