

## Observer field

Report for ACE meeting in August.

### Perimeter security 2026

#### Introduction

Since the early 2000's the Observer field has been enclosed because of outside threats to the field ie possible encampments and vandalism to the Royal Observer Corps site.

1. To ensure the security of the Observer field and Royal Observer Corps Post a bi-annual visit around the perimeter site is to be carried out by the Parish Council. Photos of the perimeter are to be taken and detailed account of the state of fencing.
2. Northern boundary, backing onto Courtmead gardens has a link chain fence and a mowed path area in front, to access the boundary for Maintenance and for the public. In the middle of the boundary line the fence has gone and it needs to be repaired soon.



This area must be cleared of any plastic and unauthorized waste or furniture. There needs to be a distinct boundary line between the gardens and the observer field.

3. North eastern side has a wooden fence erected and it flanks the bottom of the garden of Ladywell To have a mowed path around the trees. There is one tree from the garden that overhangs onto the observer field, this is to be reviewed annually any concerns to be raised with the owner.





4. The eastern flank of the field adjoins Newbury lane pond site and with the co-operation of the owner of the site, a new hedge was planted on the perimeter boundary. There is a wooden and steel fence also along the perimeter. This area has horsetails and so a mowed path may have to extend further into the field.







5. The southern part of the field boundary has a wooden a steel fencing and scattered trees in front. The fence is mostly intact up to the entrance of the field. A mowed path to be in front of the trees.



6. Near to the entrance to the field the fencing continues to a locked steel gate. The padlock code is only to be retained by the officers of the council, the volunteers who manage the Royal Observer Corps Post and Parish Councillors. As you enter the field this will be mowed up to the ROCP to allow access for the volunteers.
7. The eastern part of the Field has a tree hedge which is maintained by volunteers. The last cut was early 2026.



8. At the northern end of the hedge is a corner of two different types of fencing and completely overgrown, difficult to gain access to the small tree hedge on the western part of the northern boundary. This area is to be cleared and a defined boundary established. The Tree hedge is to be maintained by council.

The boundary line has a mix of fencing, from concrete posts chain linking to wooden posts, to tree hedges and old cattle fencing. Not all of the perimeter is

secure or accessible for maintenance. Areas of concern are the northern end, backing onto gardens. One area has a severely damaged fence and there is one garden with a gate accessing the field. This area has become a priority to secure.

The eastern end there was a large gap between the field and Newbury pond area. This has been rectified by a hedge being planted in 2026 by greener Cuckfield and Cllr. Adrian Podmore.

In September, the area on the northern end of the recently cut tree hedge needs cutting back and all debris removed. The aim is to have a clear boundary line.

Proposal for ACE Committee to discuss

1. Securing the middle part of the northern boundary
2. Removal of overgrowth and cattle grids in the corner of the northern and western boundary
3. Budget for Maintenance
4. Tree inspection update
5. Plan for September's cut and clearing of arisings and the removal of all plastic and dumped furniture.
6. Ask for the removal of the unauthorized bee hives