

Permanent Retention of Single Storey Modular Building providing Additional Accommodation for the A&E Department West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven.

Design and Access Statement



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Statement

This Design and Access Statement is prepared by Gilling Dod Architects (GDA) on behalf of the North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust for the completed extension to the existing hospital estate. The New extension provides additional clinical space to increase capacity in A&E both during and after the Covid Pandemic.

The modular building has been erected under the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 12A, Class A of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) and this application seeks Full Planning Permission for the retention of the building beyond the 31st December 2021, that being the date for the cessation of the use under the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 12A, Class A.

1.2 Consultation

This Report has been produced following productive ongoing consultation with the Trust's Clinical Team, FM and Estates team, Fire and Infection Prevention.

1.3 Facilities Summary

The extension will enable increased demand in A&E, and to also facilitate the requirements of social distancing during the pandemic. The completed building features external access close to the existing entrance, a small waiting area, reception, staff offices, seated assessment area, Consult Exam rooms, Treatment room and ancillary support spaces.

2.0 UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

This section is to demonstrate that a review of the site's characteristics and its context has taken place. "Context" relates to the physical, social and economic characteristics of the area.

2.2 Physical Context

The site for the new Modular building is outlined in red on the location plan accompanying this application, with the Trust additional site boundary outlined in blue. The development is the provision of a single storey building with external mechanical plant.

2.3 Site Description

The site was used for parking (9 regular & 5 accessible parking spaces) which are to be re-provided, close to the site as part of the Trust site wide parking strategy.

Access to the modular building will be provided from within the existing building and also directly from outside. External levels will be graded to suit the access to ensure accessibility for all.

3.0 THE PROPOSAL

3.1 Appearance

The external appearance of the modular unit features cladding which mimics and complement the existing finishes of the Phase 1 building.

The modular building is constructed with Insulated Cladding Panels with a light grey main panel & dark grey detailing. The windows are similar to the recently constructed phase 1 building with coordinating grey frames, and grey & coloured glass panels.

3.2 Amount

The completed building comprises a single-storey development containing 6 seated assessment or trolley bays, 5 Consult / exam and treatment rooms and a waiting area and other support spaces. The new construction occupies approximately 315m²

3.3 Access

The main entrance door for the new construction is adjacent to the existing pedestrian pathway and drop off zone serving the current A & E department. The Modular building will be accessed from this area. Alternatively, access can be gained internally though the existing hospital.

4.0 Summary

This Design and Access Statement accompanies an application for full planning permission for a new Modular Building at West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven.

In summary, we believe that the completed development is adequately accommodated within the site, as well as provides much needed additional accommodation for the existing hospital in line with the Trusts requirements and that the Council's design objectives are fully complied with.