

Sector: Healthcare

Robertson business:
Robertson Major Projects

Client: NHS Grampian

Value: £81m

Date of completion: October 2012

Location: Foresterhill, Aberdeen



Aberdeen Emergency Care Centre (Matthew Hay Building)

Delivering essential healthcare infrastructure for NHS Grampian

This project involved the construction of a 10-storey Emergency Care Centre in the middle of the biggest teaching hospital campus in Europe. The site was surrounded on all sides by the existing A&E department, a children's hospital and a variety of other clinical facilities. It is an excellent example of Robertson's ability to deliver a large, complex project on a tight site in the heart of a live, operational working environment.

Within this extremely sensitive setting, and with up to 400 operatives on site at any given time, Robertson undertook major demolition, earthworks, piling operations and concrete formwork, with new retaining structures built immediately adjacent to occupied buildings in order to protect them during construction. The new building houses a state-of-the-art A&E facility along with all the supporting diagnostic arrangements.

Achieving a sustainable project

We developed a sustainable strategy with NHS Grampian and their consultants to ensure achievement of the required BREEAM 'Very Good' rating, post-construction. Through collaborative working, our team were able to contribute to the BREEAM process from an early stage in design. This was beneficial in many ways, particularly with regard to sustainable material selection and specification including modularisation of main corridor services.

Considerate working with minimum disruption on a live campus

ECC is an excellent example of our ability to deliver a large complex project on a tight city centre site in the heart of a live operational campus.

All of the construction activities were undertaken with minimal disruption to patient care and other NHS Grampian activities, with no complaints received.

Our performance on ECC resulted in us being awarded a Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) Silver Award 2013.

A smooth and successful handover

We completed the project under budget and on programme, despite alterations to the original client requirements. In fact, £6m of additional works were delivered within the original contract date.

Some impressive figures accompany the completed project: The ECC contains enough plasterboard to clad the Empire State Building, flooring that could cover seven football pitches, 500 miles of wiring and 8000 light fittings!

The Centre (now officially named the Matthew Hay Building) has a gross internal floor area of 35,000m² spread over eight floors, supported within a post-tensioned concrete frame superstructure on 550 concrete piles. Robertson developed an innovative approach to the construction of the building, switching from the proposed steel frame to a concrete solution. This reduced the overall building height and allowed us to use modular, prefabricated services installations.



"I have never worked on a building project that has been as successful as the one involving Robertson and ourselves for the Emergency Care Centre."

Richard Carey,
then Chief Executive
of NHS Grampian

"The ECC is surrounded by facilities that have to continue to deliver healthcare without interruption. And to put up a new building of that excellence, magnitude and complexity in that environment so close to current clinical services, and the communication and the consideration that has involved, is pretty outstanding."

Dr Angus Cooper
Lead Clinician,
Aberdeen ECC