



Astronomy Festival

Campsite Regulations 2026

Important Please Read

PLEASE NOTE: You MUST bring your confirmation/booking reference number with you for your Solar Eclipse Pass.

Other campers sharing your pitch will need passes to enter the Observatory Science Centre.

Camping at the Observatory Science Centre Astronomy Festival

Thank you for booking a camping pitch at the Astronomy Festival. **It is extremely important that you read these campsite rules and regulations carefully even if you are a regular camper at the festival.** You will be required to sign a Code of Conduct to say that you have read and understood these rules and regulations. The code of conduct form can be found at the bottom of this document.

The camping field is located at the front of the Science Centre in the area usually designated as the car park. The camping pitch is 7.5 metres by 7.5 metres square (24 foot square) only. The camping field is not intended for large vehicles. **Please note that we cannot accommodate any tent, motorhome or caravan that is larger than the pitch.** There are plenty of camping sites local to the Science Centre that would be more suitable. If you need to keep your car by the side of your tent/caravan, you must make sure that it fits within your pitch. You cannot reserve a camping pitch to park your car. Car parking for the festival will be in the field adjacent to the camping field. **If you cannot fit your car onto the camping pitch with your tent/caravan then you must park in the car park.**

Pitches will be marked out and numbered. You must only camp in the pitch that you have booked in advance. 'Roadways' will be marked out between the rows of pitches to allow easy access for all vehicles. **Please do not park in or block the 'roadways'** as vehicles, including emergency services may need to gain access to other pitches.

All camping pitches will be pre-allocated and there are designated areas for families, general camping and adults only (see camping plan). **All children must be supervised at all times and will under no circumstances be allowed into The Centre on their own.**

The Centre cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to property or vehicles in the camping field or car park areas. **There will be no refunds in case of bad weather.**

Facilities

While flushing toilets are available within The Centre, these are limited. Extra toilets will be available by Dome E (opposite the information point). There are no shower facilities. A stand pipe will be available for water collection: located next to the information point and clearly marked. Please note that the camping field is not a purpose built camp site and there is absolutely **no provision for disposal of waste from caravan or motorhome toilets**. You **MUST NOT** empty any waste of this description down the toilets in the portable units. If you require waste disposal facilities then there are several purpose built camp sites and caravan parks in the area.

Although The Centre does not open until 10am Saturday & Sunday, there will be catering facilities serving breakfast on the camping field plus food and drinks throughout Saturday and up to 2pm on Sunday. Please note there is no cash machine on site.

Camp site rules and regulations

We ask you please to adhere to the following rules and regulations to make your stay and those around you as enjoyable and safe as possible. On arrival you and all your party must report to the information point, before you enter the camp site, with your booking reference number/confirmation as proof of payment.

1. All campers camp at their own risk. The Observatory Science Centre and Herstmonceux Castle cannot accept responsibility for personal loss, injury, damage to property or other harm suffered by campers. First aid is available in The Centre during the day only.
2. Do not erect your tent or park your motorhome or caravan over two adjacent pitches (there are plenty of purpose built camping sites and caravan parks in the area if your vehicle is longer than 7.5metres).
3. Do not erect your tent in a roadway.
4. Do not park your car on an adjacent pitch.
5. Maximum of 5 people on a pitch.
6. Do not go into the castle grounds at any time during the festival. However, if the Castle & grounds are open during the festival and you wish to visit you must purchase a ticket at the castle gate house. **Weekend Registration wristbands do not entitle you to enter the grounds of the castle, only The Science Centre.**
7. It is prohibited to enter the grounds of the castle if the middle barrier (down to the castle) is closed.
8. Please be considerate to all other campers. Due to the nature of the event we ask you to keep stray light within the camp site to a minimum especially after 9.30pm when a red light rule will apply. Visitors to The Centre who are not camping will be leaving by car any time during the evening. The Centre will be closing at approximately 11pm when it is expected that the majority of people will be exiting. After this time please observe a lights out policy or use red lights only to enrich the night vision of those people wishing to use their own telescopes.

9. Some campers bring their own telescopes and out of respect for their equipment etc. no ball games, Frisbees or any other item that can be thrown and be a potential hazard, is allowed on the camping field.
10. **Children must be supervised at all times.** Please be aware that the camp site is adjacent to the private roadway into the castle estate. Do not allow children to play on the road and do not allow them to climb trees.
11. Please keep all music and noise to a tolerable level.
12. There will be zero tolerance of disruptive behaviour, excessive alcohol abuse and the use of illegal substances. The management reserve the right to evict* campers deemed to be contravening this rule.
13. The management reserve the right to refuse entry into The Centre to any persons suspected of being under the influence of illegal substances or excessive alcohol.
14. Please be responsible for your own fire prevention. In case of fire, there will be fire extinguishers clearly marked at a fire point at the northern end of the camp site (nearest the domes). Please be vigilant with matches and gas stoves/lights.
15. It is prohibited to use instant BBQs. This is to minimise the risk of fire and damage to the grass.
16. It is prohibited to have open fires of any description.
17. Please put all litter in the bins provided.
18. All cars that cannot be accommodated on your own camping pitch must be parked in the car park adjacent to the camping field. Please be considerate to your neighbours and park sensibly on your pitch without interfering with others.
19. The camping field will be open from 2.30pm on Friday 28th August. **Please do not arrive any earlier than 2.30pm.** Please vacate the campsite by 6pm on Sunday 30th August.
20. If you intend to arrive after 7pm on any night please let The Centre know in advance.
21. **No dogs allowed** unless they are assistance dogs.
22. We do not allow the charging of any portable devices including phones/tablets within The Centre **at any time.**

Thank you very much for your co-operation in these matters and we hope you have a great time

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Code of Conduct

Please read in conjunction with your Camping Rules and Regulations and make sure that everyone in your group is aware of the contents of both documents.

The Observatory Science Centre seeks to work in partnership with all visitors to provide an experience that meets their needs and expectations.

Our code of Conduct requires all visitors to:

Show respect to others: Share the exhibits and spaces, keep noise to an acceptable level, do not swear and do not encroach on other camping pitches. **No ball games or Frisbees, etc. on the campsite.**

Stay safe: Do not run and climb.

Take care: Do not mistreat science exhibits, the site or surroundings: includes wild ducks which may be living on our pond and the fish (please do not feed them or attempt to touch them).

Keep us informed: If concerns arise during your visit with regard to Health and Safety, or there are any accidents please inform us immediately.

If you have purchased an eclipse or total eclipse pass you will be issued with a wristband that you must wear **AT ALL TIMES**. The Centre reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone not wearing a wristband, Wristbands are non-transferable. Anyone suspected of transferring wristbands will be refused entry.

Children must be supervised by an adult at all times

The use of drones is prohibited on the site at all times

In situations where behaviour is likely to create a Health & Safety risk to either themselves or others the Duty Manager at the Observatory Science Centre reserves the right to ask visitors to leave.

Please note that The Observatory Science Centre is a completely non-smoking/non-vaping site. Smoking & vaping is only permitted on the camping area.

CCTV is in operation throughout the site.

Please complete and hand this form in at the Information Point

I have read and understood the contents of both the Camping Rules and Regulations and the Code of Conduct. I have made everyone in my group aware of the contents of both the Camping Rules and Regulations and the Code of Conduct and agree to take responsibility for my group at all times.

I agree on behalf of my group to abide by the Camping Rules and Regulations and the Code of Conduct.

Signed _____ Camping Pitch Number(s) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Contact Details (Mobile Number) _____