

Promotional material

# Factsheet: Bexhill asylum accommodation (accessible)

Updated 5 April 2023

## Contents

[What is Bexhill?](#)

[Who will be accommodated at the asylum accommodation large site at Bexhill?](#)

[Why Bexhill?](#)

[How long will asylum seekers be accommodated there?](#)

[How many asylum seekers will be housed at Bexhill?](#)

[What about local people living near Bexhill?](#)

[Are people able to come and go as they please?](#)

[Is Bexhill suitable for accommodating people?](#)

[Will vulnerable people be housed at Bexhill?](#)

[Who is running Bexhill?](#)

[Has a final decision been made on the asylum accommodation site at Bexhill?](#)

[When will the site at Bexhill open?](#)

[General Q&A](#)

[Background](#)



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# What is Bexhill?

- Northeye Residential and Training Establishment is on the outskirts of Bexhill.
- The Home Office, is working on proposals which could transform the current site into suitable accommodation for asylum seekers in response to the increasing pressures on the UK asylum system.
- We are working closely with stakeholders, including OGDs and our contractors, to ensure that any accommodation which could be provided for those seeking asylum is suitable.
- By designing the site to be as self-sufficient as possible, the proposals would minimise the impact on local communities and services.

# Who will be accommodated at the asylum accommodation large site at Bexhill?

- The site will accommodate single adult male asylum seekers.

# Why Bexhill?

- The site would create new jobs and could bring new investment into the area.
- The proposal being looked at is for new accommodation to provide accommodation for the asylum-seekers and on-site recreation, a shop, faith and worship and some level of medical services would be available.
- By designing the site to be as self-sufficient as possible we would minimise the impact on local communities and services.
- When off-site services are required, transport services will be made available.

# How long will asylum seekers be accommodated there?

- As proposals for the site develop, we are assessing how long asylum seekers should be accommodated there.
- Proposals include the possibility for those housed to be moved depending on the continued suitability of the individual to be onsite or on the conclusion of their asylum application.

# How many asylum seekers will be housed at Bexhill?

- We expect there to be c.800 people in phase one of the site opening by September 2023.

- We plan to accommodate c.1,200 people by December 2023.
- The Home Office would work with our future service provider to ensure the site is operationally viable and minimises any impact on the wider community.

## **What about local people living near Bexhill?**

- By designing the site to be as self-sufficient as possible, we would minimise the impact on local communities and services. This includes consideration of impacts to the community during both construction and operational phases.
- As proposals develop, we will work closely with local stakeholders to manage any impact on the local area.

## **Are people able to come and go as they please?**

- Those living at the site would be free to come and go but would be expected to be on site overnight.
- If an asylum seeker were not back on site by 11pm the team would make a courtesy call to the individual to ensure they are alright and do not need assistance. This would not be under curfew conditions; it would be based on following up on the safety and welfare of the individual.
- Proposals include providing onsite recreational and cultural activities to occupy asylum seekers to minimise impact on existing facilities within the local area.

## **Is Bexhill suitable for accommodating people?**

- We have a legal obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation.
- We are committed to securing the welfare of asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and keep our processes under constant review.
- The proposals currently under investigation for Bexhill are to provide safe, secure and fit for purpose accommodation.
- Onsite facilities would be designed to ensure the essential needs of those accommodated there are met.
- There would be robust processes in place to assess and manage the requirements of anyone who would be accommodated at the site.
- We would work with the service provider and local transport companies to ensure anyone housed at the site would be able to obtain all their essential needs onsite.

## **Will vulnerable people be housed at Bexhill?**

- We will assess every individual's suitability to reside at Bexhill, using a robust screening process to ensure that it would only accommodate individuals who are considered suitable to reside there.
- Each person's suitability would be assessed at regular intervals.
- All asylum seekers in the UK may contact Migrant Help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year if they need help, advice, or guidance, that includes raising issues relating to safeguarding.

## **Who is running Bexhill?**

- Proposals currently being looked at are for the site to be operated on behalf of the Home Office by an existing asylum accommodation provider.
- Further information will be shared as proposals for the site develop.

## **Has a final decision been made on the asylum accommodation site at Bexhill?**

- No final decision has been taken to use the site.
- We continue to work on proposals to use the site at Bexhill as an asylum accommodation site.

## **When will the site at Bexhill open?**

- Further information will be shared as proposals are developed.
- It would be our intention to use a phased approach to developing Bexhill, gradually increasing the number of individuals accommodated at the site over time.

## **General Q&A**

### **What happens to migrants once they arrive in the UK via small boat?**

- Small boat crossings are dangerous, unnecessary and put lives at risk. There have been appalling and preventable tragedies in the Channel which must stop.
- We aim to deter illegal entry to the UK, break the business model of people smugglers and protect the lives of those they endanger.
- Migrants are intercepted by Border Force and brought to facilities in Dover to begin processing their asylum claims.
- Full screening of people's identity, security checks, initial asylum screening and processing is undertaken at the Western Jet Foil in Dover and Manston, Kent.

- Migrants are then securely moved to suitable accommodation locations as quickly as possible.

## What are large scale accommodation sites?

- The introduction of new asylum accommodation large sites will look to provide safe, suitable and more cost-effective accommodation for asylum seekers. In doing so, they will help to reduce the government's dependency on the use of hotels to accommodate migrants who have entered the UK illegally.

## How much is this going to cost the UK taxpayer?

- The use of contingency accommodation for asylum seekers, such as hotels, is costing the taxpayer £6 million a day.
- Plans to develop these large-scale sites will ensure cheaper and more accommodation is provided for people crossing in small boats.

## Background

- The unprecedented and unacceptable rise in dangerous small boat crossings continues to put huge pressure on the UK's broken asylum system.
- The sharp increase in crossings means there are currently 45,000 asylum seekers living in hotels around the country. These hotels cost the taxpayer more than £6 million a day.
- These illegal, unnecessary and dangerous crossings divert our finite resources from those in genuine need.
- The aim is to fix this broken asylum system, allowing us to support those in genuine need while preventing abuse of the system and deterring illegal entry to the UK.

[↑ Back to top](#)

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