

Hexham General Hospital

Hexham, Northumberland UK

Completion

2008

Client

Catalyst Healthcare Management Limited

Value

24 million GBP

Bovis Lend Lease Involvement

Two Stage Design and Build Lump Sum

Highlights

- Distinctive design contrasts with WW2 predecessor
- New facilities transform local healthcare
- Phase three already underway, using same project team.

The transformation of Hexham hospital replaced a collection of wooden barracks erected during World War 2 with a stylish, modern and spacious building that accommodates 98 beds, 75 per cent of them in single en suite rooms – which is a first for the National Health Service.

Financed and built under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract, this £27 million hospital opened in 2003. A £24 million extension, funded and built under a variation to the existing PFI contract, opens in 2008, increasing the size of the hospital by 80 per cent and further enhancing the scope of services on offer.

Design Challenges and Innovation

The size of the site, constrained by the need to build the new hospital alongside the existing one (since demolished) impacted on the design. The solution provided by architects Jonathan Bailey Associates was a deep plan building capable of accommodating the NHS trust's desire to re-engineer its surgical, medical and nursing practices.

The result is a distinctive structure, compact in both design and appearance but distinguished by its sweeping curves, which are echoed in the Phase three extension; a building of similar proportions, which appears seamlessly attached to the neighbouring Phase one building.



Construction Challenges and Innovation

The single biggest challenge facing Bovis Lend Lease was the need to keep Hexham's existing hospital fully operational for the 23 months required to build and commission its replacement, sited just a few yards away. That challenge was echoed with the construction of the Phase three extension, which now occupies the site of the original Hexham Hospital.

The hospital's Outpatients Department, Emergency Care Centre, Diagnostics, Pathology and Pharmacy are all on ground floor level, with Critical Care, Maternity and operating theatres on the first floor. The extension accommodates another hospital ward, an Education Centre, Chronic Diseases Centre and a large Primary Care Centre, as well as a new home for two local GP practices.

Client Feedback

"From the initial concept work, through the detailed design process, your whole approach to the design and construction has been exemplary. The design team that you assembled and managed brought a genuine innovative approach to the project, which has been carried through by the team on site. I personally believe that you raised our expectations of what we might achieve and made sure that we realised those heightened ambitions."

Project manager Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust, Paul Brayson.

Primary Service

Two Stage Design and Build Lump Sum

Secondary Service

PFI/PPP

Primary Sector

Healthcare

