

Name of Project

Great Western Hospital, Swindon

Client

Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust

Architect

Whicheloe Macfarlane HDR

Structural Engineer

TPS Consult

Project Description

Design, construct, commission, operate and maintain a new 551 bed acute general hospital

Contract Value

£135 million

Contract Period

Jan 2003 - Oct 2003

Main Contractor

Carillion Building

Contract Type

PFI



The Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust was operating over three sites, some miles apart. Faced with the need to expand capacity to meet rising demand, it made sense to rationalise health facilities onto one large Greenfield site.

The fast track construction programme comprised 42 individual departments arranged over six floors. These included specialist departments such as theatres, A&E, Pathology and Mortuary.

This new development gave the Trust an exciting opportunity to ensure that health care provision in the 21st century would place patients first. In line with current best practice, the aspiration was to provide a high quality, integrated service, organised around individual needs.

The scale of the project on its 32-acre site presented a number of challenges. Not least, the need to manage the health, safety and environmental aspects of a project on this scale being driven at high speed, while minimising its impact on local communities.

Our ability to predict, control and reduce running costs, particularly energy costs, over the whole lifetime of the hospital, gave the Trust the chance to plough resources back into the hospital. We were able to draw on the knowledge gained at Darent Valley Hospital, particularly in the areas of environmental performance and fast track construction using off-site manufacturing.

Working in close partnership with the Trust we managed the transfer of staff, services and patients to the new hospital with minimal disruption.

Thanks to our excellent collaboration with users, managers and the public, the hospital has been fully operational since November 2002. The Hospital Company is now operating the facility under a concession for the next 27 years, on behalf of the Trust, striving to provide excellent service in every respect.