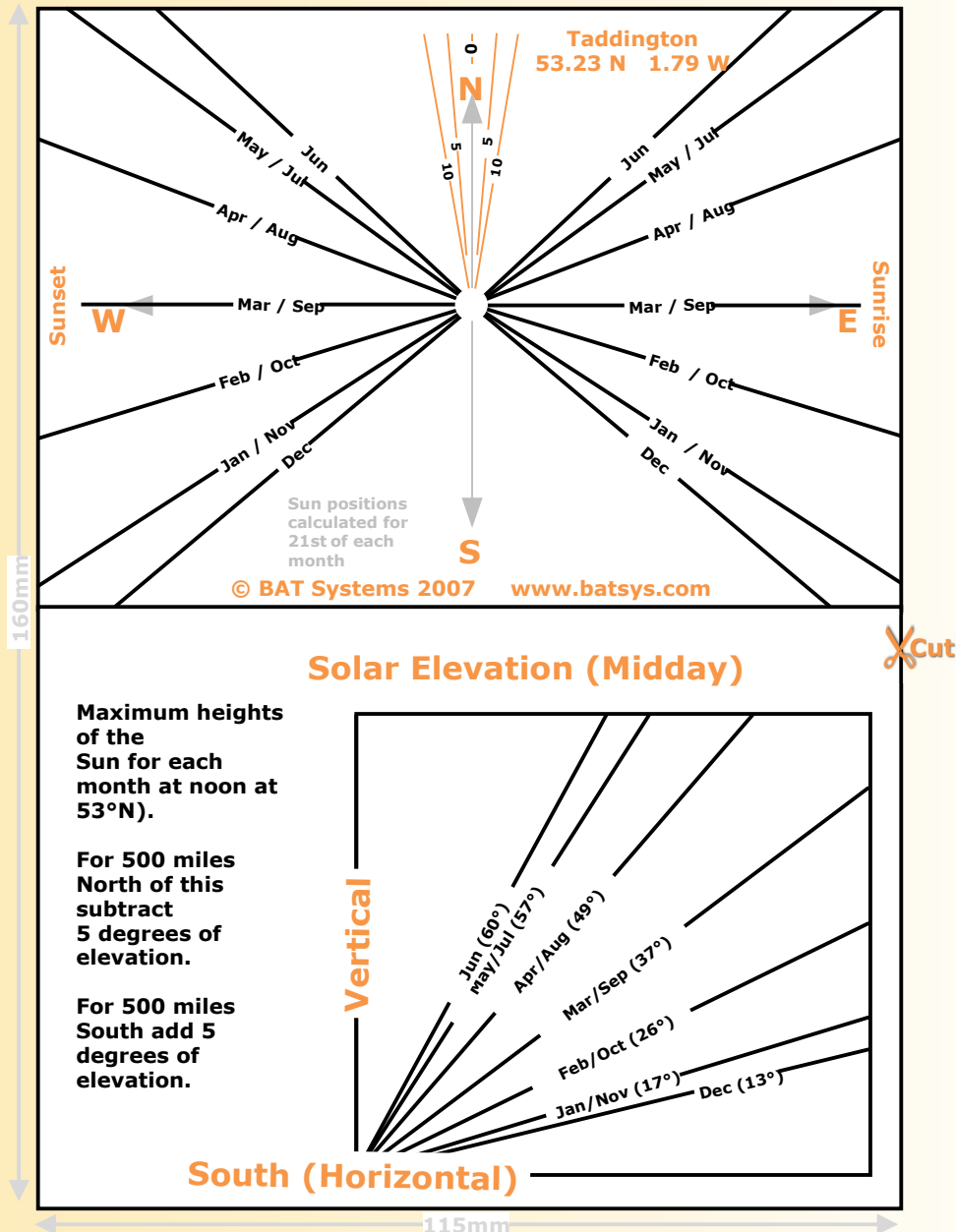


Print your own Sun Position Compass



The Sun Position Compass

A sun position compass shows sunrise and sunset times for a given latitude for each month of the year. The compass here is calculated for Taddington (our base) but is usable for the whole of the UK or for anywhere around 53 degrees North (sunrise/set positions will be within 5 degrees of those shown). Taddington is roughly in the centre of the UK, near Buxton in Derbyshire.

The compass needs to point to True North, the position of the Sun at sunrise (right side) or sunset (left side) can then be read off from the diagram.

Sunrise/sunset positions are calculated for the 21st of each month.



How to use your Sun Position Compass

Print out the Sun Position Compass. Check that the compass has printed accurately by measuring the size and comparing with the dimensions shown on the diagram above. Cut out the compass and fold it along the middle. For extra strength laminate it or glue it around a stiff piece of card.

The sun compass needs to be used with a magnetic compass. We're sorry but we haven't worked out a way to print out one of these yet so you'll have to provide your own although we can tell you how to find due South using an analog watch.

Line up North on the magnetic compass with North on the sun compass (allowing for magnetic variation - see side bar). The position of sunrise/sunset can now be read from the sun compass.

True North and Magnetic North

There are two North Poles, True North and Magnetic North. True North is the top of the globe, Magnetic North is approximately 2000 km away from True North. The difference between the two is known as Variation or Magnetic Declination. Currently the Magnetic North Pole is 3.5W of True North as seen from the UK. To find True North on our sun compass align N on the magnetic compass with 3.5W, the N of the sun compass is then pointing at True North. Magnetic Declination is currently moving eastwards by 0.9 degree/year so allow for this when using the compass. The current declination for your position can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/24f9aw>

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