

7 MILLS OBSERVATORY - PRE-REFURBISHMENT SURVEY AND REPORT ON THE 10" COOKE TELESCOPE (AN54-2006)

The Mills Observatory, Dundee, houses an historic 10" Cooke telescope of 1871 - its main instrument for public viewing.

The telescope was installed in the Mills Observatory in 1952, where it has performed sterling duty for over half a century.

In recent years the drive and clamping mechanism of the telescope have been showing signs of wear and refurbishment is overdue.

Only routine maintenance, such as cleaning and oiling, has taken place with the telescope since that time. It is now at a stage where it now needs to be assessed by an appropriate expert.

As a first step the Director of Leisure and Communities recommends that Heritage Engineering of Glasgow be invited to survey the mechanism of the telescope and report on a recommended programme of refurbishment to bring it back into pristine condition. Heritage Engineering of Glasgow have indicated that it will require in the region of £1,500 to carry out this survey and write the report.

The cost will be met from a grant of £500 from the Cormack Committee of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The balance (£1,000) will be met from visitor donations income at the Observatory.