

Friends of Bewl Water



Save Bewl Water – please write now

The company that manages Bewl Water has lodged two appeals for overnight accommodation at Bewl Water. The appeals are:

- (1) A permanent campsite with 80 pitches (for tents and campervans), and
- (2) Four yurts (of which two are already there without planning permission)

Please object to the proposals. The more objectors, the better.

Please write now. The closing dates are **5 August 2024 (Campsite)** and **9 August 2024 (Yurts)**. These appeals are linked, so will likely be decided together

The case numbers are:

Campsite: Appeal ref: APP/C1435/W/24/3343258 Application ref: WD/2023/1895/MAJ

Yurts: Appeal ref: APP/C1435/W/24/3343260 Application ref: WD/2023/2424/FR

To learn more visit: [Planning Home Page Planning and Building Control - Wealden District Council](#) (Open and scroll down and accept at bottom. Enter WD/2023/1895/MAJ (then WD/2023/2424/FR) in the search box. Click the 'View documents' tab to see more details.)

To object visit: <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/MyPortal>

(Enter 3343258 (and then 3343260) in the search box. Click. Press 'Save and Continue' and follow instructions.) The inspector no longer accepts representations by e-mail, so you must send your comments via this portal. If your comments are lengthy, you may find it easier to compose your objection on your computer, using your own writing software (such as MS word), and then upload your document to the portal, rather than write directly into the webform.

Wealden District Council's reasons to refuse the development were:

- There would be negative impact on the area's character, natural beauty and tranquillity

- The proposals would create overnight activity, noise and disturbance, affecting natural habitats that support protected wildlife species, including amber-listed Common Gull and Black-headed Gulls
- Therefore, the developments would be contrary to Policies EN1, EN6, and EN15 of the Wealden Local Plan 1998 and policies WCS12 and WCS14 of the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013, as well as National Planning Policy Framework 2023 section 180.

To elaborate:

- In 2023, an independent ecological consultant. Matt Phelps, examined the site and found that the site is the largest overnight gull roost in south-east England and with the company's development there is a clear likelihood the gulls would temporarily or permanently abandon the site. In February 2016, it was estimated that there were over 120,000 roosting gulls. Since then, bird flu has decimated gull populations, which means these birds need even greater protection. To read the Phelps report visit [Bewl-Water-Gull-Report](#).
- A major reason for this would be unexpected light and noise at night [from humans, torches, cars etc.]. The campsite and yurts are 400m from the area favoured by the gulls.
- Bewl Water sits on the edge of the bird 'superhighway' which may soon be the first UNESCO World Heritage site of its kind.

The above three objections show the development is contrary to Wealden Core Strategy Policy 12 Biodiversity

Other objections include

- The accommodation is marketed to tourists, who will be at risk of injury and death from the large expanse of unlit water. There are 15 miles of shoreline. The development site is about 150 metres from the highest water level.
- The cumulative impact of development would create a 'holiday village' within the High Weald National Landscape despite this being contrary to policy TM4 of the Wealden Local Plan 1998.

Anyone can object. There is no minimum age for objecting. You can add to your objection. If you use the above reasons, please add to them so your objection is more personal.

For answers to questions please e-mail me at SaveBewl@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk

Please forward this to all those who you think might help.

Please act now. Thank you.

Claire Moore

Wadhurst Parish Council and Chair of the Friends of Bewl Water

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