

Mitigation Strategy for Temporary Campsite under Prior Notification GDPO – Land West of Shore Lane, Bradfield

Ragmarsh Farm seeks prior approval to operate a temporary 40 pitch campsite on land west of Shore Lane under the 56 day temporary use rules.

It is acknowledged that the operation of the campsite creates the possibility of a significant effect on the environment, given the proximity of the campsite to the designated features of the Stour Estuary, therefore an appropriate assessment is required.

In order to inform that assessment and in consideration of the designated bird assemblage activity in the estuary, the following mitigation measures will operate to obviate and significant effect on the protected site.

- Dogs will not be allowed on the campsite – removing a source of potential disturbance.
- Operational nights will be limited to 19th July to 31st August. Based on previous years, week days seem to run at about 25% capacity.
- There will be no September camping to avoid the possibility of disturbing the Autumn Passage.
- Kayaks/Canoes etc will not be allowed on site.
- Paddleboard use will be restricted to ten pitches – these will be available as a separate listing on the website.
- Those intending on bringing a paddleboard will receive separate leaflet outlining the importance of the site and the rules surrounding paddleboard use.
- These restrictions, as in previous years will be detailed on the website/pitch up site.
- Bat boxes remain in situ
- 50 Acres of Wild Bird Cover remain in the neighbouring fields. Providing both nourishment and a place to shelter for wildlife.
- The campsite remains a silage meadow, sequestering carbon.

Signage will remain as in previous years

- No dogs
- Camping sign with site rules
- No kayaks/canoes
- Private signs on the perimeter to prevent incursions on to neighbours land.
- Do not pass signs to discourage people stepping on to salt marsh.

This will be the fifth consecutive year the campsite has been open. To our knowledge, we have not received any reports/correspondence from Natural England, the RSPB or the AONB that we have had a detrimental impact on our surroundings. Hopefully this would suggest that our mitigation strategy is effective thus far.