

Crepuscular Rays

Crepuscular sun rays more commonly known as sunbeams are rays of sunlight that appear to radiate from the point in the sky where the sun is located. Shining through openings in clouds (particularly stratocumulus clouds) or between other objects such as mountains, these columns of sunlit scattering particles are separated by darker shadowed volumes.

Despite converging toward the light source, the rays are essentially parallel shafts of sunlit and shadowed particles. Their apparent convergence in the sky is a visual illusion from linear perspective. This illusion is the same as railway lines' or long hallways' appearing to converge at a distant vanishing point.

The scattering particles that make crepuscular rays visible can be air molecules or particulates and in this case it was dust from the Sahara Desert in Africa brought to us on the 'Spanish Plume' that gave us the record hot day on July 25th.



A glorious skyline photographed
over a field of rapidly growing
maize, Horwood Farm, Ansty.
25-07-2019



Towards the end of the same day these clouds foretold the arrival of cooler air from the west to replace the stiflingly hot conditions endured on the 25th July, 2019. The maximum temperature in Ansty reached 32 C but the record breaking temperature recorded was 38.7 C in Cambridge: the highest July temperature ever recorded and indeed the hottest day ever recorded in Britain