

Star Count 2021

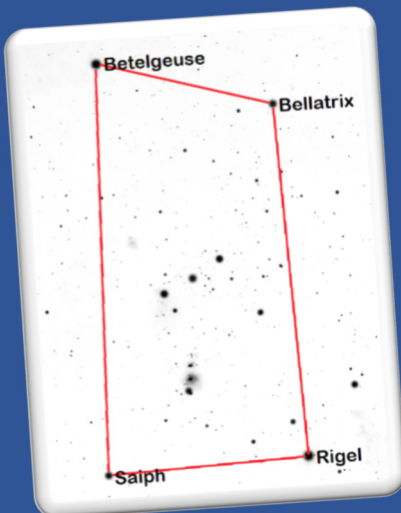
To measure the quality of our night skies and the effect of local light pollution, the Star Count is a UK wide survey run by the CPRE, the countryside charity, with support from the British Astronomical Association (BAA). The survey is for everyone to undertake without prior knowledge using a simple naked eye count of the stars visible within the familiar constellation of Orion.

The survey runs from 6th to 14th February. Wait until at least 7pm on a clear night, wander outside and find a spot well away from street lights/ other lights and with a good view to the South. Familiarise yourself with the sky for 10 to 15 minutes to allow your eyes to become accustomed to the darkness. After this, look South to find Orion with its characteristic Belt of 3 stars. The area to count within is bounded by the bright stars Betelgeuse, Bellatrix, Rigel and Saiph and is shown in the diagram. Count all the stars you can see in the area excluding these 4 bright corner stars. It is fun to count as a group and compare your individual counts.

You can submit your count to the CPRE once the window opens.

Use <https://bathastronomers.org.uk/starcount2021> to find the form.

The more stars you count, the less the light pollution in your local area, the less disturbance to local wildlife and the better the stargazing.



Number counted	Equivalent sky / Bortle Scale	Stars visible in night sky
Up to 6 stars	Class 9: Inner-city sky	230
Up to 8 stars	Class 8: City sky	365
Up to 17 stars	Class 7: Suburban/urban transition	680
Up to 24 stars	Class 6: Bright suburban sky	1120
Up to 26 stars	Class 5: Suburban sky	2110
Up to 33 stars	Class 4: Rural/suburban transition	4125