



## New Hospital serving The Forest of Dean?

**Plans to build a new hospital in the Forest of Dean will be decided next week.**

**Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust wants to build a new 24 bed community hospital on the Steam Mills Road playing field.**

Their proposals include removing the existing skate park which will be replaced with a new one at the Miner's Field. The new hospital is designed to provide urgent care, physiotherapy and paediatric services. And it will include imaging and general and specialist outpatient departments along with dental and treatment suites. The hospital will have 132 parking spaces, seven of which will be for wheelchair users and there will be eight electric vehicle charging bays.

Architects working on the plans say they have designed the building to reflect the local character of Cinderford. They have drawn inspiration from the agricultural, industrial, cultural and civic buildings found within the Forest of Dean.

The proposals have the support of Cinderford Town Council however they have several concerns over the viability of the site. Town councillors say that thousands of new homes are expected to be built in the Forest over the next few years and there appears to be no room to be able to extend the hospital in future.

They also have concerns about how the new hospital will impact traffic flow in the town. Some seven residents have objected to the proposals over concerns the new hospital will lead to increased air

pollution from traffic, it will lead to a loss of green space and will impact the value of properties.

Forest of Dean District Council planning officers recommend approving the scheme as it represents sustainable development. They say the plans should go ahead subject to an agreement to secure a new skate park in Cinderford and that Natural England raise no objections.



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Architects Proposed Hospital:  
Watch this space!

## Human remains found near M5 junction at new Forest Green Rovers stadium site



It could have been a bizarre crime scene, six sets of human remains clustered close together, one having been buried with a knife at the hip, one with a twisted copper alloy bracelet,

and another having had their skull placed between their legs after death.

**But this was history, maybe Roman, maybe Anglo-Saxon - time will tell.** If there was already evidence of Romans in the area where Forest Green Rovers is to

have its new stadium, Romans rarely buried knives with bodies.

Roman coins, pottery and jewellery uncovered by the time team from Cotswold Archaeology do date the discovery next to Junction 13 of the M5 though. That, says Cotswold Archaeology osteoarchaeologist Sharon Clough, makes for an "exciting" site.

Cotswold Archaeology has been working at the site for the past four weeks and the team will stay on site for a few weeks more. Once the work is done, the items are expected to go to a local museum.

# New Gate to keep Boar out!

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**A NEW gate has been installed to give people access to woodlands while keeping wild boar out of a play area.**

Local estate agent Dave Toombs, of Lydney-based agents KJT, stepped in to fund the new gate at Primrose Hill in Lydney in a project initiated by the Friends of the Mesne community group.

Friends of the Mesne spokesman Pete Webb explained: “We were set up when the boar invaded the

play area on Primrose Hill mesne not once but several times.

“They decimated the whole grass area and dug up and ate daffodil bulbs that had been planted by members of the community.

“We tried to get the town council to fence off the wooded area to prevent further attacks and the forestry to no avail.

“We started a fund-raiser to enable us to fund the project ourselves

while still pressurising the council to act and eventually we managed to get enough councillors on our side and the mesne was fenced and funded by the council. It was a huge success and stopped the boar getting through again.”



## Did you know?

The Forest of Dean is one of the surviving ancient woodlands in England. A large area was reserved for royal hunting before 1066 and remains the second largest crown forest in the country.

In a nutshell, Blakeney is a village in Gloucestershire, England. It is in the parish of Awre and has views of the Forest of Dean. It was the site of a Roman villa, dating to 75 AD,[2] and home to Thomas Sternhold, a groom of King Henry VIII's Robes. The local manor house is Hayes Manor, Viney Hill. Hawfield House on Newnham Road was built c. 1790.

## Renowned birds of prey centre closes to visitors

**The International Birds of Prey Centre at Newent closed its doors to the public last week – but the good news is ... it will continue with its conservation work.**

The centre is to move from Newent after nearly 55 years and continue as a private charity in another location.

It welcomed its final visitors last Wednesday (February 16) – although its owl evenings and experience will continue until March 16.

The centre's director, Jemima Parry-Jones, said: “Despite cost saving measures and widely

supported fundraising efforts from the charity, the impacts of Covid have been too great.

“Thanks to the furlough scheme and the dedication of the staff and volunteers, the charity zoo survived the worst of the pandemic and therefore, were ineligible to receive support funds from the Government's extensively debated Zoo Support Fund and Zoo Animal Fund.

“This, coupled with the ever-increasing costs of running a zoo, our location and aging infrastructure have forced the difficult decision to close to the public in order to allow the charity to continue its work.

*“However, ICBP is viewing this step as a new phase in its long history and is excited by the prospect of contributing to conservation in different ways.*

*“Its new facility will be focussed on conservation breeding, building on the knowledge and expertise already fostered from involvement with projects such as Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction.”*



**International Birds of Prey Centre director, Jemima Parry-Jones**

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