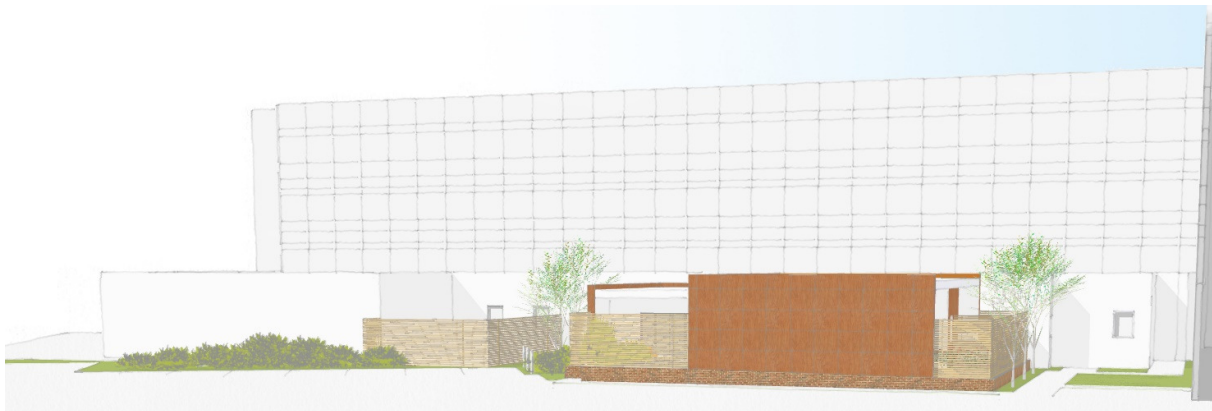




DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Maternity Bereavement

Hillingdon Hospital



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Proposal

This application arises from the requirement for a Maternity Bereavement building at Hillingdon hospital. Most women go into pregnancy expecting healthy babies, but sadly there are many couples who lose a baby. This can occur at any point in the pregnancy or during delivery. The reasons for the loss are very varied and the gestation ranges from 16 weeks to 42 weeks. The rate for stillbirth is 1 in 200, the rate of congenital abnormalities is 1 in 47 and the premature delivery rate is 7%.

Depending on the individual woman labour may need to be induced, which can take a couple of days and then she needs to labour. It is not usual that a caesarean section is required and this may be done if the labour is complicated or she may suffer a bleed. The psychological impact of these events on the couple and the wider family is significant; there are high rates of long term mental health problems and family break ups.

This event has a devastating affect not just on the woman, and her partner but also the wider family and friends. Their experience in hospital can either compound the distress, or if handled correctly, it can make it a more a positive experience.

Currently women are cared for on the main delivery ward. There is a dedicated midwifery and obstetric team to provide excellent clinical care, however the experience is diminished by the facilities. Specifically there is no separate bespoke accommodation that allows privacy and no segregation.

The building is being paid for by the Hillingdon Hospitals Charity, it is not funded by the NHS.

Key features of the proposed building to meet this requirement:

- The proposed bereavement suite will be a separate part of the labour ward, tucked away from the hustle and bustle on the ground floor. If necessary it will be able to have direct access to theatres. It will have two independent en-suite delivery rooms which will each have space for the partner's bed. A separate family room with a kitchenette is provided. This separation means that the delivery room is a safe space for the woman.
- There is also a multi-disciplinary room which will allow space for counselling and administration to support the clinical activity.
- The unit will take losses from 16 weeks gestation and onwards and they will be cared for in the new suite. Family will use these rooms to give birth and spend time with their baby afterwards, providing a private and a peaceful space. Each room will be able to access its own garden where they will be able to sit any time of year.
- The rooms will be designed so that they are sound proof, afford privacy, and give space. The suite has direct access to the car park so that the patient and her family can leave without having to pass through the main entrance, if they so wish.

1.2 The Client

The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (THH) provides health services at two hospitals in North West London: Hillingdon and Mount Vernon. Hillingdon Hospital on Pield Heath Road is the only acute hospital in the London Borough of Hillingdon and offers a wide range of services including accident and emergency, inpatient care, day surgery, outpatient clinics and maternity services.

The Hillingdon Hospitals Charity raises funds to improve health care for patients at Hillingdon and Mount Vernon Hospitals. They have four priorities:

- Improving the hospital experience for patients
- Transforming the hospital environment
- We love our staff and volunteers
- Innovation

Their web site states:

In recent years, your generous donations have allowed us to make valuable changes for patients. Over the last five years, we have received over £2.4m, used for purposes including an ultrasound machine, a CAT scanner, ventilator equipment, and the extensive refurbishment of the neo-natal unit.

The Duchess of Kent maternity building provides care to women from the Hillingdon Borough which has a population of 305,000. Under the “Shaping a Healthy Future” strategy there has also been a reconfiguration of the NHS Maternity Services and this led to the closure of Ealing hospital maternity unit and a portion of these women are also cared for at Hillingdon. Deliveries per annum are at 4200.

The Maternity service provides a community midwifery service for low risk women and Antenatal clinics for monitoring of women at high risk. There is also:

- a day-care unit to monitor high risk women which allows them to stay at home.
- a Triage unit for women in early labour.
- an 11 bed delivery ward supported by two theatres. These are used for elective and emergency procedures.
- 40 beds for the antenatal and postnatal women.
- Due to the expertise of the paediatricians the Neonatal service is a level 2 unit, this means that we are able to provide support therapy to premature babies requiring ventilation. There are 20 cots, 5 of which are intensive care.

The building also acts as a hub for the community midwifery team, the specialist midwives and the management team.

1.3 Oxford Architects LLP

The architects for the Project are Oxford Architects LLP, originally established in 1962. We currently have offices in Oxford and Bristol.

The Practice provides the complete range of architectural services undertaking projects from brief formulation and the earliest stages of concept design, through the various stages of design development and visualisation, to production information and construction.

Oxford Architects have worked on a number of projects with Hillingdon Hospital since 2015.

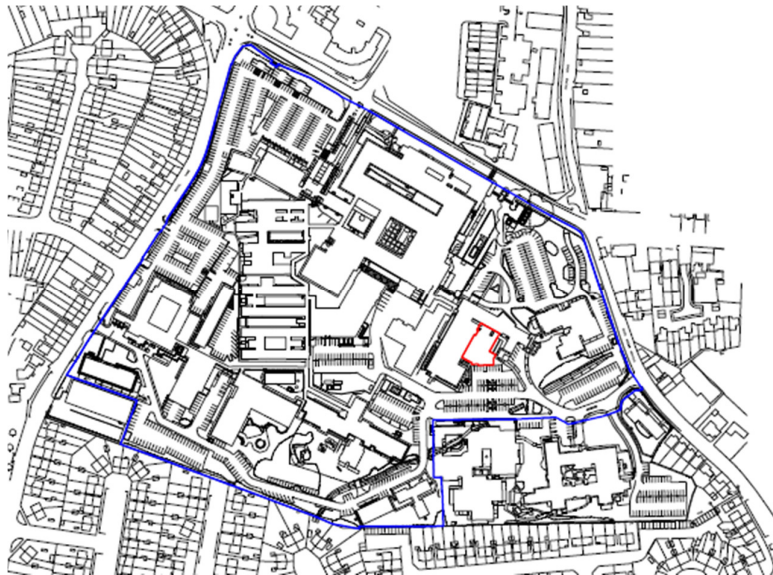
2.0 Context

2.1 Context

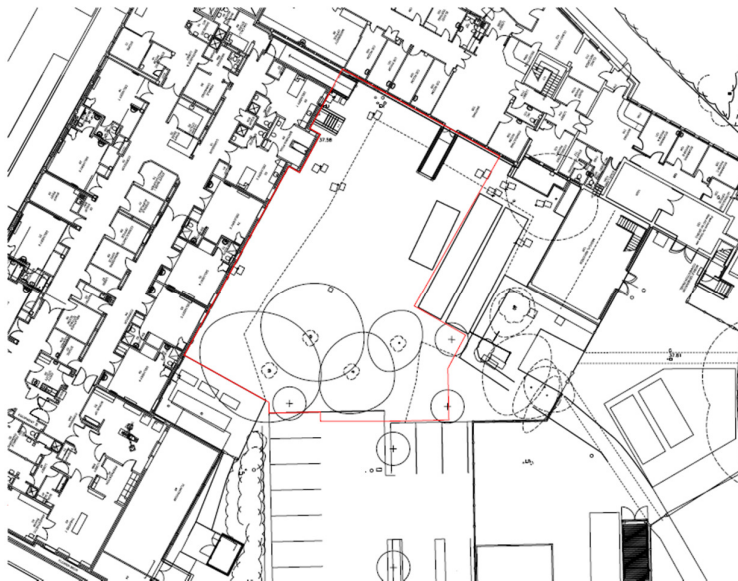
Hillingdon Hospital on Pield Heath Road is the only acute hospital in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The Podium and Tower blocks accommodating the core acute services were opened in 1967. To the South-East of these buildings is the Duchess of Kent Maternity Unit which offers maternity support for up to 5,000 mothers and babies each year, providing all aspects of obstetric and midwifery care.

2.2 Site

The existing site, shown on Oxford Architects drawing 20044-OA-A-B1-DR-2001-00 is within a courtyard formed by the wings of the Duchess of Kent maternity building.



The site (red boundary) within Hillingdon Hospital estate (blue boundary)



The existing courtyard bordered on three sides by the Maternity buildings

2.2 Site photographs



Panorama looking East out from the maternity block across the site



Panorama looking West across the site towards the maternity block where the new link connection will be formed



Looking West towards Maternity, trees in foreground



Looking South across the site from Maternity

3.0 The Proposal

3.1 Use

The new building will comprise the following accommodation:

- A new link from the existing building with a new corridor created through an existing room to connect to the main Maternity circulation;
- Doors to new circulation space in the new unit;
- Two new Delivery rooms with en-suite bath & shower rooms;
- Each delivery room will open onto a private courtyard garden with external sitting space sheltered by a roof overhang;
- A Quiet Lounge with a kitchenette and a private courtyard garden with external sitting space sheltered by a roof overhang;
- A multi-disciplinary office that will be used for consultation;
- Storage.

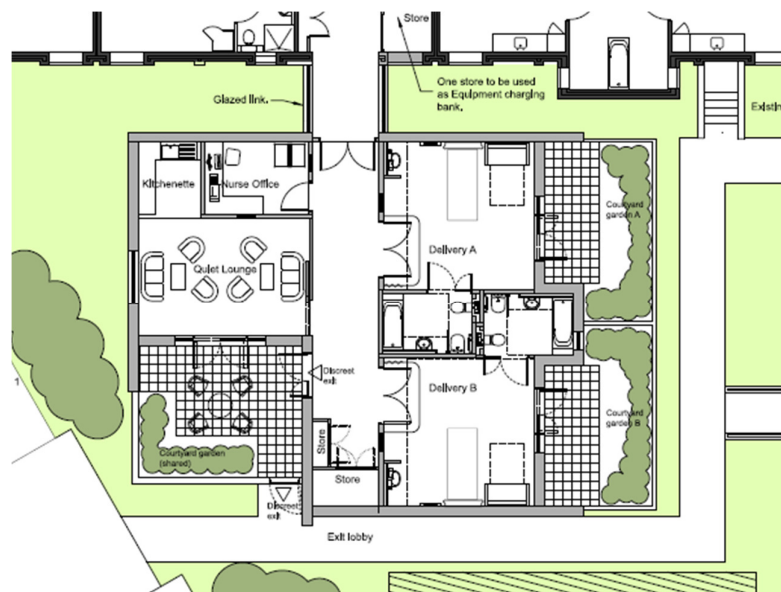
3.2 Layout

The new building is arranged to face away from the adjacent delivery rooms which have translucent glazed windows facing the courtyard of the Duchess of Kent Maternity Unit. The wall to the west of the new building provides a visual and acoustic barrier to these existing delivery rooms. The entrance via the new link separates the safe space of the new Bereavement building from the main Maternity building. It is possible for the bereaved family to leave the unit without returning to Maternity once they have passed this threshold.

To the left of the entrance are the two delivery suites which each open on to their own private courtyard gardens with covered seating space.

Immediately to the right of the entrance is office and beyond that is the Quiet Lounge with Kitchenette. This lounge may be shared by two families or used in private by one. The space opens on to a quiet courtyard garden.

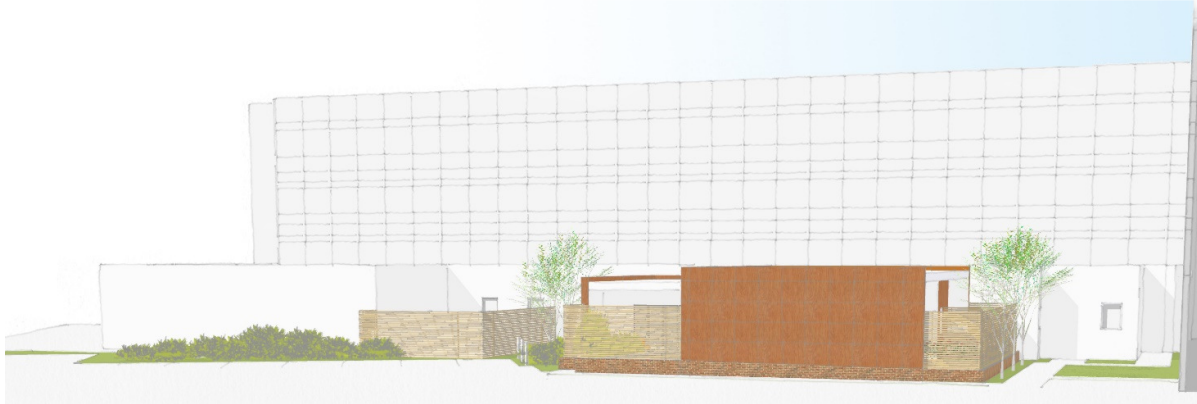
There is a discreet exit into the quiet garden from the central circulation so that families can leave the unit and be picked up from one of the dedicated parking bays without returning through Maternity.



Design development plan

3.3 Design

The aim of the design is to create discreet spaces where women and their families can begin to cope with their loss in private without disturbance. The main internal patient spaces each have an external space of approximately the same size that is contained by greenery and is private. Large areas of glazing in each of these rooms bring daylight in while views out are confined to the private gardens by vertical planting. Overhanging roofs are used to give shelter to the external spaces so that it is possible for the families to use the private garden at any time. The delivery rooms are sized and equipped to meet the current NHS Guidance. The clinical feel of the space will be softened with warm, natural colours and finishes and subtle, themed artwork patterns on feature walls.



3.4 Materials

The new buildings will be formed with cladding on a framed structure. The external walls and soffit overhangs will be clad with a fire rated laminate board. For the elevations facing away from the building and courtyard gardens these boards will be a medium to dark natural tone. Lining the reveals and soffits of the openings to courtyard gardens the boards will be an off-white shade to bring light into the building and compliment interior colours. There will be a flat roof at two heights with roof-lights along the circulation spine. Windows and doors opening onto the courtyard garden from patient spaces will be clear glazed in aluminium frames coated to match or compliment the panels. Windows facing the maternity building will have translucent glazing where required for privacy.

4.0 Access Statement

4.1 Accessibility

Access to the unit for mothers and partners will be from the Maternity building following triage. The route allows for transfer with medical assistance by bed, trolley, wheelchair or on foot to the delivery suites. Access to external spaces will be designed with level threshold. En-suite WCs and showers are designed for assisted use to the Health Building Note guidance. There is also an accessible route from the discreet exit to the two dedicated parking bays, one of which is a wheelchair accessible space. This route may also be used for relatives to meet and collect patients.

5.0 Sustainability and Environmental Statement

5.1 Building Fabric

Cladding and facing materials, flat roof, windows, doors, floor coverings and internal partitions will be selected using the BREEAM Green Guide with the aim of achieving an A rating for each element.

5.2 Building Services

Building services will be designed to use and extend the existing maternity unit systems wherever possible. LED light fittings will be specified throughout. Ventilation meeting the minimum requirements of the Health Technical Memorandums will be specified in the delivery suites, sanitary facilities and clinical space. This will be supplemented by openable windows to give the occupants choice and control over the environment.

5.3 Conservation & Ecology

The site as existing has a mixture of hard surface and low grade grassed area. There are four existing mature or semi mature trees, these will be retained where possible or replaced where not. New courtyards will be permeable hard surfaces with planting beds with taller shrubs and climbing plants against the perimeter fence. The remaining green space surrounding the building will be re-planted and improved to enhance the patient environment.



5.4 Sustainable Drainage

The new parking bays and roadway are constructed using porous paving. New footways are constructed with a fall towards soft landscaped areas. The new courtyard gardens will be surfaced with porous/permeable paving and soft landscape.

5.5 Waste

Waste will be removed stored and processed in line with the whole hospital process and policies.

6.0 Transport

6.1 Parking

Two new dedicated bays have been allocated for this building: one wheelchair accessible bay designed to BS 8300 and one standard 2.5m x 5m bay.

7.0 Planning Policy.

Please refer to the Planning Statement that accompanies this application.

This proposal was discussed at a meeting with James Rodger and Ian Thynne on 13th March 2020.

The primary purpose of that meeting was to discuss the Additional ward buildings application (ref: 4058/APP/2020/1003).



Conclusion

Hillingdon Hospital and the Duchess of Kent Maternity Unit provide vital services to the community of the London Borough of Hillingdon and beyond. This proposal will enhance the service by providing privacy and dignity to those women who unfortunately lose a baby during birth.

This statement, along with the accompanying drawings, outlines the rationale for the new building and demonstrates how the need identified will be met.

We consequently ask for your support for the approval of this application

