

CARMARTHEN ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENT.



The Trust identified some years ago that the existing Accident & Emergency department at the West Wales Hospital campus was falling short on clinical governance in a number of areas. The solution to provide a facility to modern standards was approved in 2006 following a lengthy period of consultation and approvals. Track Consulting have been involved from the inception of the project.

Track Consulting were appointed as project managers to develop a new 50,000 attendance facility on the busy West Wales site. A number of site options were considered before settling on a new build unit linked to an existing ward block via a link corridor. Track have managed the appointment of the design team and the development of a complex brief with the users. Health Building Note 22, Accident & Emergency Facilities, was updated just as the development work started. This envisages a completely new approach to dealing with patients, and West Wales will be the first facility in Wales to be designed in line with this document. This has involved the team in lengthy discussions with the users to ensure that the new principles of the HBN met their own aspirations for the unit. As there were no other units in existence that had followed this guidance, much faith has been placed in the design team to deliver a modern unit in line with the new philosophies.

During the design development the Trust decided that they would pursue additional funding for a first floor facility above the Accident & Emergency unit. A generic plan was developed, and money sought and secured from the WAG. The design team has also developed an outline plan for a Critical Care Unit on the first floor, and the Trust is awaiting approval to this Business Case. The ground floor designs have considered the likely completion of the first floor fit-out, so areas of the designs have been treated so as to minimise disruption should the fit-out occur at a later date.

Due to the chosen location of the new unit, a widened access road has been provided to allow for ambulance access. This also required the demolition and rebuilding of the Junior Doctors common room. Both elements were completed by the spring of 2006.

Following a traditional tender exercise, work started on site in the autumn of 2006. Track Inspecting provided the site inspection service having recently been appointed following a competitive tender process.

Project Details:

Service Provided
Project Management
Site Inspection

Project
New Accident &
Emergency Development

Completion Date
Spring 2008

Value
£5m

Location
West Wales General Hospital,
Carmarthen

Client
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust