

# Welcome



## Welcome to our public exhibition event on a new West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds.

We are here to gather your thoughts on our plans for a new hospital in Bury St Edmunds.

Our earlier round of pre-application public planning engagement at the start of the summer explained how Hardwick Manor emerged to be our preferred site for a new hospital.

The team really enjoyed meeting and talking to so many of you, both virtually and face to face.

Your feedback was invaluable, and we hope you will be able to see where you have helped influence and shape our early outline proposals with us.

Through the following boards, we will reiterate how we came to choose Hardwick Manor as our preferred site, our current plans for a new hospital and the next steps for the project.

Your feedback is important to us. After looking at the materials on display, please fill in a feedback form and leave it with us. Members of the project team are at hand to discuss the proposals with you and answer any questions. Your feedback will be incorporated into our final submission wherever possible.

If you have any questions as you're reading the boards, please speak to a member of the team who will be happy to talk you through the proposals in more detail.



Indicative image of potential massing

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## Background



Aerial view of current hospital

**West Suffolk Hospital has been serving the local community at its current location at Hardwick Lane since 1974. The hospital has continued to evolve on the site with significant renovations and the addition of several new buildings.**

**These include a number of clinical areas to improve patient experience, such as our state-of-the-art Cardiac Centre, Labour Suite, and Acute Assessment Unit.**

West Suffolk Hospital has been serving the local community at its current location at Hardwick Lane since 1974. The hospital has continued to evolve on the site with significant renovations and the addition of several new buildings.

These include a number of clinical areas to improve patient experience, such as our state-of-the-art Cardiac Centre, Labour Suite, and Acute Assessment Unit.

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (WSFT) has invested heavily in the upkeep of the buildings over recent years to ensure that the existing hospital is appropriately maintained, and we are able to continue to provide high quality health services for our community. However, whilst many patients praise the care that they receive, many of the buildings are showing signs of wear and tear. The buildings and the layout of the hospital have limitations that do not allow us to deliver the 21st century healthcare that we believe our patients and staff deserve.

The need for a new hospital has been acknowledged nationally and in 2020, as part of the Health Infrastructure Plan (HIP), West Suffolk was confirmed as one of 40 new hospitals across the country that the government had committed to build by 2030. This is the biggest hospital building programme of a generation – a once in a lifetime opportunity to have a modern health and care facility using the latest technology to deliver joined up care for the people of West Suffolk.

This is a fantastic opportunity to develop a modern healthcare facility that is fit for purpose now and in years to come. We have the unique chance to deliver innovative, joined up health care to the local population and to design services that meet the ever-changing needs of our community.



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## Our preferred site - Hardwick Manor

**As previously set out during the first round of engagement, whilst a site for a new hospital had been earmarked in West Suffolk Council's Local Plan, further investigations showed that the site was not appropriate for the needs of the Trust and the new hospital.**

To progress plans, a dedicated team of partners investigated more than 20 potential sites and from this 'long list', four were found to best support the needs and ambitions of the project. These were; the redevelopment of the current hospital at Hardwick Lane, Rougham Airfield, Westley and Hardwick Manor. The other sites assessed were discounted for a variety of reasons such as the size of the site, availability, suitability and deliverability.

Whilst Hardwick Manor did not score as highly as some other sites on matters like ecology or transport, it did achieve the highest score overall and has a number of significant benefits:

- The Trust already owns the site which eliminates the risk of not being able to purchase it. We purchased the site when it became available to maximise our choices when considering options for the location of a new hospital.
- It is located in close proximity to the current site. This means that we can continue to use the modern facilities on Hardwick Lane, such as such as the potential to retain existing car parks, the education centre our new staff accommodation, our administration block at Quince House, the Education Centre, and the Day Surgery Unit.
- Re-locating the main hospital building to Hardwick Manor will ensure existing close relationships with partners such as Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, St. Nicholas Hospice and Busy Bees nursery can continue.
- Research has shown the positive benefits that green space has on the recovery of patients and the wellbeing of staff. The parkland setting of Hardwick Manor provides real benefits in this area.



**Following thorough and extensive evaluation, Hardwick Manor was proposed as the most suitable location and in December 2020, the site was announced as the Trust's preferred site.**

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# First round of pre-application public engagement

Our earlier round of pre-application public planning engagement at the start of the summer explained how Hardwick Manor emerged to be our preferred site for a new hospital. The team really enjoyed meeting and talking to so many of you, both virtually and face to face and in total more than 800 pieces of feedback was received. The feedback highlighted a number of key considerations that we have taken on board.

We have highlighted below the main areas where your views have made a difference.

## Traffic and parking

Car parking was a key area highlighted in the first phase of engagement, we have taken this on board and our ambition is to deliver all car parking necessary on our site through accessible parking spaces on Hardwick Manor, and a mixture of new car park provision and retained car parking on Hardwick Lane. (Depending on the extent of the Hardwick Lane site that will be retained.)

## Bus stops

Based on your feedback, we are exploring the possibility of bringing a bus stop on to the new site. This means that patients will have a reduced distance to walk and provide additional options for those choosing to travel via public transport.

## Meeting future need

It was important for a lot of our community that we did not build a hospital which could quickly be outgrown. We have taken that on board and are submitting plans which will maximise the amount of space able to be developed and which can be adapted to meet new clinical ways of working and changes in future healthcare demand.

## Environment

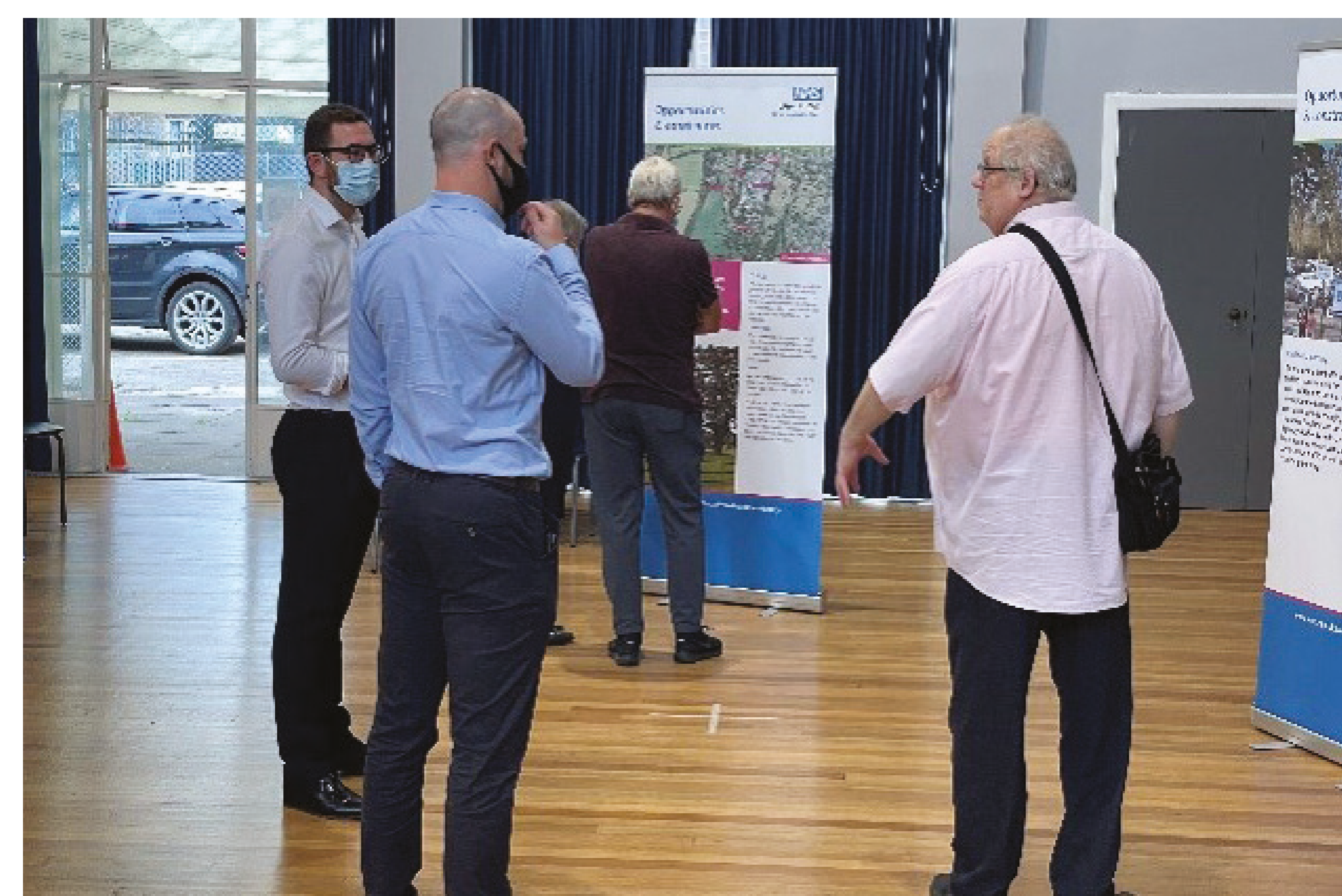
You told us that retaining the Hardwick Manor building was important to you. It's important to us too and our initial example shows how we wish to incorporate it into our designs.

You told us how important it was to keep the parkland setting of the site. We agree and our plans include the arboretum and as many trees as possible.

Your feedback included that the wildlife present on the site was important to you and environmentally friendly drainage has been introduced which will help to enhance biodiversity and the existing wildlife as well as provide a sustainable drainage system for the site.

Please do provide your comments on the feedback form provided and feel free to discuss the plans in detail with a member of the team today.

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## Key points



Aerial image of the current hospital

### Planning application

The process of applying for outline planning permission simply seeks to determine if the principle of a new hospital on the Hardwick Manor site is acceptable. The application will also examine the maximum size of any building, its location and look at other external matters like highway capacity.

Securing outline planning permission is a significant milestone on our journey to building a new hospital and we hope you will support us in bringing this to fruition. Should the outline planning application be supported and approved, this will mean that the site could become our new home and your new hospital for generations to come and we'll be one step closer to making this a reality.

### Clinical services

We are at an early stage of developing our plans for the new hospital. The new hospital's flexible and adaptable design will be able to adjust to new clinical ways of working and allows for the services that need to be delivered from the main hospital site to continue to be delivered at the proposed Hardwick Manor site.

### Retaining the Hardwick Lane site

Subject to business case approval, it is the Trust's intention to retain the whole site.

Despite the main building no longer being fit for purpose, there are a number of new additions to the site which can still be utilised, due to the close proximity, if outline planning permission is obtained for the Hardwick Manor site. This reduces the cost of the project and wastage.

The demolition of the existing main hospital building and front residences will be included in the outline planning application.

At present we are uncertain what the existing hospital site will be used for but, if any development is planned on the existing hospital site in the future, further planning permission will need to be sought.

Re-locating the main hospital building to Hardwick Manor will also ensure existing close relationships with partners such as Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, St. Nicholas Hospice and Busy Bees nursery can continue.

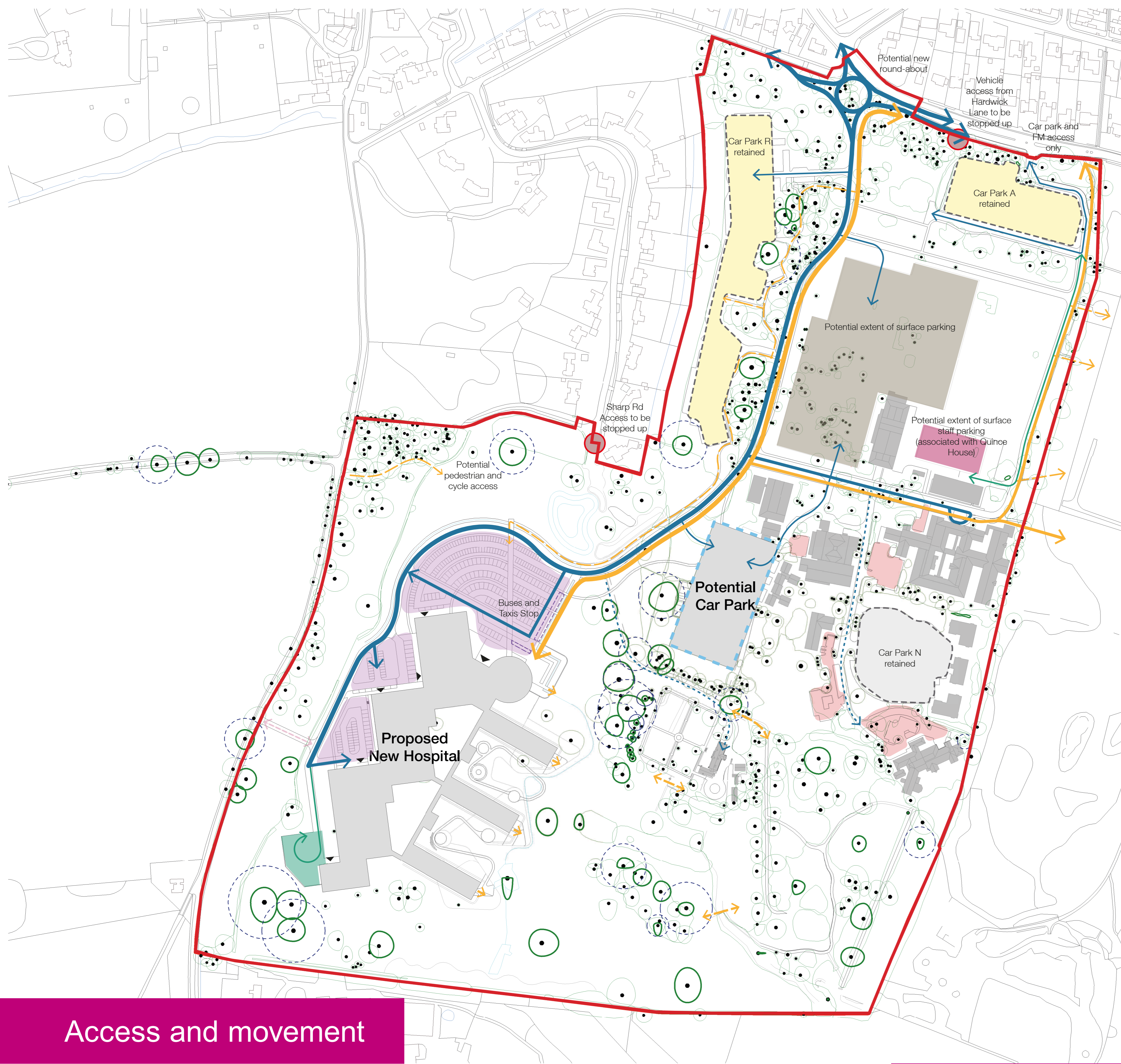


More information on how to be involved in the design of our clinical services can be found on our website at [www.wsh.nhs.uk/New-healthcare-facility](http://www.wsh.nhs.uk/New-healthcare-facility)

[www.wsh.nhs.uk/planning](http://www.wsh.nhs.uk/planning)



# Traffic and parking



Access and movement

Following our first round of pre-application public planning engagement earlier this year, we have taken on board that this is a key area for patients, staff and the local community.

As well as looking at ways to make the site more accessible via sustainable transport methods, detailed traffic surveys are also being carried out in conjunction with Suffolk County Council Highways to understand the impact of the development on traffic together with potential road and junction improvements.

We have identified that this project creates an opportunity to allow traffic to move around our site in a more efficient way.

For example, the pedestrian access from Hardwick Heath to the entrance of our existing hospital delays cars and ambulances entering the site which sometimes backs onto the Highway. We expect this issue to be resolved in any new layout and we want to make it safer and more comfortable for pedestrians and cyclists too.

We acknowledge that many people access the current hospital by bus and we continue to have detailed conversations with bus operators to ensure that both staff and patients can easily access the new hospital by bus.

We will be aiming to deliver all car parking necessary on our site through accessible parking spaces on Hardwick Manor, and a mixture of new car park provision and retained car parking on Hardwick Lane. (Depending on the extent of the Hardwick Lane site that will be retained.)



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# Construction



**Whilst we're currently at an early stage of the planning process, we are keen to reassure the local community that care and consideration will be taken when it comes to the construction work onsite.**

We are keen to minimise disruption to local residents, staff and patients as much as possible. With this in mind, we will build upon our track record of early planting to help with screening around the site.

We will work closely with West Suffolk Council to clearly set out the hours of construction on site. These will be adhered to and monitored by the construction team.

All construction options are being explored, such as using modern methods of construction which would help to reduce the noise created by cutting and drilling on site.

## Site Compound

The current proposal is to utilise third party land to the west of the site for the contractor's compound and site access.

This will mitigate disruption to the existing hospital during the construction phase, and minimise traffic congestion from construction traffic along Hardwick Lane.



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## Next steps



**Thank you for coming to our public exhibition event, we are keen to get your feedback and incorporate your views wherever possible into the design and planning process.**

### Contact us

If you have any further comments or queries then please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Email us at:  
**futuresystemprogramme@wsh.nhs.uk**



Write to us at:  
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West Suffolk Hospital  
FREEPOST ANG20445  
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Suffolk  
IP33 2BR**

For further information, please visit our website by scanning the QR code below with the camera on your mobile phone.



### Next steps

This round of engagement will run from Monday, 1st November – Sunday, 12 December with all feedback submitted during this time reviewed after it has concluded.

Whilst we are looking to submit an outline planning application in early 2022, it is important to stress that we are in the early stages of our journey to design and develop our new hospital.

The process of building a hospital is complex, a series of business cases need Treasury approval, and it will only be at this point that we can definitively answer many questions that you may have, but we are committed to make this a reality.

### Timetable

**November/December 2021**  
Second round of engagement

**December 2021/January 2022**  
Project team reviews feedback and finalises technical documents

**Early 2022**  
Outline planning application submitted to West Suffolk Council

**Summer 2022**  
Outline planning application determined by the West Suffolk Council Planning Committee

We will continue to keep local residents and patients of the hospital updated as our plans progress but please do get in touch with any questions or comments you may have using the details above.

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