

# A replacement for Frimley Park Hospital



Frimley Health  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Introduction

Frimley Park Hospital will be replaced with a multi-million pound state of the art new hospital by 2030 – and we're inviting our patients, staff, and local communities to get involved in this exciting project and share your views.

We are delighted that we have been included in the government's New Hospital Programme, which will fund the replacement hospital.

Frimley Park Hospital needs to be replaced because it was built in the 1970s using Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC), which makes up around 65 per cent of the current hospital.

RAAC deteriorates over time and is now at the end of its life, posing a potential safety risk to patients, visitors, and staff. As a result, considerable costly surveillance and maintenance works are required to ensure people's safety. By the end of 2024/25, we will have spent nearly £30 million on surveys and remedial works alone, to keep our current site safe.



Frimley Park Hospital needs to be replaced, on a new site, by 2030

## Our vision for the future

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform local healthcare services and we want to develop one of the best healthcare facilities in the country.

### Our vision is based on five key principles:

- **Quality and safety:** providing the highest quality clinical services and care, in modern, welcoming, suitable environments, while also eliminating the RAAC in our hospital by 2030 in line with national requirements
- **Efficiency:** making the very best use of our resources, such as our staff, buildings, equipment, digital technology, and money
- **Meeting the demand for our services:** providing enough capacity to meet the future demand for our health and care services, making sure people are cared for in the right place, at the right time, by the right specialist teams
- **Integration:** improving the opportunities to work together seamlessly between organisations – whether they are other providers of hospital mental health, and social care
- **Staffing:** supporting the recruitment and retention of staff and providing a range of opportunities for their professional development



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## Why we need a new site

Our current hospital has around 7,000 RAAC planks, including in some of our most key areas:

- Our operating theatres
- Intensive care unit
- Wards
- Corridors.

These are constantly monitored and safety works undertaken to ensure that we maintain a safe environment.



By the end of 2024/25, we will have spent nearly £30 million on surveys and remedial works alone, to keep our current site safe.

## Why we can't rebuild on the current site

Alongside our clinical teams and advisors, we have considered whether building our new hospital on our current site is a viable option but this would require a phased demolition and rebuild on a site which is already congested, causing significant disruption to our patients, staff, and hospital services, as well as being more expensive.

Our current site is **too small** to deliver modern healthcare standards, and we cannot adequately cater for our growing and ageing population with our current buildings.

NHS data shows that the new hospital will need to have **more beds** and a footprint **twice as large** as the current hospital to accommodate more single rooms.

Most importantly, it would be **impossible to complete** a phased build by our RAAC end-of-life deadline of 2030.

## How a new site will help us transform healthcare for our communities

In addition to the issues with our infrastructure, our current site does not meet the modern standards in hospital design. Also, we cannot provide the standard of care for our communities that we want to.

## We know that we can improve these areas through a new development, for example:

- Separating the flow of people through the building where possible **will help patients** and staff get where they need to be, as quickly and easily as possible
- Operating unplanned emergency services and planned services on the same site, but separately, will help us **maintain capacity** for planned care
- Significantly increasing the number of single rooms will **meet modern hospital standards** and improve privacy and dignity for our patients, and take on board learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic around **improved infection prevention and control**
- Consolidating our outpatient areas to make the best use of the space available to us will **minimise the amount of unnecessary walking** around the site for our patients and staff
- Locating all our planned surgery in the same place in the hospital will make our services **more efficient** and working life easier for our staff
- Making sure appropriate clinical services are located next to each other will support the **sharing of expertise**
- Improving our digital infrastructure will enable us to **provide more services virtually** for those patients who do not need to attend an appointment
- Improving our energy efficiency and sustainability will support our ambition to **deliver 'net zero carbon'** for the replacement hospital

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# Finding a new site for our new hospital



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## We are now looking at alternative locations for a replacement for Frimley Park Hospital.

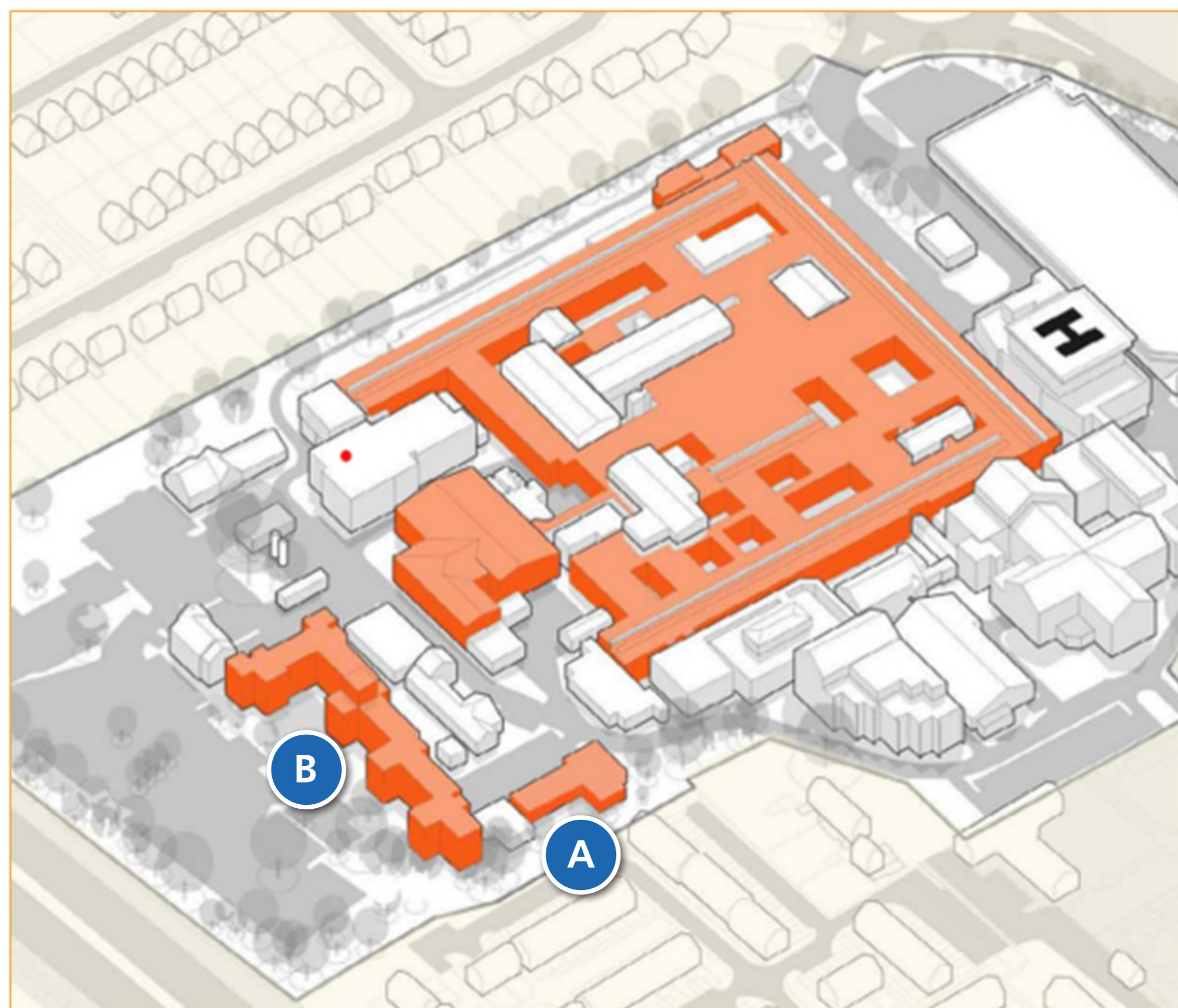
One of our guiding principles is that we are keen for a new site to be located close to the current Frimley Park Hospital site.

We are committed to working with our patients, staff, volunteers, our local communities and other stakeholders throughout our work to deliver a new hospital and to involve as many people as possible in all stages of developing your new hospital.

Over recent months, we have been identifying potential sites for the location of a new hospital. And, through further research, we expect to be able to rule out sites which are not viable.

We are asking our patients, staff, volunteers, our local communities and other stakeholders to have your say in the criteria we are developing to assess the potential sites. This is the first of many opportunities for you to tell us what you think as we begin our journey to build a state-of-the-art replacement by 2030.

We would like to know what you think of our criteria: if you think any need refining, if anything key is missing, if any are particularly important to you, and why.



As you would expect, there are separate criteria regarding commercial and value for money considerations which we must take into account. Similarly, we are looking to ascribe a monetary value to criteria like flooding, any decontamination needed, utilities, landscaping, and ecology.

We will also assess any relevant planning considerations, including the use of adjacent land, if it is on or near green belt land or Sites of Special Scientific Interest, potential planning restrictions, changing planning use, and whether the site is allocated in local plans.

This plan shows the extent of RAAC throughout the site – almost 65% of the hospital is constructed from the material.

We have already demolished Elm House (A), which was constructed of RAAC, and are demolishing the accommodation block (B) this winter.

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# The criteria we would like your views on



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There are three groups of criteria we are looking at.

## Criteria group one: The site location

Evaluation criteria	Questions to test
Distance from current site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How much does this site option increase/reduce travel time and/or costs for patients to access specific services, compared to now?</li><li>• Is the staff travel required for this site option acceptable?</li><li>• To what extent does this site have an impact on neighbouring hospitals, for example if patients travel to them instead?</li></ul>
Access by car	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To what extent does this site option have existing access roads that could manage, with minor works, the volume of vehicles likely?</li><li>• To what extent does this site option offer alternative routes to and from it for blue light and emergency situations?</li><li>• To what extent does the site option's nearby road network mean that we can create sufficient parking spaces on the site?</li></ul>
Distance from key highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To what extent is the site option accessible from major junctions of key routes such as the M3 and A331?</li></ul>
Access by foot and cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To what extent does the site option have existing path and bicycle routes to and from key transport points and town centres?</li><li>• Is it a reasonable assumption that paths and routes could be added or adapted?</li></ul>
Access by public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To what extent does this site option have existing bus routes?</li><li>• To what extent does the site option offer reasonable bus routes from train stations?</li></ul>
Consideration of health inequalities and deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To what extent is the site option in, adjacent to, or easily accessible from the more deprived areas of the hospital's catchment area? This is to reflect that there is greater incidence of ill-health and poorer access to transport in more deprived areas.</li><li>• To what extent does the site option impact on health inequalities, those groups with certain protected characteristics (for example older people, or those with disabilities), or any other specific groups, for example carers.</li></ul>



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# The criteria we would like your views on



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## Criteria group two: Planning

Criteria	Definition / detail
Expansion potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To what extent does the site option have the potential to expand, ideally adjacent or within the very local area?</li></ul>
Local noise and pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To what extent does the site option have sources of significant local noise and / or polluting industries, or is it in an area known for high levels of noxious gases?</li></ul>
Development height parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What are the likely parameters for the site option development height? Ideally for the new hospital, at least three-storey height must be achievable, with a preference for up to five storeys.</li></ul>

## Criteria group three: Buying the site

Criteria	Definition / detail
Availability of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To what extent are we sure that the site option land is available for sale?</li></ul>
Appetite to sell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How interested is the owner of the site option in selling?</li></ul>
Readiness to sell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How ready is the site option for sale? Are there planning, ownership, or tenancy issues that need to be overcome?</li></ul>



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# Important dates for the project



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We are working to a challenging timeline to deliver a new hospital for 2030. While these dates may change, our current plan is:

February 2024	Propose our preferred site for the new hospital.
May 2024	Approval of our outline specification and model for the new hospital – this sets out how we will arrange our clinical services and support functions in the new building, and what they will each require.
November 2024	Development of the final specification for the new hospital and model of care, which sets out how we will organise and deliver our services.
February 2025	Final approval of our plans to purchase the new site for the replacement for Frimley Park Hospital, including full local authority planning approval.
April 2025	Approval of our final design for the hospital, alongside final costs, timetable, and method of construction.
Summer 2025	Construction starts.
Spring 2029	Construction complete.
Summer 2029	New hospital building opens, after detailed commissioning and quality checks.

Thank you for your ongoing support during this exciting programme.



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# How to get involved



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We want to hear from our patients, our staff, our partners and our local communities about what's most important to you when considering a site for the new hospital.

Your views will play a key part in shaping the new hospital and we'll keep you regularly updated. This is just the first of many opportunities to get involved over the coming months and years.



Visit [www.fhft.nhs.uk/NewFrimleyHospital](http://www.fhft.nhs.uk/NewFrimleyHospital) to find out more, including upcoming public events

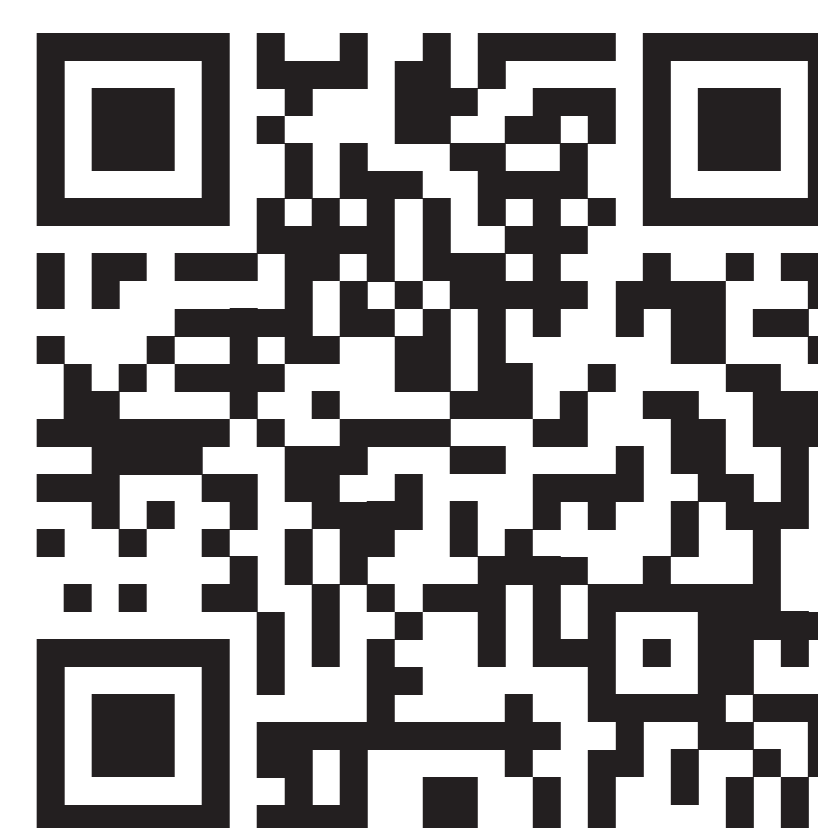


Complete our questionnaire – just scan the QR code below



Email the team at [fhft.newfphcomms@nhs.net](mailto:fhft.newfphcomms@nhs.net)

This engagement period ends at midnight on **7 January 2024**, and there will be more opportunities to get involved in the programme over the coming months – keep an eye on our website for further details.



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