

# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Western General Hospital Site Works  
Update: Spring 2023

This newsletter provides an update on the projects being undertaken across the Western General Hospital site. It is part of a series of quarterly newsletters for local residents.

## Update on current works



**Ward 1 Pharmacy Expansion and Refurbishment:** This project is now complete. It has modernised Ward 1, where outpatients receive chemotherapy and other systemic anti-cancer therapies. It also provides a new specialist pharmacy facility to prepare cancer drugs for patients. The temporary pharmacy, which was installed in the car park behind ward 1 will be removed from site.

**Improvements to existing cancer wards:** Inpatient cancer wards 2 to 4 within the Edinburgh Cancer Centre are being refurbished to provide more space, comfort and privacy for patients and staff. Work is well underway in ward 4 and partial refurbishment of Ward 3 is due to begin soon, both will continue until Summer 2023. This will improve our inpatient chemotherapy treatment area. Following this, work will then begin on upgrading ward 2.

**New Cancer Assessment Unit:** Construction is underway to provide a new Cancer Assessment Unit within the existing building. Located on the ground floor, this will provide an easily accessible, modern, fit for purpose unit for patients and staff. Work is anticipated to be complete by Winter 2023.

**Linear Accelerator (Linac) Bunkers and new office building:** Following their move into the offices, staff have named the building 'Castle View' inspired by its outlook towards Edinburgh Castle. Planning is now underway to prepare the bunker in the lower part of the building for the installation of a new linear accelerator. This specialist radiotherapy treatment machine can destroy cancer cells in patients. The installation will help the Edinburgh Cancer Centre to meet increasing demand for radiotherapy services.

**Car parking and bike shelters:** The car park between Pentland Lodge and Hospital Main Drive was closed due to Castle View (Linac) building work. Now this is complete the car park will permanently change to provide 6 disabled parking spaces. An additional secured bike shelter has also been installed in the car park in front of the Pentland Lodge.

**Scottish Water / Flood attenuation system:** We're committed to developing sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) within the hospital site. As part of this, we have completed phase 2 of the surface water attenuation system, originally commenced in 2019. The system will store excess rainwater and help to remove the risk of flooding in and around the site. The second phase connections will provide an additional 300 cubic metres (300,000 litres) of surface water storage for the Western General site, before discharging at reduced flow rates into the Craighleith Burn.

**Royal Victoria Hospital site:** NHS Lothian are working with a contractor to assess the perimeter wall of the former RVH and take remedial repair action to address any damage.

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## Future Work

**Edinburgh Cancer Centre advanced works:** Our project team is preparing for demolition of redundant buildings around the site that will be the crucial first step of future development at the Western General Hospital. This will include the former Department of Clinical Neurosciences (DCN) Building which has been empty since this service relocated to the Royal Infirmary Site in 2019. The demolition and decant strategy will be carried out in 4 phases. The document will be publicly available upon approval from the Scottish Government.

**Arts and Greenspaces:** We are working collaboratively with our NHS Lothian Charity colleagues, Tonic Arts, to improve our internal and external spaces. This work will be directed by a new Arts and Greenspaces Site Steering Group. Tonic Arts is an award-winning arts in health and wellbeing programme. It was recently commended for the art programme at our Haematology Centre (see success stories). It is currently working with NHS Lothian staff to host a stills gallery uncovering the green or quiet spaces they find time for quiet within their hectic work life.

**Energy Infrastructure works:** as part of the ongoing upgrade of energy infrastructure, the project team is undertaking the demolition of the redundant laundry building, joined to the site energy centre, on the north-west of the site. The removal will be a machine demolition, undertaken in a controlled and safe manner by a specialist contractor, with dust suppression equipment, along with dust and wind monitoring to manage the impacts. Works are due to commence in September and expected to take 22 weeks.

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## Planning updates

An Initial Agreement proposal for a new Edinburgh Cancer Centre, the specialist cancer facility for the South-East of Scotland, has been submitted to the Scottish Government. A proposal to improve Critical Care facilities at the Western has also been developed. NHS Lothian is waiting for Scottish Government's support for both of these business cases.

## Success

### **Edinburgh Haematology Centre:**

An ambitious art programme which formed a central part of the major re-provision of the Edinburgh Haematology Centre won a prestigious award. NHS Lothian Charity's Tonic Arts team were commended for working with NHS Lothian, patients and staff to incorporate art into creating calming, visually interesting spaces which help support people's mental health and wellbeing. Read more:

[bit.ly/nhslothianartsaward](https://bit.ly/nhslothianartsaward)



**Edinburgh Cancer Centre Study:** Researchers from NHS Lothian and the University of Edinburgh conducted a clinical study to investigate the extent to which cancer and cancer treatment affects COVID-19 immunity. The largest of its kind in the world it found that COVID-19 infection rates in patients with cancer largely mirrored those of their local population. Read more:

[bit.ly/studycovid19immunity](https://bit.ly/studycovid19immunity)

**New Treatment for Kidney Cancer Patients:** A kidney cancer drug has been accepted for use within NHS Scotland and across the UK thanks to an international study, with NHS Lothian and Edinburgh University leading the UK part of the trial. Thanks to the research, the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has advised that the drug will now be made available to treat eligible adults with renal cell carcinoma (RCC). Read more: [bit.ly/kidneycancernhs](https://bit.ly/kidneycancernhs)

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## Contact us

We would like to thank our neighbours and the local community for their patience and understanding throughout the redevelopment programme. We apologise for any inconvenience caused during these essential construction works, which are managed within the requirements of the Considerate Constructors Scheme to minimise disruption.

If you have any questions regarding the redevelopment programme, please email:

[loth.wghcommunications@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:loth.wghcommunications@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

You can also find more information by visiting our website: [www.nhslothian.scot/WGHfuture](https://www.nhslothian.scot/WGHfuture)

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**1** R.I.D.U | Department of Infectious Disease

Wards : 41 & 42

**2** A.D.B | Alexander Donald Building

Wards : 20, 22 - 27

**3** A.F.B. | Anne Ferguson Building

Wards : 50 & 58

**4** O.P.D. | Outpatient Department Medical Receiving Unit

**5** C.T.B. | Clock Tower Building

Wards : 10-15

**6** R.V.B. | Royal Victoria Building

Wards : 70-75

**7** E.C.C. | Edinburgh Cancer Centre

Wards : 1 -8

**8** R.D.B | Renal Dialysis Building

**9** Inverleith Building



## Western General Hospital Patient and Visitor Map

### Map Key

Patient Entrance	Shop	Bus Stop
Car Park	Cafe	ATM
Vehicle Entrance	Taxi and Dropoff	Public Bicycle Parking
One Way		