

Proposals for a new West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds



West Suffolk
NHS Foundation Trust

November 2021

In 2020, West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust was announced as one of 40 new hospitals to be built by 2030 as part of the Government's Health Infrastructure Plan. This is the biggest hospital building programme for a generation – a once in a lifetime opportunity to deliver a new health and care facility for the people of West Suffolk.

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.

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. The submission of the outline planning application means that we are one step closer to making this a reality.

This second round of pre-application public planning engagement will run from Monday 1st November - Sunday 12th December. We welcome any comments you have on the plans and further details on the project are available at our dedicated project website:

www.wsh.nhs.uk/planning

Feedback card

Complete the enclosed feedback card and return it to us using the Freepost envelope (no stamp required) or drop it off at one of our in-person events.



Indicative image of what the massing of the new West Suffolk Hospital could look like.

Get involved

To ensure that everyone has a way of getting involved that suits them, we will be using a variety of methods to gather feedback from the community. This will include direct mailings, updates on the project website, face to face events and an online virtual meeting. The first hour of each of our events will also be made sensory friendly.

Mildenhall

The Jubilee Centre, Mildenhall,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 7HG
Tuesday 16th November - 3pm-7pm

Bury St Edmunds

The Apex, Charter Square,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3FD
Wednesday 17th November - 2pm - 8pm

Sudbury

Assembly Room, Sudbury Town Hall, Old
Market Place, Sudbury, CO10 1TL
Thursday 18th November - 3pm-7pm

Haverhill

Main Hall, Chalkstone Community Centre,
Millfields Way, Haverhill CB9 0JB
Tuesday 23rd November - 2pm - 6pm

Newmarket

Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket,
Suffolk, CB8 8JP
Thursday 25th November - 3pm - 7pm

Stowmarket

Main Hall, Stowmarket Community Centre,
Hillside, Stowmarket, IP14 2BD
Monday 29th November - 4pm - 8pm

Brandon

Brandon Leisure Centre, 20 Church Road,
Brandon, IP27 0JB
Thursday 2nd December - 4pm - 8pm

Thetford

Main Hall, The Charles Burrell Centre,
Staniforth Road, Thetford, IP24 3LH
Tuesday 7th December - 1pm - 5pm

Online virtual meeting

A virtual meeting will be held on
Monday 22nd November at 7.00pm and
can be joined using the following web
address www.wsh.nhs.uk/Live-event

Overview

The indicative illustrations and plans are an example of what a new hospital may look like and what could be possible on the Hardwick Manor site. They are not without foundation and have been developed based on patient experience, staff feedback and with central support from the Government and NHS who provide insight into lessons learnt from other projects of a similar nature.

Our outline planning application will be seeking to maximise the opportunity of our preferred site to meet all the future health needs identified by our staff and patients. The illustrations and indicative plans presented have been prepared to provide maximum future flexibility, however, they may not exactly represent what we eventually build.

The illustrative plans and Environmental Impact Assessment work, which will be included within our outline planning application, demonstrate our aim to minimise, and where necessary, mitigate the impact of the development of the new hospital on areas including the existing landscape, ecology, trees, protected species and potential flood risks. We are also mindful of the impact on our neighbours in terms of visual impact, noise and light.

We recognise that visiting a hospital is not always a pleasant experience, it can be stressful and anxiety inducing. We have taken this feedback onboard and included this in the indicative design of the potential new hospital building; the circular building will be the first element that you see and represents the 'welcoming face' of the organisation.

The extended blocks, known as 'arms', maximise the use of light and views and are ready to welcome visitors, patients and staff. The ambition is for each of these "arms" to have access to gardens and outside spaces which we know is important to both patients and staff.

These designs are purely to support our outline planning application. Further iterations will be refined as we work with our staff, patients and local community.

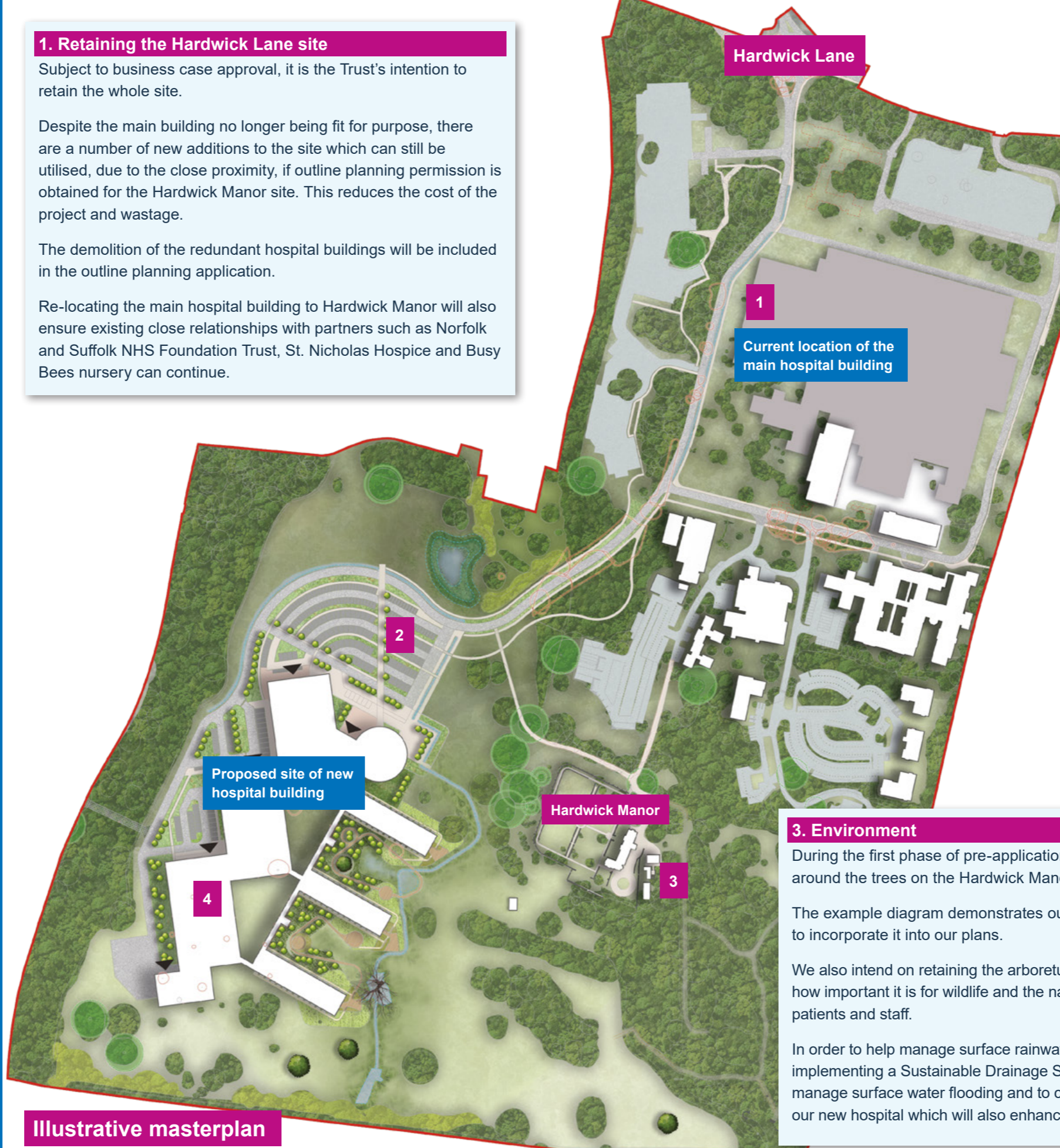
1. Retaining the Hardwick Lane site

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 redundant hospital buildings will be included in the outline planning application.

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.



Illustrative masterplan

4. 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. More information on how to be involved in the design of our clinical services can be found on our website at <https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/New-healthcare-facility/>.

2. Traffic & Parking

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.)

3. Environment

During the first phase of pre-application public planning engagement, queries were raised around the trees on the Hardwick Manor site as well as the Manor building.

The example diagram demonstrates our intention to keep the Hardwick Manor building and to incorporate it into our plans.

We also intend on retaining the arboretum and as many trees as possible as we appreciate how important it is for wildlife and the natural benefits greenery has on the wellbeing of our patients and staff.

In order to help manage surface rainwater in an environmentally friendly way, we are implementing a Sustainable Drainage System, known as a SuDs. We will seek to use this to manage surface water flooding and to create an attractive entrance feature when approaching our new hospital which will also enhance biodiversity on the site.

About West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

West Suffolk Hospital is an award-winning, vibrant, friendly and accessible hospital on the edge of Bury St Edmunds. With around 430 beds open at one time it serves a population of around 280,000 within 600 square miles. As well as running the hospital, West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust is joining up NHS care across the area providing many of the community services in West Suffolk.

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust was announced as one of 40 hospitals to benefit from funding as part of the government's Health Infrastructure Plan. The Trust board, alongside the programme board, has a vision that this is more than the development of a future hospital, this project is part of a 'future system'.

The Future System team are overseeing the development and build of the new healthcare facility including the facilitation of co-production. Increasingly, a hospital and the services that it offers is just one part of a wider network known as a system that includes providers of; primary, social, community and mental health care as well as policy makers, regulators and commissioners. Because of this, all these partners are involved in the development of this project and bringing it to fruition.

Next steps

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

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.

We will continue to keep local residents and users 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 below.

November/December 2021 - Second round of engagement

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

Early 2022 - Planning application submitted to West Suffolk Council

Summer 2022 - Planning application determined by the West Suffolk Council Planning Committee

Get in touch

The project team welcome your comments. You can ask questions or provide feedback through the following methods:

 Write to us using the enclosed Freepost addressed envelope or directly to:

The Future System Team
Quince House Level 2
West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
Hardwick Lane
Bury Saint Edmunds
IP33 2QZ

 Email us at
futuresystemprogramme@wsh.nhs.uk

 Get in touch through the feedback page on this website: **www.wsh.nhs.uk/planning**

 **WestSuffolkNHS**

 **@WestSuffolkNHS**

