From:

I would like to Express my concern regarding the planning Inspectors asking the New Forest National Park Authority to look again at the Ashurst Hospital site in terms of possible development.

I am a practicing New Forest Commoner who turns out stock from a Forestry Commission property in close proximity to the hospital.

I have encountered many problems where people/dogs come into conflict with depastured stock. Further development would mean more people using the adjacent Crown Lands of the New Forest.

More people, more use, more disturbance more conflict.

I am also concerned that the hospital site was taken from the Crown Lands to build a Union workhouse for poor people of the local parishes. In the deed of conveyance it expressly states that if the site is no longer used for this purpose it will be returned back to the forest. So why is this not happening ?

The possible development is on the forest boundary of the New Forest site of special scientific interest. Is a Special Protection Area and a Ramsar site of international importance for its wetlands. How can we be thinking of development in the immediate vicinity of this protected area ?

I would like to ask the Inspectors if they are aware that the access to the Hospital is by a licence with the Forestry Commission, the land all the way around the site is Crown Land and managed by the Forestry Commission. How will you develope this site without legal access ?

I am asking the Inspectors and National Park Authority to think again over this. Are the statutory bodies that manage this precious area seriously going to damage the very thing they are here to protect ???

I am writing to you with grave concerns over the possible development as I have first hand experience through my job as a Forest Keeper how more and more people are inadvertently damaging the very thing they are coming to see. It is not there fault it is in the hands of the National Park Authority to protect the New Forest as this is there primary role I sincerely hope they will do so.

Kind Regards

Patrick Cook.

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