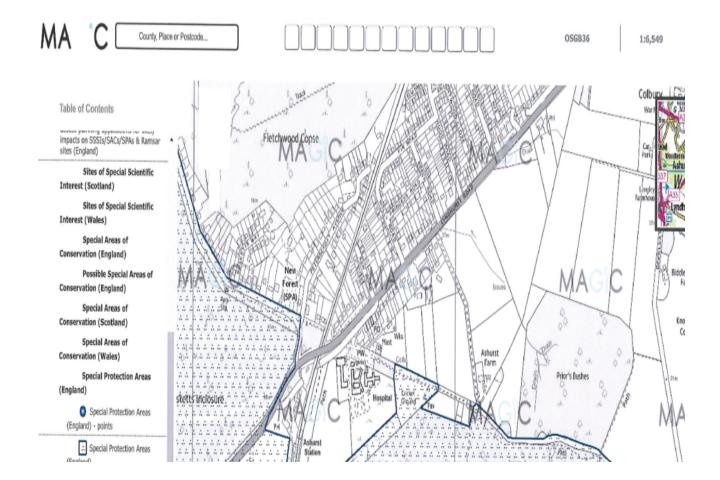
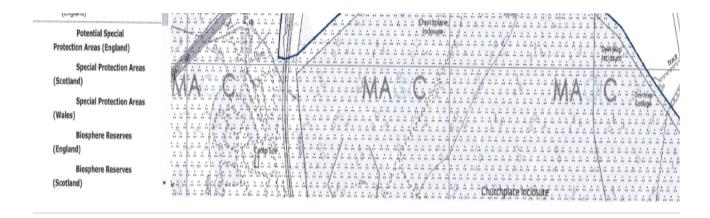
Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your email with the Inspector's proposal of adding the Ashurst Hospital site into the proposed NFNPA Local Plan.

This is a great idea, as the site is on the edge of the Defined Village of Ashurst, where development would be sustainably located.

However, the proposed inclusion of this site raises more fundamental issues around the theoretical possibility of extending the Defined Village in locations within 400m of the New Forest SPA. As you will know, the site lies adjacent to the New Forest SPA, and at the hearing sessions, the NPA expressed their view that it would be 'against the law' to propose any form of allocations within 400m of the SPA, as this would be contrary to Natural England's advice.





If it transpires that is feasible to include the Ashurst Hospital site as a proposed allocation, it is not clear why it is therefore impossible to extend the Defined Village boundaries to include other small edge-of-settlement sites that are available around the edges of Sway, Lyndhurst and, most importantly to my client, Brockenhurst. This would allow a far more sustainable pattern of development to be delivered around the New Forest, creating better transport patterns, better access to services, and improved community hubs.

We would expect this matter to be fully addressed during the course of any such proposed allocation. To re-iterate, we are in favour of the proposed allocation, as well as the inclusion of other suitably-located sites on the edges of the other three Defined Villages, in particular Brockenhurst which has a main line railway station, but where no allocations are currently planned.

Yours sincerely



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From: Policy team <policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 23 January 2019 09:20 **To:** surveyors@draycotts.co.uk

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

Ashurst Hospital consultation

No Images? Click here

Dear Sir / Madam,

## New Forest National Park Submission draft Local Plan 2016 – 2036

## **Proposed additional site allocation – Ashurst Hospital**

The National Park Authority's draft Local Plan 2016 – 2036 was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent Examination in May 2018. You are receiving this update as you are either a specific or general consultee, or you have made representations on the draft Local Plan prior to its submission.

Following the Examination hearing sessions in November 2018, the Authority was asked by the Government-appointed Inspectors to reconsider the potential of land at Ashurst Hospital for residential development. The Authority has subsequently prepared a draft allocation policy for the Ashurst Hospital site, informed by a site-specific Habitats Regulations Assessment.

As this proposal would involve a new policy (and associated supporting text) in the draft Local Plan, the Inspectors are providing the opportunity for interested parties to comment. The six-week consultation on the proposed site allocation policy runs from **Wednesday 23 January 2019 – Wednesday 6 March 2019**. As part of this consultation we have published:

- The 'Proposed additional site allocation Ashurst Hospital' policy wording
- The 'Inspectors' note on potential additional site allocation at Ashurst Hospital' (ID-22)
- A Sustainability Appraisal of the proposed site allocation policy
- A Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum (LUC, January 2019).

For your information, we have attached the proposed policy wording and the Inspectors' note (ID-22). Representations made on the proposed Ashurst Hospital site allocation policy and supporting text should focus on the key questions set out in the Inspectors' note (ID-22).

## How to make representations

Details are available to view at: www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/localplan

The consultation is strictly focused on the proposed Ashurst Hospital site allocation policy and supporting text and does not provide an opportunity to make representations on Local Plan matters already examined by the Inspectors.

Representations should be submitted to the Local Plan Programme Officer (preferably via email at <a href="mailto:bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com">bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com</a>) by 5pm on Wednesday 6 March 2019. Further details are set out in the Inspectors' note (ID-22).

## **Next steps**

It will be for the Inspectors to consider the representations made on the proposed site allocation policy. The Inspectors have advised that following the 6-week consultation they will hold a further Examination hearing session focused on the Ashurst Hospital site on Thursday 21 March 2019. The Inspectors' note (ID-22) sets out more detail on the deadline for notifying the Programme Officer of a wish to speak at the Examination hearing session.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Avery

**Executive Director Strategy & Planning** 



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