

Enhancing acoustic wellbeing at new, iconic hospital

New Royal Papworth Hospital



We are immensely pleased to have contributed to a successful completion of the stunning, new, state-of-the-art Royal Papworth Hospital on its Cambridge Biomedical Campus site.

In addition to its five operating theatres, five non-surgical cath labs and two hybrid theatres, the 40,000sqm hospital comprises 300 beds, including a 46-bed critical care unit and 24 day-beds across six inpatient wards configured mostly as individual en-suite patient rooms. It also has an outpatients unit offering a wide range of diagnostic and treatment facilities. The ground floor houses a restaurant, coffee shop and convenience store.

The new Royal Papworth Hospital will carry on the world-renowned cardiothoracic specialist care undertaken at the original Papworth Everard village site where 24,000 inpatient and day cases and almost 73,600 outpatients were treated each year.

Efficiency and beauty

Senior Project Architect Stephen Herbert of global design, architecture, engineering and planning firm HOK was responsible for the design of the hospital commented, *"The design brings together the clinical needs of the specialist hospital while making the working environment for staff and patients one that aids work and healing."*

The new hospital design to combines a highly efficient interior layout with a stunning exterior. Set in beautifully landscaped grounds, the gentle curves of the oval structure create contemporary echoes to some of the architectural cues of its predecessor at the Papworth Everard village site.

Products in use

- Rockfon Blanka[®] D
- Rockfon[®] MediCare[®] Standard
- Rockfon[®] MediCare[®] Plus
- Rockfon[®] System MaxiSpan[™]

A number of studies have demonstrated that appropriate design has a desirable impact on clinical outcomes and the cost of healthcare buildings. As part of that optimum acoustics can help patients sleep better and reduce stress. A hygienic, well-lit healthcare environment can also positively affect staff and visitors too.

We are proud to retain Department of Health ProCure22 preferred supplier status. Our non-combustible, acoustic stone wool ceiling and wall solutions create sustainable, beautiful spaces which protect people from noise and the spread of fire while making a valuable contribution to the healing process.

Design and construction

Stephen Herbert of HOK also said, *"We were looking for a ceiling manufacturer that could provide a full range of ceiling systems appropriate to the specific requirements of the function of each space. We were also very careful about specification with regards compliance to the Government's 'Health Technical Memoranda' for the NHS (HTM) and how the ceilings would perform within the healthcare setting."*

The main contractor for the project is Skanska, who we have frequently worked with. They said, *"We specified Rockfon products because of their technical suitability, appearance and easy maintenance requirements. We're pleased with the finished installation and would certainly specify Rockfon on future projects."*

Clark & Fenn Skanska were responsible for the installation of around 22,000m² of Rockfon materials which were supplied through distributor CCF Colchester. Site Manager William Kappes explained, *"We have worked with Rockfon before on major projects including The Royal London Hospital. Their team is always available for support, offering excellent technical advice. Their high performance systems are easy to install. We are very pleased with the completed scheme."*

Seamless installation

Rockfon Blanka D edge tiles were installed in two sizes in the main entrance hall peripherally to the atrium and throughout arterial walkways. Durable Rockfon Blanka has a smooth, deep matt, non-directional super white surface with high light reflection (87%) and light diffusion, which contributes to energy savings. The range also performs to the safest level in reaction to fire (Class A1). Rockfon Blanka D conceals the grid framework to provide an elegant, continuous ceiling expression.

Specialist product ranges

Elsewhere within the wards at Royal Papworth Hospital, Rockfon MediCare Standard has been installed using a mixture of ceiling tile sizes. The resilient, hygienic Rockfon MediCare range has been specifically developed for use in healthcare environments. The tiles have an easy to clean surface and are resistant to all ubiquitous bacteria including MRSA. It ensures low particle emission (ISO Class 5), offers highest in class sound absorption (Class A) and the highest fire safety rating (Class A1).

Find out more by visiting www.rockfon.co.uk or email info@rockfon.co.uk



Within clinical treatment areas, Rockfon MediCare Plus was specified as it is ideal for demanding healthcare applications and durable enough to withstand specialist steam and high-pressure cleaning (HTM 60 compliant). In addition to the performance characteristics of Medicare Standard, Medicare Plus is resistant to diluted solutions of ammonia, chlorine, quaternary ammonium and hydrogen peroxide. It also embodies enhanced hygiene and dirt resistance with its bacteriological M1, NF S 90-351:2013 classification.

The MediCare range can be installed using concealed, semi-concealed or visible grid options and all Rockfon ceiling tiles will remain dimensionally stable throughout their life span, even at humidity levels of up to 100% RH.

Rockfon System MaxiSpan was used within the hospital's myriad of corridors. The system is perfect for heavily serviced ceiling voids as the strong grid can be suspended wall to wall, up to 3m wide, allowing for the installation of long planks. This then provides easier access to the voids by facilities and other trades, reducing the risk of damage to the planks. The use of long planks also creates a more seamless, attractive appearance and is cost effective due to less grid components required for the suspension.

Principle Architect Stephen Herbert concluded, *"We are very pleased with the finish and the flexibility of the ceiling system for the hospital. Ceilings are always the largest part of the visible building internally and the success of any ceiling is when it becomes the simple backdrop to the internal spaces."*

Rockfon provide advanced stone wool acoustic ceiling and wall solutions to create beautiful, comfortable spaces. Easy to install and durable, they protect people from noise and the spread of fire while making a constructive contribution toward a sustainable future.