

Health – Adopting new and innovative methods



PROJECT

Royal Marsden Centre for Molecular Pathology

CUSTOMER

Royal Marsden NHS Trust

LOCATION

Sutton, Surrey

CONTRACT

Framework

Need

As world leaders in cancer care, the Royal Marsden NHS Trust secured funding to continue advancing their research and treatment facilities with the creation of a state-of-the-art Molecular Pathology Centre on their site in Sutton, Surrey. For the first time it would bring clinicians, geneticists, pathologists, and researchers under one roof to speed up the development and accessibility of new targeted treatments for cancer patients.

The design and construction of the three storey building with four laboratory suites had to be well considered to meet the exacting performance specifications, provide flexibility for future changes to clinical procedures and most importantly had to enable the continued delivery of excellent clinical services during the build phase.

Alongside this Royal Marsden wanted a sustainable building which was low energy to operate and included valuable outdoor green spaces and parking for all modes of transport.

Solution

From the outset of design, the team focussed on delivering the building with the minimum impact on clinical services. Selecting off-site manufactured elements where possible brought the added advantage of factory-controlled quality and reduced wastage. The service modules were prefabricated which enabled sections of services to be built in factory conditions, then tested and lagged before being brought to site.

Sustainable features were included which reduced energy consumption and cost over the building life and included:

- Brise Soleil and roof mounted photovoltaic panels
- air-handling units to reabsorb heat
- smart lighting and building management systems
- a drainage design and SUDs methods which helped achieve BREEAM Excellent.

Once the scheme entered the site build phase, planning became the critical activity to reduce disruption and tight

controls were implemented:

- Deliveries were made outside of known busy periods and access kept clear.
- Weekly updates with the hospital kept everybody informed of scheduling.
- Most importantly cleanliness, dust and noise were micro-controlled to keep the hospital, community, and adjacent day nursery fully open and functioning.

Outcome

The Royal Marsden NHS Trust, as with many health trusts, has been open-minded to adopting new and innovative methods of construction. This affinity with the well-being and impact on people and staff has pushed the boundaries to deliver a well thought through build.

As a result, the new Centre for Molecular Pathology transitioned seamlessly into operation bringing together scientists, pathologists, geneticists, and clinicians to develop revolutionary diagnosis and treatment of cancer and improve patient care. The flexible and adaptable design means they can keep pace as new investment emerges for leading edge translational research.