



Historic England

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Mr Banks,

**Your views on New Forest National Park Local Plan:  
Ashurst Hospital consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed main modification. We respond to the Inspectors' questions 4 and 5 as follows:

According to our records there are no designated heritage assets on this site. However, we believe that the former workhouse element of the hospital was built c 1836 so it is possible that it may be regarded as of special interest if it retains a significant proportion of the original fabric.

We therefore welcome the inclusion in the supporting text of;

*“Elements of the existing built development on the site date back to the 1830s. The former historic workhouse building is considered to be a non-designated heritage asset due to its 19th Century origins and the degree to which the building has survived to a large extent. The Victorian Chapel on the site was constructed sometime between 1869 and 1896 and the exterior remains in good condition. The former workhouse building and Victorian Chapel have heritage significance and Policy XX confirms the Chapel will be retained as part of the redevelopment of the site. The policy requires a detailed heritage assessment to be undertaken to justify proposals that would result in the loss of the former workhouse building”*

and, in principle, the inclusion of clause (c) in the proposed allocation policy;

*“The Victorian Chapel will be retained as part of the redevelopment. A detailed heritage assessment and structural survey will be required to justify the loss of the former workhouse buildings;”*



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However, the National Planning Policy Framework recognises that heritage assets;

*“are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations”.*

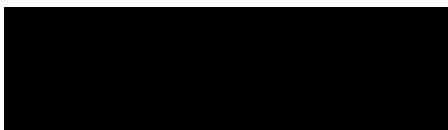
We therefore consider that the Local Plan should set out a more positive approach to the desirability of retaining the former workhouse buildings. We therefore suggest that clause (c) is reworded as follows:

*“The Victorian Chapel will be retained as part of the redevelopment. It is also desirable to retain the former workhouse buildings. A detailed heritage assessment and structural survey will be required to demonstrate the significance of these buildings, which should contain sufficient information for the Authority to be able to identify and assess the particular significance of these heritage assets and how they that may be affected by the proposals including, if the proposals include the loss of the former workhouse buildings, if that loss is justified”.*

We confirm that we do not wish to attend the further hearing session on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

We hope these comments are helpful.

Kind regards,



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