

The Herschel Deep Field



William Herschel Telescope + Prime Focus CCD Camera

The Herschel Deep Field is a 7x7 arcminute patch of sky in the constellation of Pisces which has been observed with the 4.2-m William Herschel Telescope for a total of about 70 hours. The picture shown here is a “true colour” composite of images taken at ultra-violet, blue and red wavelengths. Most of the objects are distant galaxies, although the very brightest ones are stars. This is one of the deepest images ever taken from the ground and shows images almost as faint as the famous Hubble Deep Field but over a 10 times bigger area of sky. An analysis of the colours of these galaxies has shown that many are at such large distances and “look-back times” that the epoch of galaxy formation must have been at even higher redshifts than was previously thought.



Credit: Nigel Metcalfe and Tom Shanks (University of Durham).

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