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## Savile: reign of abuse across NHS exposed

- Star active in 28 hospital trusts
- DJ's fame opened door to abuse

Caroline Davies  
Rowena Mason

The minister in charge when Jimmy Savile was appointed to work at Broadmoor psychiatric hospital said she was "shocked, surprised, startled, disgusted", as details of his catalogue of abuse within the NHS was exposed yesterday.

Edwina Currie said: "I wish we had never seen hide nor hair from him", 26 years after she rubber-stamped his appointment by a civil servant to a task-force aimed at improving the high security hospital's governance.

Her remarks came on the day that NHS investigations confirmed that Savile - already exposed for abusing children



**Jimmy Savile's informal association with Broadmoor began in 1968 with an unofficial role in patient entertainment**

when he worked at the BBC - was an "opportunistic sexual predator" at a string of hospitals around the country.

Currie was responsible for mental health issues in 1988 when the BBC Radio 1 DJ was given a managerial role at Broadmoor at the instigation of a senior civil servant in her department, Cliff Graham. She was also supportive of Savile's promise to confront unionised prison officers about their working practices and issued a press release praising his work ending with the words "he is an amazing man and has my full confidence".

Yesterday the NHS published the findings of investigations into Savile's activities at 28 hospital trusts, which concluded that he used the NHS and his celebrity status to "exploit and abuse" vulnerable patients and staff at hospitals across the country, including Broadmoor and Leeds General Infirmary. Investigators found he even boasted about having sex with corpses, and had a well known fixation

with the dead. Jeremy Hunt, the current health secretary, described the Broadmoor appointment as "indefensible" in a Commons statement, as Labour called for an independent inquiry into the television personality's relationships with politicians, including Ken Clarke, health secretary at the time.

Hunt apologised on behalf of the government and the NHS to victims, and warned that if anyone had broken the law or hospital regulations they should face full legal consequences.

Shadow health secretary Andy Burnham said Savile's Broadmoor appointment raised "serious questions about the conduct of the civil servants and ministers in the Department of Health".

Investigators found that at Leeds General Infirmary, where Savile worked as a volunteer porter, there were at least 60 victims, from five to 75 in age. Mainly teenagers at the time, they included men, women, boys and girls. Thirty-three were patients, and 19 of these were children. Three said they were raped.

Nine of the victims told a member of staff at the time, but the inquiry found no evidence that reports of abuse by Savile were communicated to senior managers.

Abuses took place on wards, in lifts, in corridors, in offices, in his mother's house and in the campervan he parked in the hospital car park. The most recent was in 2009, when Savile was 82, two years before his death.

Assaults at other hospitals included the rape of a woman in his campervan at Digby mental hospital in Exeter, the sexual assault of two others on a ward at Moss Side in Liverpool, and an incident when he jumped into bed with a 14-year-old and touched her inappropriately at St Catherines in Birkenhead.

But it was at Broadmoor, where Savile regularly watched female patients undress to bathe, that his influential position was sanctioned at the highest level when he was appointed to the task force in

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**Biter bit**  
Suárez banned for four months



Fifa has ruled that Luis Suárez will miss the rest of Uruguay's World Cup and the start of the Premier League after biting Italy's Giorgio Chiellini Photograph: PA

## Tesco owns enough land to fit 15,000 new homes

Simon Goodley  
Leila Haddou

Tesco, the UK's largest supermarket chain, is hoarding land and buildings covering an area big enough to build 15,000 homes, a Guardian analysis has revealed.

The size of the embattled retailer's land bank, theoretically large enough to replicate the government's proposed new garden city at Ebbsfleet, is far greater than previously estimated and remains on its books despite much of it being bought to build out-of-town Extra supermarkets which are no longer financially attractive as shoppers turn their back on the big weekly grocery shop.

The scale of Tesco's land holdings are revealed as the grocer's under-pressure boss Philip Clarke steels himself for a bar-racking from disgruntled shareholders at today's AGM. Clarke has said it could take three years to turn the struggling UK chain around. Its most recent sales figures were the worst in a generation.

The study of Land Registry records by the Guardian and aerial photography company Getmapping reveals Tesco's British property portfolio covers 4.6m sqm, spanning around 310 separate sites that do not currently house a Tesco store in England, Scotland and Wales. The data is a snapshot of Tesco's land ownership, taken from Land Registry records in March, which was then matched against the retailer's own database to remove existing stores. Some of the portfolio is residential property or rented to other retailers, but the majority is undeveloped.

The analysis comes at a time when the Labour party is floating a "use-it-or-lose-it" policy for firms sitting on large amounts of undeveloped land, as well as various calls to develop the greenbelt and to "retrofit old cities to modern demands".

Supermarket land banks came under the spotlight of the Competition Commission seven years ago, when the major chains faced allegations they were buying up land to prevent rivals from developing in certain towns. At the time, Tesco was reported to have 185 sites - said to equate to 410,000 sq m of new store space - that it could develop without getting permission from government regulators.

Last year, the retailer cut the valuation of about 460,000 sq m of its land by £800m - as it admitted it would never build on many of the sites it had accumu-

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## Brooks faces the press pack and says: 'I have learned valuable lessons'

Lisa O'Carroll

An emotional Rebekah Brooks gave her first statement since she was acquitted of all phone-hacking charges on Tuesday, declaring she was "vindicated" by the unanimous verdicts of the jury.

With her husband, Charlie, by her side, and her voice breaking, Brooks tried to strike a note of contrition as she said she hoped she had learned some "valuable lessons" from the long trial.

But she declined to say anything about Andy Coulson, her successor as editor at the News of the World, although reporters repeatedly asked her what she thought of the guilty verdict against him. "I am innocent of the crimes I was charged with and



'Vindicated': Brooks and her husband Charlie outside their home in London

I feel vindicated by the unanimous verdicts," the former editor of the Sun and the News of the World editor said to cameras and a press pack outside her home in central London.

"When I was arrested it was in the middle of a maelstrom of controversy, of politics and of comment. Some of that was fair but much of it was not, so I'm grateful to the jury," she said.

"It's been a time of reflection for me, I've learned some valuable lessons and hopefully I'm the wiser for it."

As they pushed through the media scrum to get into an awaiting car, Charlie Brooks was asked if he had anything to say about the differing fate of Coulson. "I am very sad about it," he replied.

He added they had not heard from the

prime minister - a friend of Charlie's from their Eton school days - since Tuesday's high-profile verdict.

In a short statement punctuated by shouted questions from the media, she also promised to support former colleagues who were facing criminal trials.

"Today my thoughts are with my former colleagues who face future trials and I'm going to do everything I can to support them as I know how anxious the times ahead are," she said.

Rebekah Brooks had been unable to say anything when she was cleared of all charges on Tuesday, on the instructions of the judge who was concerned about prejudicing the jury's continuing deliberations over Coulson, which ended 24 hours later. Charlie Brooks spoke first to say that he

was "proud" of his wife and how she had coped with the eight-month trial.

He too said he had little to add to the statement he made two years ago, when he accused prosecutors of a "witch-hunt" against his wife.

The couple's remarks were made on the same day that Rupert Murdoch flew into London for a pre-arranged visit to his newspaper operation. He has given Rebekah Brooks unstinting support throughout the trial and has been in touch with her frequently on the phone. It is highly likely they will meet, but away from the cameras as they will both be keen to avoid a repeat of the scene after the closure of the News of the World when he told the media that she was his "top priority".

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## National

## Land banks

# Tesco hoarding land and buildings on an area big enough for 15,000 homes



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lated over the years. Tesco last year said its UK property empire was worth £20bn.

The new details on the land bank follow news that Tesco is “urgently investigating” its property division – and faces potential fines – after the Guardian revealed the chain has been failing to comply with a Competition Commission (now the Competition and Markets Authority or CMA) order for the past four years. The 2010 directive related to Tesco’s use of restrictive covenants, which allow former landowners to control how plots are developed after they have been sold, and which the supermarket had repeatedly insisted it had removed as ordered.

The Guardian’s analysis has also discovered that the supermarket chain:

- Has accumulated large amounts of unused land close to existing superstores.
- Has bought up successful local pubs, turning them into convenience stores.
- Has acquired a substantial portfolio of established residential property.
- Has turned down offers for at least one site from rivals, despite having no plans to develop the land.

A Tesco spokesman said: “We only buy land with the intention of delivering developments. Like other supermarkets, we own a pipeline of sites where we intend to develop new stores for our customers over the coming years. As we have previously announced, in response to changing customer shopping habits we have decided to reduce the new space we build each year, building fewer large stores.

“Where we no longer intend to develop sites, we sell them, lease them or develop them for housing. We are very willing to sell or lease sites to other retailers where they make the best commercial offer, and have done so many times.”

The spokesman declined to comment on the size of Tesco’s land bank, or to comment on City speculation that the retailer would likely be forced into further write downs of its unused sites.

The Competition Commission’s 2007 inquiry found no evidence that the land holdings of the major supermarkets impacted on competition, although the theory continues to be debated within the property sector.

While the Commission’s report ordered supermarkets to remove selected restrictive covenants, its overall conclusions found no evidence to prove allegations that the industry owned land in order to thwart competition. “We do not find grocery retailers are engaging in the holding of undeveloped land (or land banking) as a strategy to impede the entry by rival grocery retailers into local markets,” it said.

The arguments are being revived as Aldi and Lidl look for new sights. The discount stores are having a big effect on Tesco’s trading and their influence was shown on inflation, which fell to its lowest level in almost five years in May partly because of supermarket discount wars.

The practice of holding a large land bank is not exclusive to Tesco, but as the market leader it is widely believed to own by far the largest within the UK supermarket sector. Last month, Sainsbury’s said

a review of its “property pipeline” identified a number of sites that it no longer wants to develop, resulting in a £92m write down in its books.

The hoarding of development land for long periods has also drawn criticism in the house building sector – which owns far larger plots of land than the supermarkets – and in December Ed Miliband promised the next Labour government would legislate to prevent profiteering property developers stockpiling land, in order to more than double the number of homes being built each year in England.

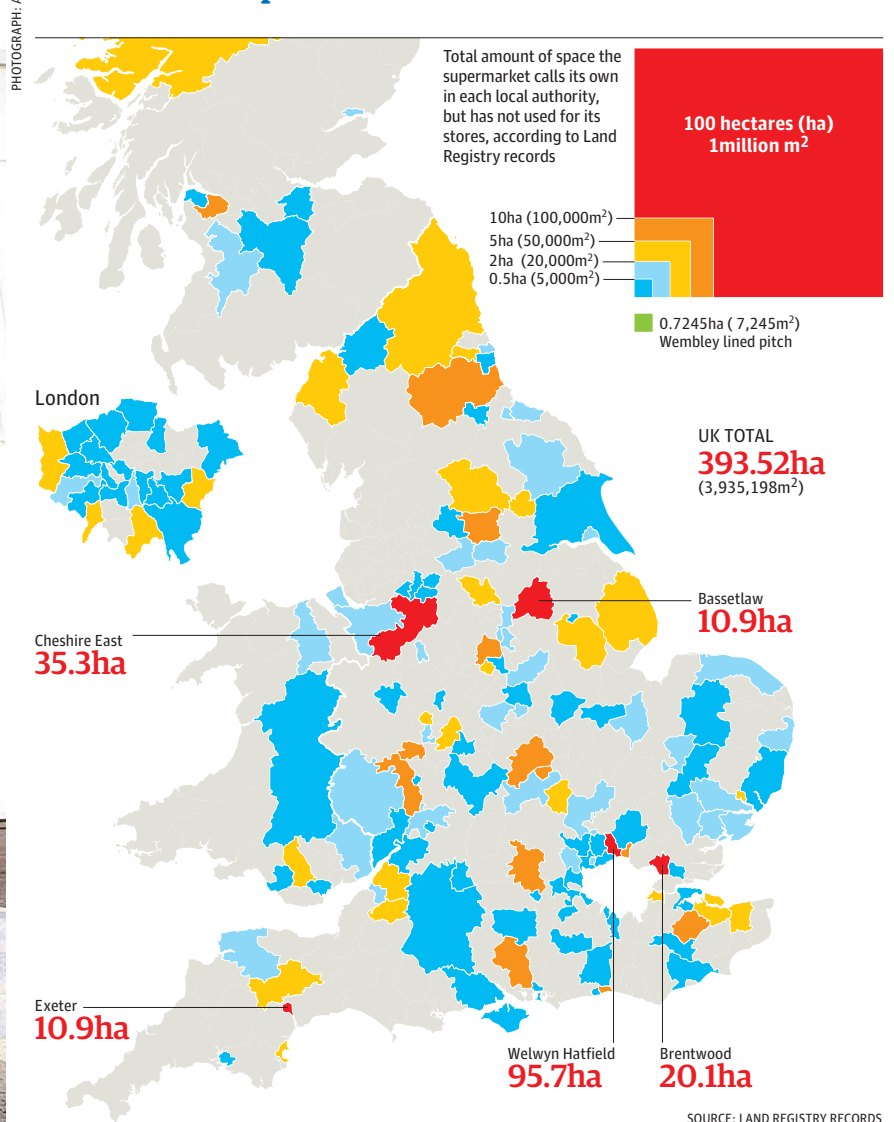
However, even that policy – considered radical by many and hated by house builders – does not go far enough for some. Prof Karel Williams of the Manchester Business School, added: “With Ed [Miliband] it stops at the headline. Use-it-or-lose-it should surely apply to councils, superstores and straight property companies.”

While the aggregate size of Tesco’s land bank could theoretically be used to build many homes, it is distributed across Britain, with areas of some plots likely to be unsuitable for housing.

Fred Harrison, an economist who has called for land to be taxed as if the sites were in use, added: “Companies own all this land and choose not to use it. You can’t force them to sell it, but given there is a market demand for it and we know the value, you can charge the owners for the public services that make the land valuable. Then they lose money if they just sit on it with no revenue.”

*Additional reporting by Will Franklin and Patrick Scott*

## Tesco’s undeveloped land



## London

### ‘Supermarkets target pubs - even if they’re popular and profitable’

#### Simon Goodley

Commuters exiting Catford Bridge station in south London are immediately presented with the sight of the Catford Bridge Tavern, a pub that is perfectly positioned to Hoover up workers fancying a post-work pint. But despite its location, nobody has been drinking there for months. The premises are boarded up, after the tavern’s management were evicted when the lease was sold to Tesco, which made an abortive attempt to convert it into a convenience store.

When the pub’s operators moved out, the Catford Bridge Tavern became a squat – at least until the group of around 20 residents were evicted last month.

Alex Hepworth, the pub’s former assistant manager, said: “When we took over the Catford Bridge Tavern it had been a troubled pub and the licence had been taken away by the local council. But right from the start we had brilliant success there. We’d been open for six months when we heard Tesco was sniffing around [when] we were really starting to be viewed as a community asset.”

Tesco bought the lease at the end of 2012, but the purchase was finalised only after a local campaign resulted in the council recommending that the Catford Bridge Tavern be protected as a pub. “[Tesco] gave us a closing date,” added Hepworth. “We closed but the protected pub ruling didn’t go away.”

The previous operator, pubs group Antic, was then invited back to run it, only to be evicted again – this time as Tesco said it had found another company to manage it. But nothing has happened.

“It’s probably six months since we’ve moved out,” said Hepworth, who has opened up a new pub 200 metres down the road. “I’m not sure what has happened to the new guys going in.”

Campaign for Real Ale chief executive Mike Benner said: “The big supermarket chains appear to be targeting pubs for conversion, despite the fact that these pubs are often profitable and popular.

“This behaviour shows a remarkable disregard for the wellbeing of communities that face losing their valued pubs – leaving local people powerless to step in.”

## Liverpool

### Three choices for unwanted sites, and none of them are attractive

#### Simon Goodley

For those looking for clues to whether Tesco has belatedly awoken to the threat posed by Aldi and Lidl, Aigburth may provide an intriguing case study.

The suburb is among the city’s most affluent districts and Tesco has owned a 9,700 sq m plot of land there since 2002 – which it paid £2.5m for – initially with the intention of building a store.

Stung by slumping sales and profits as shoppers desert larger stores in favour of the discounters and convenience stores, Tesco abandoned the plans, but the site is still ripe for development.

So Tesco offered the Aigburth site

for sale and attracted some predictable bidders. Aldi – the German discounter that only a few years ago was not widely considered a serious threat – led a bid to develop the site alongside Kentucky Fried Chicken and Home Bargains. But after initially accepting the offer, problems with the deal led to the offer price falling and Tesco refusing it.

‘We were told that Tesco would not sell land to somebody it saw as a competitor’

However, Tesco’s agents then invited Aldi back to bid for the plot again. An Aldi insider said it then made a “substantial” offer that would have given Tesco a large profit on the land, as well as providing around £10m of investment in the local economy and creating about 40 jobs at the Aldi store. It was declined again and Tesco is now attempting to gain planning permission for a housing development.

“We were told that Tesco would not sell land to somebody it now saw as a competitor,” the Aldi source claimed.

A spokesman for Tesco said: “We are very willing to consider selling or leasing sites to other retailers and have done so many times. There has been no

change in our policy and all our agents are fully briefed to seek all offers.”

Tesco has not sold or leased any land to either Aldi or Lidl over the past year, although it has leased sites to Poundland in Gateshead, Poundworld at Wisbech retail park, and B&M in Falkirk.

Tesco essentially has three unattractive choices: one, sell land to a rival such as Aldi or Lidl, whose aggressive discounting is seen as one of the main triggers for Tesco’s current trading woes; two, sell to a housing developer, though such a deal is likely to attract a lower price than option one; or three, hold on to land which it has no use for and which is providing the company with no cash return.