The New Forest Primary Care Trust is responsible for providing health care services to a local population of 182,000 plus around 8-million tourists per year. Located to the north-east of Lymington within a 42 acre site, the New Forest PCT’s exciting new 96-bed Community Hospital boasts almost 12,000m² of accommodation. With the closest façade just about 100m from the Brockenhurst – Lymington Pier railway line, the scheme is made up of three main elements:

- A 3-storey ward block housing an emergency assessment ward, acute medical ward, short stay surgical ward, stroke unit, rehab and therapy unit;

- A 2-storey entrance block incorporating a café, shop, administration offices and training centre;

- A 2-storey Diagnostic Treatment Centre including specialist consultation, diagnostic imaging, medical day unit, day surgery and endoscopy.
Opened to the public on 2\textsuperscript{nd} January 2007, Lymington Hospital provides new state of the art “one-stop-shop” appointment, consultant, diagnosis and treatment services under one roof. The building features a “street” spine, open at both ends with two atria forming the main entrance and patient wait areas. Innovative ward layouts include 12-bed clusters focused around courtyards bringing low noise with natural daylight and ventilation to the clinical environment.

The hospital provides:

- Two operating theatres
- Two endoscopy suites
- A radiology department (with three general radiology and two ultrasound rooms)
- Medical and surgical day units
- A medical unit including stroke rehabilitation
- A surgical ward
- An emergency assessment unit
- A minor injuries unit
- A birthing centre

Support services provided by the hospital include:

- A pharmacy
- An Education & Training Centre
- A clinical library
- A restaurant
- A League of Friends shop and café
- A multi faith room
- Hospital radio
- Extended staff facilities

Specialist out-patient clinics including audiology, minor procedures, ophthalmology and children’s clinics are run from purpose built suites.

Retained through Murphy Philipps Architects for Ryhurst, AAD was instructed to provide close support from architectural scheme design through to construction and developers fit-out stages, to snagging including verification acoustic testing. As AAD was instructed to provide services to the design and to the construction team, no acoustic design matters could arise that could not be robustly addressed in a swift and effective manner.

And this was indeed the case; as the scheme was one of the last to fall under the NHS Estates HTM 2045 Acoustic Design guidance, close attention was paid to making pragmatic design decisions. These decisions ensured that the right balance was struck between HTM 2045 acoustical requirements, operational and infection control requirements on an area by area basis.

Although the location is quiet, elements of the external building fabric was necessarily subjected to railway noise intrusion assessment; all internal building fabric was assessed for integrity specification according to adjacencies; finishes and services noise were subjected to close consideration. As the community hospital building provides a wide range of accommodation, acoustic privacy was an important consideration. Working closely with Murphy Philipps, a range of partition types - subsequently with door ratings allocated according to privacy risk - were marked up for adoption and development by the contractor, working in concert with AAD.
throughout. Partitions ranged from masonry to dry wall construction, with AAD’s work including development of sketch details to support acoustic sealing between partitions, metal deck soffits and external masonry and metal section rendered cladding. AAD also provided close support through applicable Reviewable Design Data stage of the scheme’s construction.

The Hospital benefits from an external energy centre which includes a standby Diesel generator having 1750kVA capacity. Located close by to the birthing centre, this separate building includes a multi-layer roof as part of its noise mitigation design.

Comments Tony Holdich, AAD’s Project Consultant… “this appointment afforded acoustic design challenges to be addressed by designers and builders alike; this very process, which I have experienced to great benefit in the defence & industrial sectors, ensures that least resource is consumed in determining most beneficial solutions.”

Client New Forest Primary care Trust (now Hampshire Primary Care Trust)
Developer Ryhurst Ltd
Main Contractor Rydon Construction
Architect Murpy Philipps
Structural Engineers Upton McGougan
Services Engineers Hurly Palmer Flatt