



*Our community,
we care, you matter.....*

Topping Out Ceremony



A topping out ceremony to mark the completion of the steel structure was held on the 20th November 2017, a significant milestone for NHS Orkney's £64 million new hospital and healthcare facilities.

NHS Orkney Chief Executive Cathie Cowan and members of the NHS Orkney Board formally marked the occasion alongside representatives from Robertson Group.

Cathie Cowan said: "This is a proud moment for NHS Orkney and marks a vital step towards ensuring we can continue to provide high quality care in Orkney for generations to come. We are absolutely delighted that this stage of the project has been reached, with our fantastic new facility a step closer to reality. NHS Orkney staff have worked tirelessly to make this happen, and local residents have been incredibly patient and supportive.

"This will be a truly first class facility and the benefits it brings shouldn't be underestimated. On a personal level it is great to see our hospital and healthcare facility take shape. I am in no doubt that this facility will enable us to provide even

better care and services, as well as help us attract clinical professionals from across the country and further afield. When I joined NHS Orkney we had a vision to bring more services back to Orkney where appropriate and safe. I am delighted that this vision is now a reality as a result of this significant investment in healthcare here in Orkney."

Bill Robertson, founder and executive chairman, Robertson Group, said: "Tremendous progress has been made on the new hospital and healthcare facility since work started earlier this year. The topping out ceremony represents a major milestone and brings us one step closer to completing the facility in 2019. Many parts of our business have been involved in the project from Capital Projects to Construction and Facilities Management – and that expertise has been crucial in building a strong partnership with NHS Orkney. We have also forged great relationships with the local community, putting them at the heart of the project and providing apprentice and graduate opportunities, not to mention creating opportunities for local businesses."

Services

The two storey hospital and healthcare facility will house a range of emergency, outpatient, day case and inpatient services supported by high dependency, diagnostic and theatre facilities. In addition, Skerryvore and Heilendi GP practices and NHS Orkney’s dental practice will be relocated within the new facility. This will reduce the money NHS Orkney spend on maintaining buildings that will become increasingly unfit for purpose in the near future.

All clinical areas will have videoconferencing facilities to support more patients being able to access services in Orkney and to enable NHS Orkney staff to link to health specialists nationally. The 16,248 square meter building will also accommodate the Scottish Ambulance Service and provide a base for NHS 24.

The building will have inviting internal and external spaces for the use and enjoyment of patients, visitors and staff, and will include multi-functional conference rooms, a restaurant, seating areas, shop, therapy garden and children’s play area. There will be 320 car parking spaces on the new site, which includes 10 electric car charging points, accessible parking and cycle shelters.

Project Timetable

The timetable below sets out how the construction works are progressing. The timetable also shows the various stages of the construction through to the planned handover of the building in spring 2019, followed by the NHS Orkney commissioning period before the first patients are received in late summer 2019.

Construction Update

Robertson continue to make good progress on the building with the steel structure now complete.

The external walls have continued to progress well with roof, wall insulation and windows all being installed. Externally blockwork is being built around the building. The fixing of internal walls and the installation of some mechanical and electrical plant is also underway.

The hospital road and car park are now under construction.



Construction Progress Photos

	2017												2018												2019								
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep			
Start on Site	Complete																																
Gen Earthworks		Complete	Complete	Complete																													
Car Park & External																																	
Substructures			Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete																									
Structural Frame			Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete																									
Roof																																	
Walls																																	
Fit Out & Install																																	
Energy Centre																																	
NHSO Beneficial Access																																	
Final Testing																																	
Build Con Inspect																																	
Handover to NHSO																																	
NHSO Commissioning																																	
First Patients																																	

Key

Complete	Complete
In progress	In progress
To start	To start

Community Benefits

As part of the contract agreement Robertson are committed to delivering a range of community benefits including education, local skills development, apprenticeships and employment opportunities for local businesses and social enterprises.

As part of this programme Robertson has visited Orkney schools on both mainland and the isles, providing updates on site progress and promoting careers in construction. School activities have included building a giant tetrahedron (see picture below), presentations for high school students on employer expectations when applying for a job and tips for getting ahead. The students learnt a lot about construction, teamwork, hands-on skills and the diversity of opportunities within the construction industry.

Primary school pupils have visited the new hospital site on the first of the 'Robertson Reporter days'. These visits are an opportunity for all primary schools to learn about the hospital project, with each visit focusing on a different stage of the build. On the day, pupils are given clipboards with questions to ask nominated workers on their site tour, and report their findings back to the rest of their school in assembly.



In September, Robertson's Media Producer visited the higher media class at Kirkwall Grammar School to talk about his career in the construction industry with a tutorial on 'interviewing techniques'. Providing tips on camera techniques for professional results, he conducted a workshop in which the students had the opportunity to interview site managers on film and put the knowledge they had learnt into practice. The media students will be able to use these new skills towards creating their practical work for assessment.

High school students have completed work placements on site, covering engineering and electrical works. Robertson has been promoting work placement opportunities on site and invite students who are interested in a career in construction roles to apply. With the increase in the use of modern technology there is an array of career options available to explore. There has been a rise in female candidates interested in careers in construction, with one student successful in her application to gain an electrical apprenticeship on the project.

Local contractors and labour has been hired for work on the build and have been assisted in developing their systems and health and safety documentation. Kirkwall and Stromness Fire Brigades have undertaken two training exercises on site.

Robertson has also been working with employability groups and the Jobcentre to deliver work placements to those interested in working in the construction industry. This has been a success with most placements gaining employment on the project, including a candidate who after completing a work placement on site, has gone on to gain an apprenticeship on the project. Robertson has supported Orcadian candidates looking for work placements or employment, by allowing flexibility of working hours to accommodate the ferry timetables.



A new local business has been set up on site to provide hot food and healthy options to workers. This business has also supported Robertson in raising money for the local Kirkwall RNLI station in October, via a 'fish supper' day. Robertson has also engaged local social enterprises such as The Blide Trust, who are providing catering for meetings; and St Colm's, who have been commissioned to build site shelters.

Robertson are committed to continuing to provide benefits to the community for the duration of the project.

Mock Up Room

A single bedroom with an ensuite shower room, built to the exact size and layout as in the new building, has been built by Robertson.

The NHS Orkney project team and specialist clinical staff have reviewed the room and provided comments to Robertson. Since the end of October a wide range of staff have taken advantage of drop in sessions to see and comment on the room.

An example of the comments to date include:

- Is the height of the mirror and sink for wheelchair users at correct level?
- The type of overhead lighting
- Will a shower trolley fit in the ensuite?
- Clash of door handle and rail in the ensuite
- Blinds on the door and window very good for privacy

Robertson are making final adjustments to the mock up room based on these comments.

Comments on the overall impression of the room include:

- Excellent space
- Lovely, spacious and pleasing to the eye
- Will be lovely for patients and much easier for staff
- Lovely calm environment

Julie Nicol, Head of OD and Learning has commented on how the room will be used for training, saying that "Our training strategy for clinical staff will include making as much use of the mock up room as possible for scenario based training, to provide our staff with confidence in new ways of working in the new facility".

Once the mock up room has been formally handed over by Robertson drop in sessions will be offered to various groups and the wider public.



NHSO Fundraising Group "Give a Little, Help a Lot"



NHS Orkney has established a Fundraising Group specifically to raise funds to enable the Board to purchase items which will improve patients and staff experience but would not be covered by the Board finances as deemed not to be essential clinical items.

We are delighted to announce that so far we have raised £19,210.82 through various events including bagpacking, bingo, carboot sales, crafts, recipe books, quiz nights, calendars and who can forget last years The Cube. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved, supported and participated in all our fundraising events and look forward to meeting you again at one of our future events as we continue towards our goal!

For further information on the Fundraising Group and updates on the new build future events, please visit our page on NHS Orkney's website or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

How can I find out more?

For further information and updates visit the New Hospital and Healthcare Facility page on NHS Orkney's website (www.ohb.scot.nhs.uk), or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

If you have any questions or queries please contact the Project Team at: ork-hb.projectteam@nhs.net or call on 01856 888902