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Dear Sir

**New Forest National Park Local Plan Examination  
Ashurst Hospital Site – Limitation as to use**

This entire site was part of the New Forest and in Crown ownership at the time of enclosure. This occurred in two phases, the first with a grant of 1836 and the second one of 1848. In each case the land was granted to the 'Guardians of the Poor of the New Forest Union' for the specific purposes of building a Workhouse (1836) and land for agricultural training (1848).

There was a proviso that in the event of the land no longer being required for such purpose that it should revert to the Crown. In 1988 part of that land, taken by the grant of 1848, reverted to the New Forest and was sold to the Verderers for £100 and is now part of the open grazing.

The original documents are held by the National Archive under the title 'Grants of Land for Workhouse 1836-1915 and in F10/52 with the number 4079/1. The land has Common Rights on it which have never been extinguished and so should be made available for the use of the New Forest Commoners under the jurisdiction of the Verderers Court.

Within the 1836 grant there was also a requirement that in the event of the land no longer being required for its granted purpose the buildings thereon should be removed by the Guardian of the Poor of the New Forest Union. It would appear that this requirement should now devolve onto the National Health Service.

Yours faithfully

