



## MTX EXPANDS OXFORD SURGICAL CAPACITY

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A major project at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford is moving closer to completion, bringing one of the region's most significant healthcare infrastructure investments a step nearer to delivery.

The 5 storey Surgical Elective Centre development for Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust spans approximately 7,541 square metres and represents a substantial investment in Oxfordshire's healthcare estate. Designed to expand surgical capacity, enhance clinical facilities and support efforts to reduce elective waiting lists, the development will provide seven operating theatres, including two hybrid theatres equipped to support highly complex procedures through advanced imaging and surgical technologies.

Specialist healthcare construction company MTX Contracts Ltd is delivering the facility using modern methods of construction (MMC). Construction of the structure is scheduled for completion during the summer, with a phased opening of the operating theatres planned later in the year. Alongside the new theatres, the building will

accommodate pre-operative assessment areas, recovery wards, staff facilities and supporting clinical spaces designed to improve operational efficiency and enhance patient care.

Supporting the delivery of modern healthcare environments requires far more than the construction of the building itself. Critical infrastructure systems sit at the heart of every operating theatre and clinical facility, ensuring healthcare professionals can deliver safe and effective treatment. Among the specialist companies supporting healthcare projects across the UK is SHJ Medical & Lab Gas Specialists, a business with more than six decades of experience in Medical and Laboratory Gas Pipeline Systems. Through design, installation, commissioning and maintenance services, the company plays an important role in delivering the essential infrastructure that underpins modern healthcare environments and is supporting projects nationwide through the NHS New Hospital Programme.

The project forms part of Oxford University Hospitals' wider strategy to modernise



healthcare delivery while responding to increasing patient demand and the ongoing challenge of tackling surgical backlogs across NHS services.

MTX Contracts has established a strong reputation for delivering complex healthcare facilities through the application of offsite manufacturing and modular construction techniques. These methods help reduce programme times, minimise disruption on live hospital sites and improve sustainability outcomes. At the John Radcliffe Hospital, the approach has enabled rapid progress while maintaining operational continuity across one of the country's busiest teaching hospital campuses.

The arrival of 365 offsite-manufactured steel structural modules between July and September

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2025 marked a major milestone in the project. Over an 8 week period, the site was transformed from a former car park into a five-storey structure that was weatherproof and ready for internal fit out.

The growing adoption of modern methods of construction is becoming a defining trend across healthcare infrastructure delivery. At the same time, NHS Trusts are increasingly investing in specialist systems and future-ready engineering solutions that improve building performance, compliance and patient outcomes throughout the lifecycle of healthcare facilities. Medical gas infrastructure remains one of the most critical elements within operating theatres, recovery wards and treatment areas, highlighting the importance of specialist expertise alongside the main construction programme.

The John Radcliffe Hospital is home to many of the region's specialist services, including major trauma care, neuroscience, cardiac services and emergency medicine. Delivering a project of this scale within such a live clinical environment requires careful coordination between contractors, clinical teams and hospital management to ensure patient services remain uninterrupted throughout construction.

The Surgical Elective Centre is one of several major developments currently underway across the campus. In May 2026, Oxford University Hospitals secured approval from the Building Safety Regulator to progress the next phase of refurbishment and reconfiguration works within the Emergency Department and urgent care facilities. Together, the developments demonstrate the





scale of investment currently being made across the hospital estate.

For MTX Contracts, the project further strengthens an already substantial healthcare portfolio. Previous work at the John Radcliffe Hospital includes the award-winning 48-bed Critical Care building, completed from initial design to handover in just 15 months using a hybrid construction approach and 148 offsite-manufactured steel structural units.

MTX Managing Director David Hartley explained: “NHS Trusts are increasingly using modern methods of construction to provide new facilities in shorter time scales. Our expertise in more effectively applying MMC principles is proven to deliver compliant, high-quality new hospital facilities through a greener, safer build process that is also more cost effective than conventional building methods. It ensures an earlier return on investment for the Trust, and improved outcomes for patients while maintaining the highest standards.”

Once complete, the new Surgical Elective Centre will play an important role in improving access to planned procedures across Oxfordshire and the wider region, helping reduce waiting times while supporting the long-term resilience of local healthcare services. The project also demonstrates how collaboration between principal contractors, specialist engineering partners and NHS organisations is helping deliver the next generation of healthcare infrastructure across the UK.