



Calm, safe spaces aid wellbeing at The Royal Sussex Hospital

Brighton, UK

Rockfon Acoustic Systems have been installed throughout the major redevelopment of this clinically-renowned teaching hospital to help deliver a calm, safe environment for patients, staff and visitors.

Working principally with Laing O'Rourke, and engineering and planning specialists WSP, BDP is responsible for the realisation of the recently completed 62,000m², 13 storey Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton as part of the first cohort of the government's new hospital programme. BDP Architect Director Enzo Guddemi, "The Louisa Martindale building is designed to deliver a reassuring, calming atmosphere for

patients and staff to support and enhance the amazing care provided by the Trust."

Creating a world-leading healthcare resource

Named after the first female GP in Brighton*, the Louisa Martindale Building is expected to treat more than 100,000 annually. It provides major new facilities for more than 30 wards and departments encompassing new diagnostic and theatre capacity accompanied by new equipment, MRI and CT scanners for the imaging department and increased capacity for departments in high demand including neuroscience, stroke and intensive care.

Products

Rockfon® Medicare® Standard
Rockfon Medicare Plus
Rockfon MaxiSpan T24™ Grid
Chicago Metallic™ Alu 740 Grid
Chicago Metallic T24 Click
2890 ECR Class D Grid

Sounds Beautiful

The bright, spacious main entrance provides a welcoming space, bringing together various routes to the rest of the hospital. The hospital demonstrates the kind of interiors a modern, technology-enabled NHS requires, with wards providing five times as much space per patient, all with south facing coastal views.

Collaborating toward a shared vision

Laing O'Rourke were main contractor for the build. They said, "...its opening marks the completion of stage one of a 14-year project known as the '3Ts', bringing teaching, trauma and tertiary care facilities to the region. Laing O'Rourke Project Leader Gavin Body, "We have handed over an outstanding hospital to the NHS and I know it will transform the way that doctors and nurses can care for their patients. The project has been one with complex challenges, which have included delivering the new facilities while allowing the existing hospital to keep services running throughout."

Rockfon's Simon Slade, "This was a large, high profile project spanning several years, involving a number of design, planning and construction specialists along with three ceiling system installation companies, all working together to create a cutting-edge healthcare resource which we were very pleased to have contributed to."



HTM 60 compliance requirements

More than 21,000m² of Rockfon Medicare Standard and Rockfon Medicare Plus were specified throughout the corridors, atrium, circulation areas, wards and ICU. Simon Slade explains why these tiles were chosen, "This specialist range provides superior performance in terms of infection control, Class A sound absorption and the highest fire safety (Class A1), while helping create light-filled spaces where sound is kept under control, which research shows aids recovery and wellbeing. Simple cleaning and low particle emission (ISO Class 3 and 4) also mark Medicare out as the perfect choice for healthcare specification."

A team of specialist installation companies worked on the ceiling package

As well as its involvement in other facets of the build, Linear Projects England was involved in the installation of Rockfon acoustic systems at the hospital alongside two other specialist firms, Gen Drywall and AT Jones.

Wide-span ceilings – Primary Structure I Profile grid

Surrey-based Gen Drywall Contracts Manager, Mark Bean, spoke about which Rockfon systems were used for wide-span ceilings such as those in the atrium, "Rockfon's Simon Slade attended quite a few site visits to provide design and technical advice and the Rockfon team came up with a solution to manage the sometimes very congested services – electrical, heating, water pipes etc. – in the ceiling void where traditional fixings could not be used. We used Chicago Metallic Primary Structure I Profile as the principle structure to shift, separate and organise the services, with a secondary grid installed underneath it to effectively conceal them."

Corridor ceilings – MaxiSpan T24 grid

In the corridors, the cost-effective Rockfon MaxiSpan T24 system was used, where the grid is suspended from the walls by brackets. It can reach 3m in a single span, enabling BDP to specify three different module dimensions – 600x600mm, 600x1200mm and 2100x600mm – and different tile edge details, allowing the grid to be exposed, recessed or concealed in some areas of the hospital with the combination of square and plank modules being used in a novel way to visually break up the space while retaining acoustic and hygienic performance.





AT Jones also installed ceiling systems at the Royal Sussex. ATJ Group Director, Keith Horsford, commented, *“This was an interesting, challenging and ultimately rewarding project. We worked alongside Rockfon to overcome congested services and benefited from the fact that the Rockfon system is very easy to work with. The lightweight tiles also help to simplify the process to achieving a quality installation. This is one of the best products on the market for when performance and aesthetics are key.”*

Ceilings in the MRI scan room – Alu 740 grid

Another specialist grid was required in the MRI scan room as the strong magnetic fields in the scanner would be affected by a traditional galvanised steel grid. Made from non-magnetic (nonferrous) aluminium, Chicago Metallic Alu 740 was specified here.

Enhanced corrosion resistance grid in clinical areas

In clinical areas, including HDU and ICU, Chicago Metallic T24 Click 2890 ECR Class D grid was used. All ECR grid components and accessories are made of pre-painted galvanised steel Z 275 meeting the highest Class D corrosion resistance requirements of EN13964.

The perfect fit for healthcare specification

Infection control is paramount in healthcare and medical settings. Rockfon products are made from a core of basalt stone wool, which, in addition to being innately non-combustible, naturally offers protection against microbial spread. The Medicare range embodies additional antibacterial safeguards, vitally important for its use in the intensive care unit at the Royal Sussex.

Leading property and construction Consultancy, McBains, worked alongside the scheme’s contractor, Laing O’Rourke, providing construction supervision, together with cost and project management services. Director Steve Brooker commented: *“The Louisa Martindale is an incredible, state-of-the-art building that has transformed patient care and staff working environments at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. This scheme is a shining example of how collaboration between consultant, contractor and client can ensure the successful delivery of a technical and logistically-challenging project”.*

Find out more by
visiting www.rockfon.co.uk
or email info@rockfon.co.uk



We are Rockfon
Our stone wool acoustic solutions help create healthy spaces where people can create, focus and thrive.

Beyond acoustics, our ceilings and wall panels improve visual comfort, reflect daylight, resist moisture and repel bacteria. We are continually innovating to transform human wellbeing.

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