

Design & Access Statement

Embrace Ambulance Patient Transfer Base



Sheffield Childrens Hospital NHS Trust

Introduction

This planning statement has been prepared to accompany a full planning application for the conversion of an existing office unit into a state-of-the-art base for the Embrace transfer service who transfer seriously ill patients.

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1 Site Context

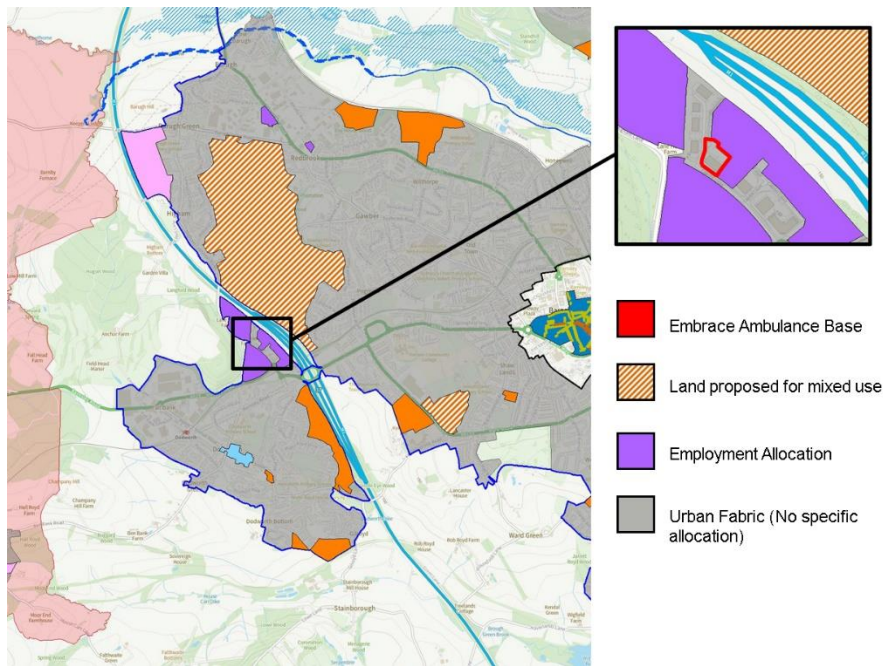
- 1.1 The location of the proposed Ambulance Base is to the North East of Dodworth, on BTS Capitol Business Park. Their existing premises are shared with another company on another smaller unit, located on the same business park further to the north of the site.
- 1.2 The Site is adjacent the M1 J37 and provides direct access to the motorway.



Site Location Plans



- 1.3 The Barnsley Local Plan and context. Map below shows Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council overall land use plan, with Embrace Ambulance Base proposed site location highlighted in red, on land designated with no specific allocation. Note the adjacent land use is either mixed use (as part of Barnsley West Masterplan) or Employment allocation.



2 Requirements for the Ambulance Base / Design Brief

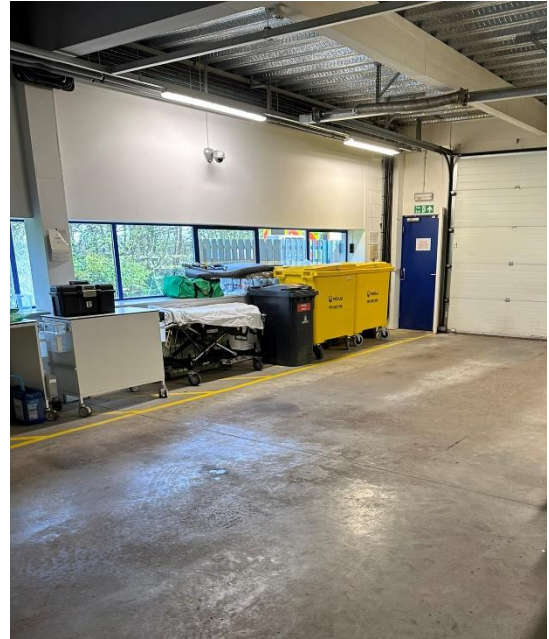
- 2.1 Embrace is a highly specialist, round-the-clock transport service for critically ill infants and children in Yorkshire and the Humber who require care in another hospital in the region or further afield.
- 2.2 The existing premises for the Embrace Ambulance Service are located on the same site, within part of a shared building further north of the business Park.



2.3 The Embrace Ambulance Service have identified their need to enhance safety, improve quality of care and to futureproof the premises to ensure long term sustainability of the patient transfer service.

2.4 The existing premises are no longer fit for purpose as the facilities do not meet the current NHS England and the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems standards.

2.5 There are no facilities in the existing building to separate dirty and clean equipment with insufficient space to clean clinical equipment adequately, or areas for staff to wash their hands between loading bay and equipment storage rooms, which increase the risk of infection to both patients and staff.



2.6 The new Ambulance base will have no patient visits or public access. The primary use of the facility will be for storage, re-stocking and maintenance of the ambulance vehicles, along with the operational staff necessary for providing the transfer service.

2.7 The current Embrace Ambulance Team consists of about 70 people, with 21 number of staff on duty at any one time.

These include:

- 3 call handlers (including call centre manager)
- 2 consultants plus one handing over from previous shift or on call
- Lead nurse
- Embrace secretary
- Project lead
- 4 drivers
- 4 nurses
- 3 Registrars/ANPs
- 1 Observer/trainee/ new starter

2.8 Car parking

The car parking requirements will accommodate the staff working numbers allowing for their shift patterns of 21 people. The Barnsley Local Plan Supplementary Planning Document Parking Nov 2019 recommends the number of spaces (as per Table 1, use class B1 for office use) references 1 space per 30 m². 553m² / 30m² will require 19 spaces minimum.

The proposed development will provide 29 spaces, along with the retention of the 8 cycle hoops for 16 Bicycles.

3 Design Constraints / Considerations

- 3.1 The relocation of the Embrace Ambulance Service will provide the hospital the opportunity to provide a safer, healthier environment for staff. Also allowing for better storage and maintenance of specialist equipment and ambulances, needed for facilitating paediatric critical care.



Photo showing access to site

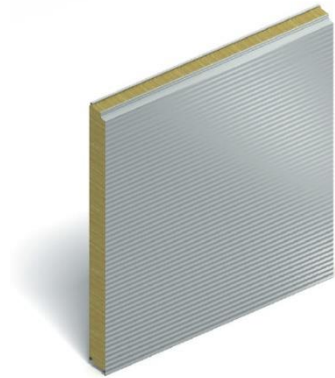
- 3.2 The redesign and adaptation of the existing building provides the Embrace Ambulance Service the ability to provide the highest level of service, care and quality, without the lengthy time or cost of a new build. This has additional benefit of being an environmentally sustainable option, and will maintain their operational infrastructure and planning for travelling to the various hospitals throughout the UK.
- 3.3 Staff wellbeing and safety is a high priority, to ensure good levels of mental health, providing quiet spaces and designated areas for socialising. Showers, lockers and changing facilities will be upgraded to current standards to give staff better, larger areas for storage of equipment personal belongings and uniform changing. This will prevent spaces such as corridors and stairs being used for storage or resting, allowing them to be kept clear for emergency evacuation.

- 3.4 A state-of-the-art Simulation Suite and Control room will be provided alongside the Ambulance Bays on the ground floor. This will act as a training facility for staff and clinicians, to improve patient care, familiarity with new / future equipment.
- 3.5 The Ambulance Bays will provide larger spaces for each Ambulance, to mitigate and reduce the risk of accidents or damage to staff and vehicles.
- 3.6 Photographs of building to be used for new Embrace Ambulance Base



4 Design Approach

- 4.1 It is proposed to lease the new office unit long term and remove all internal lightweight partitions to allow for reconfiguration of the floor plan to accommodate an ambulance Base.
- 4.2 There is an existing raised floor on both levels which will be removed to allow for a more robust heavy-duty screed to be installed to the ambulance bay.
- 4.3 The building is a steel frame with composite insulated panels (similar to the Kingspan off-site system). This will allow for relatively easy modifications and minor structural work to form new openings.

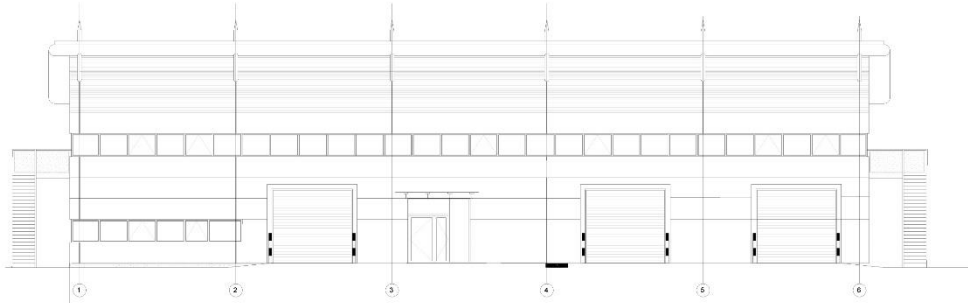


- 4.4 It is proposed that two new first floor external staircases are built to allow for first floor evacuation in the event of a fire, as required by part B2 of the UK Building Regulations.
- 4.5 The changes to the visual appearance of the existing building will be kept to a minimum and only to provide access into and out of the space. All the internal spaces will be designed to suit the existing window and structural modules.

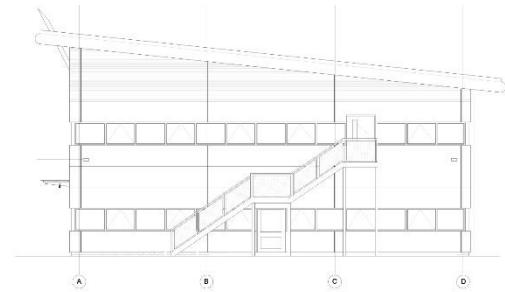
5 Sustainability

- 5.1 The decision to convert an existing building into the new ambulance Base for the Sheffield Children's Hospital Embrace Service will provide a highly sustainable option and avoid the need to build a new facility. The internal services will also be retained where possible.
- 5.2 Paragraph 2.3 of the Barnsley Local Plan, Supplementary Planning document Sustainable Construction and Climate Adaption as part of the NPPF 2021 encourages the reuse of existing buildings as a strategy towards lowering carbon emissions; *The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. should help to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.'*

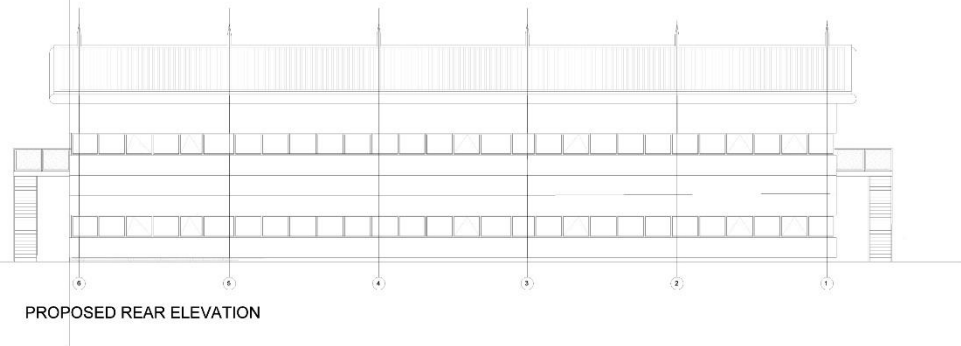
7.2 Proposed Elevations.



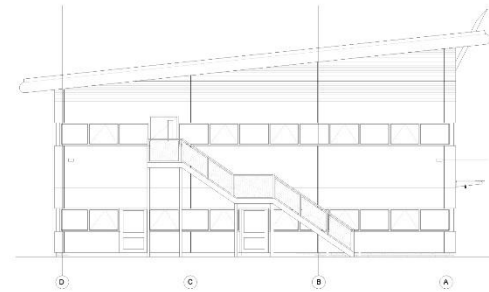
PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION



PROPOSED SIDE ELEVATION



PROPOSED REAR ELEVATION



PROPOSED SIDE ELEVATION