

## Ten-Year Lease Extension Confirmed at Herstmonceux Observatory

Today, a joint media release from the Observatory Science Centre (OSC) and Bader College (for Queen's University Canada) announced that a ten-year extended lease has been agreed between the parties, beginning in December 2026.

We are delighted that after a year's uncertainty, this unique heritage site is now in safe hands for another decade under the experienced stewardship of Science Projects. This is a clear acknowledgement of the value this educational charity, its staff and volunteers have brought to the site since it first won the lease in 1994, and which now attracts 60,000 visitors a year.

The joint press release makes it clear that the aim is not just to maintain, but to build upon the OSC's record:

This renewed partnership marks a commitment to joint working, enhancing the visitor experience and investing in key improvements across the Herstmonceux Castle Estate. Together Bader College and Science Projects aim to unlock The Observatory Science Centre's full potential to inspire future generations through science, history, and discovery.

We look forward to hearing more about these plans, and we'll keep our followers up to date on developments as we hear of them. We hope that by working closely together, the two parties can raise the level of investment the site needs to ensure its long-term future.

We are especially pleased that this news comes just two weeks before the opening of the observatory's 21st annual astronomy festival (August 29-31). We encourage everyone who can to attend and show their support.

**The Next 10, 50, 100 Years**

Amid the celebration, it's important to remember that in its almost 80 years, the observatory has faced a number of threats to its existence and to the educational and community services it provides.

After the Royal Greenwich Observatory vacated the site, the telescopes and domes were left to slowly decay. Then, a developer planned to build a hotel and golf course on this iconic site. And then, as part of a privately held estate, there was the continual prospect, throughout the tenancy, of the lease not being renewed.

The publicity around the threat to the observatory led to a very vocal outpouring of love for the OSC from so many families, community groups, astronomers and people who value our national science heritage.

So, we on the campaign team won't squander that support. We'll continue to watch over this amazing place. We'll continue to help the OSC by promoting its activities. And we'll continue to maintain pressure for a clear, long-term future for the observatory, beyond 10 years, beyond 50 or even 100. Because this is a special part of our history and it deserves that attention.

We'd like to thank all those involved at the OSC and Queen's University Canada in securing the extended lease, and for their hard work and proven commitment to this unique facility. We also thank our social media followers, friends and supporters, who were critical to the reach and success of this campaign.

- Ends -

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Notes for the Editor:

The Herstmonceux Observatory Campaign Group was set up as a direct response to Queen's University Canada's announcement not to extend the Observatory Science Centre's lease. The group includes former staff and observatory volunteers.

The group was founded with the following core aims:

Secure the OSC's continuing lease. The group's petition now has more than 13,000 signatures.

Raise awareness about the observatory and the threat to the site: Our active Facebook group now has over 2,300 members, including astronomy TV personalities, local residents and former RGO astronomers.

Help secure the observatory's long-term future, to include keeping the site open to the public, as a STEM centre and with access to the telescopes.

More information:

Website: [www.herstmonceuxobservatory.com](http://www.herstmonceuxobservatory.com)

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/jCAgkswb4GL3xsw1/?mibextid=K35XfP>

X - <https://x.com/herstmonceuxObs?t=AxwhyYukzUay3rtBnQ4asA&s=09>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/saveherstmonceuxobservatory/>