

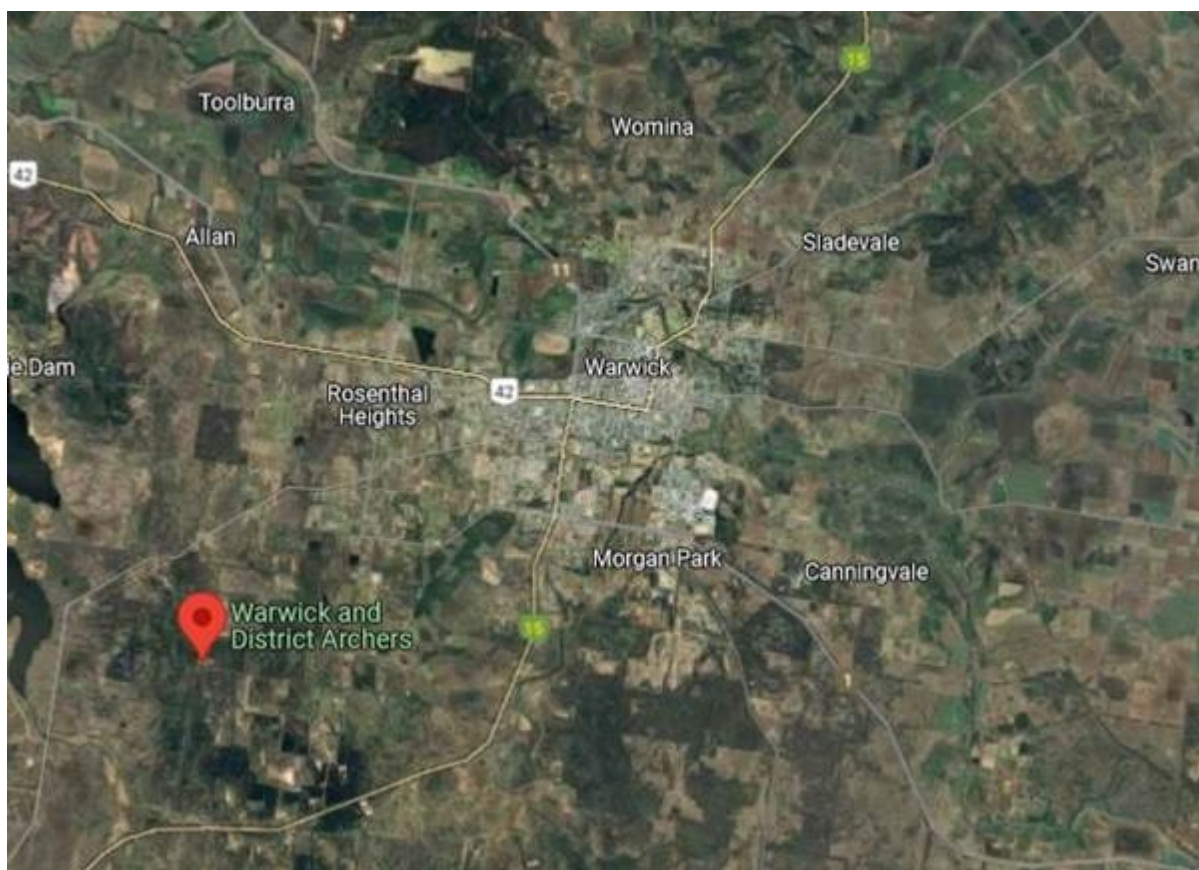
Warwick & District Archers – BAS Dark-Sky Site (Version 3/11/2025)

Ford Road, Rosenthal Heights, Warwick: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Ca91xUHiw9crQom77>

At the invitation of the Warwick and District Archers (WDA), BAS has been added to the 48ha site lease the WDA has with the landowner, Southern Downs Regional Council. BAS can now utilise the Archer's Ford Road site and facilities for astronomy nights. This also allows BAS to proceed with developing facilities to support astronomy for our visiting members.

The site is a 15-minute drive south-west of Warwick. Driving the New England Highway heading south toward Stanthorpe, turn right onto Glen Road at the Warwick Hospital, after about 7km, turn left onto Ford Road. Or access from the New England Highway via Kingsleigh Road, about a 5minute drive further south along the highway from the Glen Road/hospital intersection.

Google Maps suggests about a 2hour drive time from Indooroopilly to the WDA site if peak hour traffic is avoided. (As a bonus, the Warwick Mobil petrol station on Wood Street is known for substantially cheaper fuel than Brisbane.)

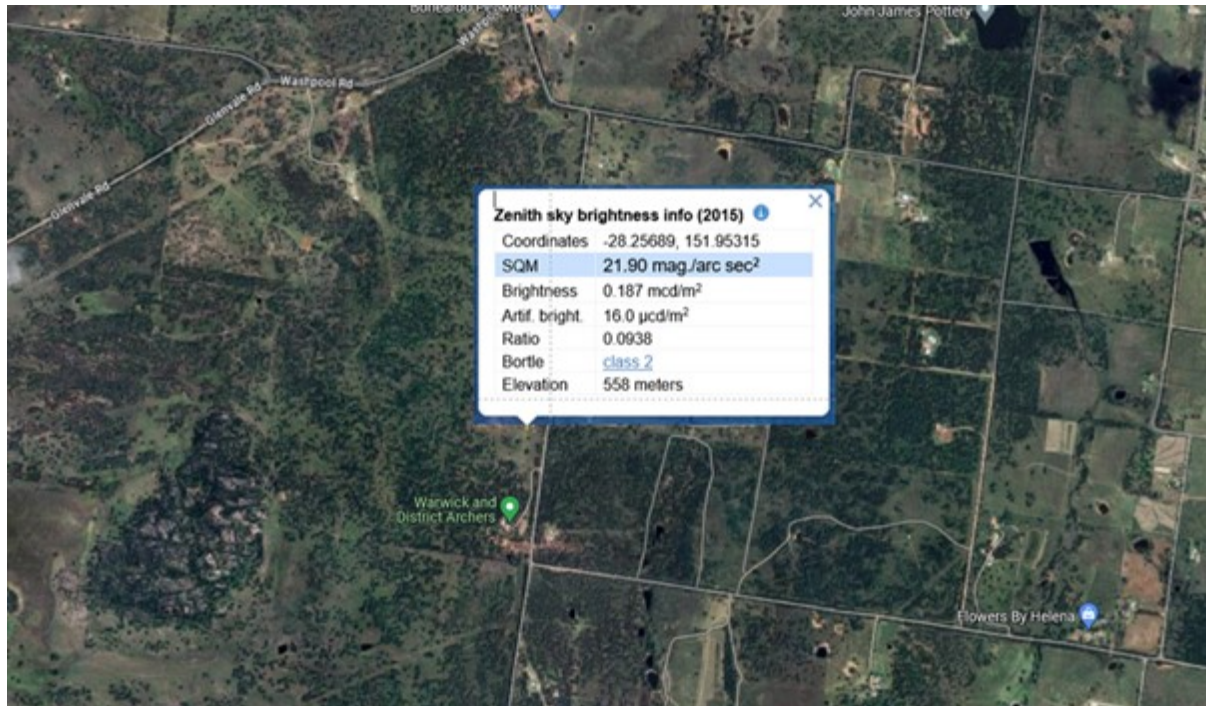


Google maps link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Ca91xUHiw9crQom77>

The Global Light Pollution Map <https://rb.gy/64141> classifies the Warwick Archers site as Bortle Class 2 with artificial light incidence of $16.0 \mu\text{cd}/\text{m}^2$. Our other main observing site at Calvert Aeromodellers is assessed as Class 3 with artificial light of $39.8 \mu\text{cd}/\text{m}^2$. The Maleny Golf Club site is Class 4 with artificial light of $64.7 \mu\text{cd}/\text{m}^2$.

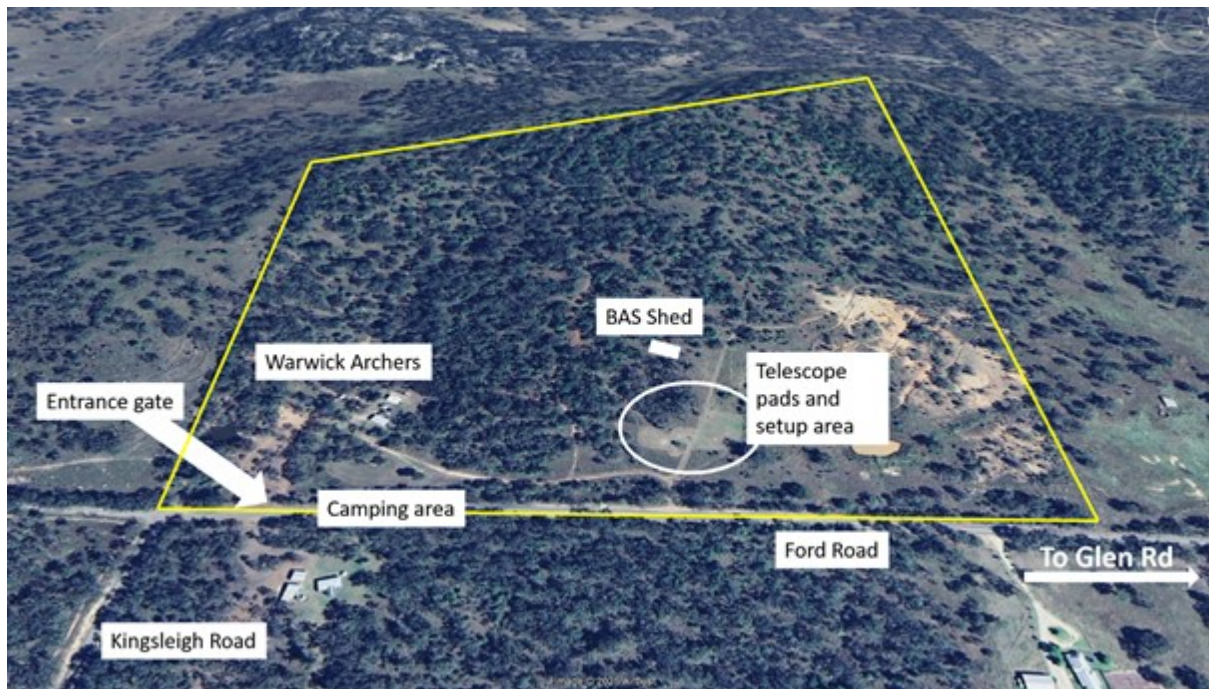
There is a very tolerable bubble of light to the east over Warwick, however the sky to the south, west, and even north towards Toowoomba, is very dark. The site is excellent for visual astronomy and astrophotography.

Due to the significant driving distance from Brisbane, BAS will aim to conduct multi-night weekends at the site, covering Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. BAS members are encouraged to utilise these opportunities for some multi-night astronomy.



Warwick Archers - Global Light Pollution Map <https://rb.gy/64141>

The WDA entrance is on Ford Road at the southern end of the WDA block and adjacent to the Kingsleigh Road intersection with Ford Road. The gate has a coded padlock installed by WDA. BAS is provided with the code. Contact the BAS President president@bas.asn.au for the current code.



The Archer's facilities are located at the southern end of the site while BAS shed and telescope pads are at the northern end.

The WDA site is a large scrubby block with archery trails and targets winding through the forest area. WDA has a main shed (clubhouse) with multiple 240v outlets for battery charging; lighting; refrigerator to store food and drink; microwave oven; toaster; and kettle; tank water; kitchen with sink and hot/cold running water; male and female flushing toilets and hot/cold shower, and camping area facilities at the southern end of the block. The water from the Archer's rainwater tanks is drinkable (but boil first if you have concerns).

The Archer's camping area is a large mown grassed area just below the main archer's facilities. There is plenty of room there for a dozen, or more, campers. There are two 240V power boxes with multiple outlets in the camping ground.



The WDA main shed. The northern half is lock-up while the southern half is open area and has the refrigerator and microwave etc.

The Archers main shed is available to BAS. Members may setup overnight beds in this facility if they wish.



Two - male & female - hot & cold showers



Archers' toilet and shower facilities



A small section of the camping area adjacent to the Archer's facilities. Two 240V power outlet boxes are in the camping area. The southern box (located in the trees above) has 4 outlets. The other power box, at the northern end of the camping ground has 2.

BAS Shed (Clubhouse) and Astronomy Field

NOTE: Please keep car speed down on the road from the WDA main shed to the Astronomy Field

Warwick Archers have slashed a large area, suitable for telescope setup, towards the northern end of the block. BAS has created about 12 gravelled and levelled telescope setup pads. Seven of the pads have tennis court matting material to make telescope setup and use more comfortable. We also have our 6mx15m shed (clubhouse) just above the telescope setup area.



Levelled telescope setup pads with matting



6mx15m steel shed, insulated. (Please do not drive vehicles into the shed.)



Four single beds with mattresses, plus additional camp beds.



12V colour-change LED lighting with remote control

In our shed we have four single beds with mattresses, one large camp stretcher and another two or three smaller camp stretchers, best suited to children, stored at the Archer's facility. Additional single beds will be sourced when available – scrounged.

Thanks to a grant from the Kedron Wavell Community Foundation, we now have a Bluetti Elite 200 V2 Portable Power Station with 2073.6Wh storage capacity, and solar panel for recharging: <https://tinyurl.com/2kee7bnr>



Bluetti Elite 200 V2 battery and solar panel.

The Bluetti battery has 240V and 12V outlets and plenty of power capacity. It can easily power shed lighting, microwave oven, and other electronics. Astronomy batteries can be charged from the Bluetti, or more sensibly, from 240V outlets at the Archers.



We have some basic kitchen gear on-site. Compact microwave oven, butane camp stove, kettle, frypan and jaffle maker. We also have a 240V radio and small fan. Two tables (one hold the kitchen gear) and some chairs.

We also have a large kitchen sink and twin IBC containers of 1,000L each, providing gravity-fed running water to the sink. This water supply is NOT SUITABLE FOR DRINKING. Bring your own potable water and top-up from the Archers. A better water supply will be installed in the future.

The shed has 12V LED lighting operated by remote control unit. Red, white and any colour can be selected and dimmed as required.

All the lighting and kitchen electrical equipment can be driven from the Bluetti battery. We also have a 200W solar panel for the Bluetti battery. Recharging is simple, but the battery is very heavy. Be careful with it.

The Bluetti battery is used by BAS for school and public nights AND at Warwick. It will not be left at the Warwick shed when BAS members are not in attendance. Contact president@bas.asn.au if you want to arrange collection of the Bluetti battery for your personal/family visit to the Warwick shed.

BAS has booked specific New Moon weekend dates with Warwick Archers. However, our members may utilise the site on any day of the year, provided it does not clash with a larger archery event. Email the BAS President for permission to visit the site on non-BAS event dates.

Shed security is an issue and will be improved in the coming months.

Visit Procedure and Cost

BAS has informed the Archers of our regular New Moon booking dates for Member's Weekend events. However, the BAS shed and facilities are available to our members 365 days, provided there is no other site-wide event already booked. (The SES and Rural Fire Service use the site for training and sometimes book the entire site.) The site will also be closed in cases of fire hazard evacuation warning.

BAS needs to inform WDA if we will have any members/visitors visiting the site. 24 hours notice is preferred.

If you plan to visit, please contact the BAS President; SMS is best for a quick reply 0488140755. Or communicate on Discord in advance of your visit. You will be provided with the current access code for the Ford Road gate combination lock. Your visit plan will be relayed to the WDA President. Additional information on keys to the WDA kitchen, shipping container and other access and site usage information will also be provided to you.

A per-night facility fee is payable by astronomy visitors. You can discuss a family visit fee with the President.

BAS Member Fees: BAS members pay just \$10/night.

Non-BAS Member Fees: Non-BAS members pay \$10/night plus a single additional \$10 charge (Non-member stays 1 night and pays \$20; Stays 2 nights and pays \$30; etc.)

Please note: We charge a little more than the base \$10 charge (for example, \$10.26 etc) to cover commission and fees levied by Square and credit card companies.)

Either scan the QR code or click through to our Square payment page:

<https://square.link/u/vXHhilta>



At the end of each month, BAS transfers collected fees to the Warwick & District Archers. Your fee payment helps the Archers cover some of their costs for site leasing, mowing, electricity, gas, building construction, maintenance and insurance, rubbish removal, vegetation management, tractor, and mower costs, and much more. Payments of more than just the base applicable fee are welcomed.