

A positive impact on the local community

We're determined that the project should leave a positive and lasting impact on the local community – and here's some examples of how we're doing it:



Volunteering:

- Vegetation clearing for disabled sailing charity, the Mariners of Bewl
- Helping to build a wooden walkway in Barnett's Wood, Tunbridge Wells, for the Kent High Weald Project

Schools:

- Assisted Lamberhurst Primary School with the installation of new drinking water fountains, as well as supporting the school's Kings & Queens Race as part of the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III



Charity:

- Food bank collection point for site staff
- A coffee morning on site helped to raise funds for cancer charity Macmillan

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future community engagement, please do share them with us.

Contact us

If you have any questions, call us on **0330 303 0368** and give us the reference number **795000**.

You can also email us at bewlupgrade@cmdp-jv.co.uk or scan the QR code.



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We're upgrading our reservoir at Bewl

We're investing over £30 million to upgrade our reservoir at Bewl.

Like all reservoirs, Bewl is regularly inspected, and we constantly carry out improvements when needed. This ensures that the reservoir is safe and working as it should.

What are we doing now?

This project will allow us to reduce the water level of the reservoir more quickly, if needed.

There are many reasons why we might need to do this, for example, to reduce high water levels during exceptionally heavy rainfall, or carry out repairs to the dam.

Where are we working?

At the northern end of the reservoir, where we will install three large hydraulic siphons (see artist's impression, above).

When will the work take place?

Our project is well underway, and we anticipate completing construction during winter 2024/25, followed by a period of testing. Our dedicated team are on-site from 07:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.



How will this affect visitors to Bewl?

We're working closely with the Bewl Water management team to limit any disruption to local residents, visitors and businesses that operate here.

During construction, there will be temporary closures of the footpath along the crest of the dam, as well as sections of the lower level Sussex Border Path. One path will remain open at all times and any necessary diversions will be clearly signposted. Once the project is complete, the Sussex Border Path will be permanently diverted around the new siphon system.

Traffic management and access

We understand that efficient traffic management is critical during the project.

Bewl Water will remain open to the public at all times, and we have carefully planned the delivery of specialist equipment to minimise any disruption.

Pedestrians will always have the right of way and our traffic marshals are on hand to manage the movement of construction vehicles.



Enhancing the environment at Bewl

As part of the project, we're putting into place a wide-ranging plan to enhance the environment at Bewl. We will replace the area given over to the project (2,800m²) by adding 6,500m² of wet woodland creation, boggy hollows, meadow creation and tree planting. Key elements include:

A new wet woodland:

- We've identified 6,500m² for the extension and enhancement of wet woodland at Bewl
- Wet woodland is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat and once established, it will help to support rare and diverse wildlife

Proposed boggy hollow:

- Enhancing the small existing boggy hollow habitats (a UK Habitat of Principal Importance) at Bewl, by introducing additional hollows on the field behind the siphons
- The existing habitats at Bewl are currently home to the Small Water Pepper, which is classified as 'nationally uncommon', with no confirmed records since 2000 across the whole of East Sussex and Kent



Meadow:

- We have engaged with the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the High Weald Meadows Partnership

- All grassland impacted by the project will be reinstated with seeds collected from the High Weald, creating 1.5 acres of enhanced meadow

Tree planting:

- We've planted 20 black poplar trees at Bewl. This is a native tree that is very rare in Kent and Sussex and if the young 'whips' we've planted reach maturity, they will double the amount of mature black poplars currently on the area. This will also encourage wildlife associated with the black poplar tree, such as birds and over 100 insects including bee, butterfly and moth species



- An ornamental black tulip magnolia tree was also planted at Bewl as part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative. This will bloom with beautiful deep purple flowers.