

Biography Nick James (B.Sc., MIET, C.Eng)

Techniques used and results of high resolution video obtained at the 2010 and 2012 TSEs



I have been interested in astronomy for as long as I can remember, certainly since the age of 8. I have been a member of the British Astronomical Association since I was 12 and now serve as its papers secretary. I am also an Assistant Director of the BAA's Comet section and Assistant Editor of The Astronomer Magazine. I have written many articles for magazines and books, and co-authored *Observing Comets* which was published in 2003 as part of Sir Patrick Moore's Practical Astronomy series.

Professionally, I am an engineer in the space industry, leading a team responsible for implementing highly sensitive and accurate systems for receiving and processing signals from deep-space spacecraft. This keeps me pretty busy but it provides sufficient funding to allow me to indulge in regular eclipse chasing expeditions.

So far I have been under the umbra or antumbra 14 times (3 annular, 11 total, only two of which, including the UK eclipse in Cornwall, were totally clouded out) and has used video to document the events. This started with simple analogue video cameras but more recently I have been using DSLRs in HD video mode attached to a telescope. During the 2010 Total Eclipse from Hao I was one of the first people to obtain an HD video of shadow bands projected onto thin clouds.