Bath Royal United Hospital

Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary Unit

Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary Unit

Transport Statement

September 2011

Produced for
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust

Prepared by
Kevin Bishop

Severn House
Lime Kiln Close
Stoke Gifford
Bristol
BS34 8SQ

T 0117 906 2300
F 0117 906 2301
E Kevin.n.bishop@mouchel.com
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<td>BNP Paribas Real Estate</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

Document Control Sheet .................................................................................................i

Contents .........................................................................................................................ii

1  Introduction ...............................................................................................................1

2  Site Description and Transport  Strategy Overview .................................................3

3  Development Scheme .............................................................................................5

4  Transport Impact .....................................................................................................9

5  Summary ..................................................................................................................10
1 Introduction

1.1 Mouchel have been commissioned by the Royal United Hospital (RUH) Bath NHS Trust (the Trust) to produce a Transport Statement in support of a planning application to relocate the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments into a new self contained three storey building on the RUH site.

1.2 This Transport Statement has been produced in support of the planning application and should be read in conjunction with the “Design and Access Statement” (DAS) produced by Nightingale Associates. A site plan of the RUH showing the location of the application site is included in the DAS.

1.3 The Trust is in the early stages of an application to become an NHS Foundation Trust and is embarking on a long-term programme of investment and renewal in the Estate, as set out in the agreed Estates Strategy. The re-location of the existing Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments into a new three storey building to the south west of the RUH estate forms part of the wider implementation of the Estates Strategy. The development proposals are consistent with the Estates Strategy for the RUH and will enable future development.

1.4 The rationalisation of the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments into a single new building is consistent with the Trust’s current “Parking Strategy” and “Travel Plan” for the whole Hospital site. Both documents were approved by Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council under the s106 agreements attached to the planning permissions for the Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) and Education Centre at the RUH that were granted planning permission in January 2005 under the references 04/01019/FUL and 04/00866/FUL.

1.5 The application site is located within the south west sector of the RUH estate adjacent to the Wolfson Building. The existing site consists of a modular building and a single storey unoccupied building both due for demolition. The application site is also adjacent to the main hospital buildings and an existing staff car park. The proposals will not result in any loss, or increase in car parking.

1.6 There is no increase in the floor space of the estate through the rationalisation of the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments. In addition there will be no increase of staffing numbers as a consequence of the rationalisation.
1.7 As the development proposals will not result in an increase in floor space or staffing levels the transport impact will be negligible. This Transport Statement assesses the transport issues arising from the application.
2 Site Description and Transport Strategy

Overview

Site Description

2.1 The Trust is in the early stages of an application to become an NHS Foundation Trust which will deliver enhanced healthcare provision by improving the overall efficiency and performance of the RUH. Embedded in this programme of improvements is a need to renew buildings across the Estate that will deliver commensurate improvement in the overall operational efficiency of the RUH. The Estates Strategy has set out a new 6 year plan to reflect the Trust’s Vision, and included in this is the re-location of the existing Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments into a new three-storey building to the south west of the RUH estate.

2.2 The application site is located within the south west sector of the RUH estate adjacent to the Wolfson Building. The site consists of a modular building and a single storey unoccupied building both due for demolition. The application site is also adjacent to the main hospital buildings and an existing staff car park. A service road serving the main hospital buildings runs along the northern boundary. There is an existing staff car park situated to the south and west. The main hospital buildings (i.e. Diagnostic & Day Theatres) are located to the east. The site is accessed from the service road to the north and also from the existing car park to the south. The service road itself is accessed from the site perimeter road.

2.3 The site perimeter road provides a route to the main site entrance on Combe Park and also to the site entrance on Penn Hill Road. The site perimeter road provides access to routes throughout the RUH estate.

2.4 There are pedestrian routes to the east, south and west of the application site which provide links to the pedestrian network within the RUH estate. This provides safe pedestrian access to other parts of the hospital site.

2.5 The current Pathology Department is an amalgam of buildings which date from the 1930s, 70s and 80s. The buildings are of poor construction and require maintenance and in an inappropriate location on the estate. The current laboratory is separate to the main hospital buildings and requires specimens to be physically delivered on a routine or ad hoc basis. This can lead to delays in the analysis or increased workload for the porterage of urgent and precious samples. The existing position of the mortuary and body store is separate to the main buildings and
requires the transportation of bodies from the hospital through main corridors and across a public road which is unacceptable. The re-location of the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments adjacent to the Wolfson Centre will provide direct link to the main hospital street and closer to the main clinical hub of the hospital. The vacating of the current buildings forms part of the overall estates strategy for rationalisation and subsequent potential disposal of that area of the site.

**Transport Strategy Overview**

2.6 The rationalisation of the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments into a single new building is consistent with the Trust’s current “Parking Strategy” and “Travel Plan”. Both documents were approved by Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council under the s106 agreements attached to the planning permissions for the MAU and Education Centre at the RUH that were granted planning permission in January 2005 under the references 04/01019/FUL and 04/00866/FUL. The “Parking Strategy” (Mouchel Parkman report 750050/R/1F) has been approved by B&NES Council. The “Parking Strategy” is complementary to the “RUH Travel Plan” (Mouchel Parkman report 750023/R/2E), which has also been approved by B&NES Council.

2.7 The “Travel Plan” and “Parking Strategy” documents are currently under review and will be updated to reflect both the Estates Strategy and the on-going discussions with B&NES Council in respect of transport strategy.

2.8 There is on-going dialogue between the Trust and B&NES Transport Officers regarding transport issues and how both bodies can work together in securing their transport objectives. The Trust is supportive of B&NES Major Transport Package proposals, in particular the expansion of Odd Down and Newbridge Road Park & Ride (P&R) sites. The Trust will continue to provide a contribution to help fund the P&R service from Odd Down P&R. The improved service from Newbridge P&R would be particularly beneficial to staff and visitors.

2.9 The West of England Partnership, which includes B&NES, has made a bid to the Government for additional transport funding through the “Local Sustainable Transport Fund”. If the bid is successful, B&NES would use the available funding to assist major businesses and institutions, such as the RUH, with developing their Travel Plan.
3 Development Scheme

Planning

3.1 The Trust are submitting a planning application for a new self-contained three storey building to relocate the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments within the RUH estate.

3.2 The location of the site and the extent of the application are shown on the application plans, drawings and further explained in the DAS.

3.3 This Transport Statement is provided in support of this planning application and addresses transport issues arising from the application.

Development Scheme

3.4 Planning permission is sought for a new Pathology and Mortuary Unit within the central core of the Estate. Currently, the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary are located to the east of the Estate close to the main entrance to the RUH. The existing position of the mortuary and body store requires the transportation of bodies from the hospital through main corridors and across a public road which is unacceptable. The proposed new location will provide a direct link to the main hospital street and closer to the main clinical hub of the hospital.

3.5 The application site is currently occupied by a modular building and a vacant single storey building, which are both due for demolition. The proposed site area is 1,967 sq m. The proposed ground floor footprint of the building is 972 sq m which is appropriate for the site in relation to the existing buildings that have been demolished (i.e. footprint approx 660 sq m) and the density of surrounding built development.

3.6 An area schedule provided in the table below compares respective floor areas (i.e. net internal) of the existing Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary buildings against the proposed building. There is an overall reduction in floor space. In addition there will be no increase in staffing numbers as a consequence of the re-location and re-provision of the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments. Overall, the proposed new building provides far more efficient space due to modern open space working arrangements, improvements in laboratory design and construction techniques. Providing these facilities in one building over three storeys makes far
more efficient use of the land and will allow more effective collaboration between the different departments of the hospital.

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<th>Proposed (sq.m)</th>
<th>Overall difference (sq.m)</th>
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<td>2,971</td>
<td>138</td>
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<td>Existing Buildings</td>
<td>660 (approx)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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3.7 The proposed Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary building is not a public building and will not be accessible to patients or visitors. The exception to this is the small relatives suite attached to the mortuary. This will be used by prior arrangement only by relatives to view the deceased.

3.8 The service road that runs to the north of the application site will provide access for deliveries and there will also be access to the site from the existing car park to the south. New entrances to the application site will be integrated into the existing road layout. It is proposed that very minor alterations will be made to the Hospital Estate network.

3.9 This site will become an integrated part of the current Travel Plan and Parking Strategy for the whole hospital estate. The Trust’s parking permit controls will apply to users of the building. There is an existing staff car park adjacent to the site. The proposals will not result in any loss, or increase in car parking.

3.10 The Trust have confirmed that there are no additional staff being housed within the buildings, so no additional parking needs are being generated.

3.11 There is an existing cycle parking shelter located on the site, which will be relocated across the service road to the site adjacent to the Older Peoples Unit (OPU). The new building will include shower and changing facilities for staff and will therefore encourage the use of sustainable modes of travel. These improved facilities are in accordance with the Trust’s Travel Plan for the RUH estate.
3.12 Good pedestrian access is provided to the east, south and the west of the building. The internal walkway to the east provides access to the main hospital street and to the main clinical hub of the hospital. There is pedestrian access to the west to offer pedestrian movement between the adjacent Bath & Wessex Building and the proposed building. The building has been designed with identified entrances which are easily accessible from both the main car parking and the drop-off area via level paths. The pedestrian connections facilitate pedestrian movements between the application site and the RUH estate.

3.13 The proposed Mortuary is located on the Ground Floor so that direct access is provided from the body store to the hearse waiting/parking area. A direct link to the existing hospital street means that bodies can also be easily transferred from the adjacent wards. The relocation of the proposed laboratory will make the delivery of specimens more efficient via the direct corridor link.

3.14 The service road to the north of the proposed building provides access for deliveries and waste collection. The refuse compound is located adjacent to the existing service road to ease collection. Body collection will occur within the undercroft of the proposed building. Associated hearses and ambulances will approach the undercroft from the south using the existing car park to the west of the Wolfson Building. A ‘hammerhead’ turning area will be provided within the site to assist with vehicle turning movements to and from the ground floor mortuary. This ‘hammerhead’ turning area will enable vehicles to enter and leave the site in a forward gear. As access to the Mortuary is via the existing car park it will not impact on traffic flow.

**Future Development Plans**

3.15 The Estates Strategy sets out the future development proposals for the RUH site. The plan addresses known weaknesses in the RUH Estate and pinpoints areas where significant investment is needed on the site to improve the departments as well as the overall quality of the hospital. The re-location of the Pathology Laboratories and Mortuary forms part of the overall Estates Strategy for rationalisation and subsequent potential disposal of that area of the site. The potential disposal of this area of the site together with the future vacating of the John Apley by IM&T and other adjacent buildings will create space for the construction of a new single large car park for visitors in this area.

3.16 A separate application for the re-location of the IM&T and Medical Records departments was made on the 31st August 2011. Future plans to provide a single large car park for visitors close to the main entrance on the site of the
Laboratories/RUH North buildings will be the subject of a separate planning application.

3.17 The single large car park for visitors would provide an equivalent number of parking spaces to that currently provided. However, by providing the spaces in one location it will improve the management of the car parking and make it easier for visitors to find the available spaces.

3.18 The Trust plan to rationalise staff car parking, so it will be centralised on a large single staff car park, referred to as Forbes Fraser/Bath & Wessex car parks. This forms part of the current “Parking Strategy” and the Estates Strategy and, will be subject to a separate planning application.

3.19 The current “Parking Strategy” and “Travel Plan” will be updated to reflect the Estates Strategy and the rationalisation of car parking provision.
4 Transport Impact

4.1 The development proposals to relocate the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments into a new building will result in a reduction of floor space and staffing levels will be unchanged. There will be negligible impact on the traffic patterns within the site and there will be no impact on the traffic patterns on the surrounding highway network. Therefore the proposed scheme will have a de minimis impact on the highway network.

4.2 The development proposals will not result in any loss or increase in car parking. The site will become an integrated part of the current Travel Plan and Parking Strategy for the whole hospital estate. The Trust’s parking permit controls will apply to users of the building.

4.3 An existing cycle parking shelter currently located on the site will be relocated across the service road close to the new building. The new building will include shower and changing facilities for staff and will therefore encourage the use of sustainable modes of travel. These improved facilities are in accordance with the Trust’s Travel Plan for the RUH estate.

4.4 The Trust plan to rationalise the staff car parking through the Estates Strategy, so it will be centralised on a large single staff car park, referred to as Forbes Fraser/Bath & Wessex car parks. The Wessex car park is the car park that is adjacent to the application site. The site is therefore well located in respect of the future development plans.
5 Summary

5.1 This Transport Statement addresses the transport issues of relocating the Pathology Laboratory and Mortuary departments into a new self contained three storey building to the south west of the RUH estate.

5.2 There is an overall reduction in floor space due to increased efficiencies through both rationalisation of existing user’s requirements and facilities. In addition there will be no increase in staff as a result of the rationalisation. There will be negligible impact on the traffic patterns within the site and there will be no impact on the traffic patterns on the surrounding network. Therefore the proposed scheme will have a de minimis impact on the highway network.

5.3 The development proposals will not result in any loss or increase in car parking. This site will become an integrated part of the current Travel Plan and Parking Strategy for the whole hospital estate. The Trust’s parking permit controls will apply to users of the building.

5.4 The service road that runs to the north of the application site will provide access for deliveries and there will also be access to the site from the existing car park to the south. New entrances to the application site will be integrated into the existing road layout.

5.5 A 'hammerhead' turning area will be provided within the site to assist with vehicle turning movements to and from the ground floor mortuary. The ‘hammerhead’ turning area will enable vehicles to enter and leave the site in a forward gear. As access to the Mortuary is via the existing car park it will not impact on traffic flow.

5.6 An existing cycle parking shelter currently located on the site will be relocated across the service road close to the new building. The new building will include shower and changing facilities for staff and will therefore encourage the use of sustainable modes of travel. These improved facilities are in accordance with the Trust’s Travel Plan for the RUH estate.

5.7 Good pedestrian access is provided to the east, south and the west of the building. The internal walkway to the east provides access to the main hospital street and to the main clinical hub of the hospital. There is pedestrian access to the west to offer pedestrian movement between the adjacent Bath & Wessex Building and the proposed building.
5.8 The re-location of the Pathology Laboratories and Mortuary forms part of the overall estates strategy for rationalisation and subsequent potential disposal of that area of the site. The potential disposal of this area of the site together with the future vacating of the John Apley by IM&T and other adjacent buildings will create space for the construction of a new single large car park for visitors in this area.