

The new Equine Hospital and recovery facilities for the Royal Veterinary College were created as an extension to the existing Large Animal Clinical Centre, forming part of the ongoing modernisation of the Hawkshead Campus.

ArchitecturePLB worked closely with the steering group to design and deliver a world class facility, offering maximum impact on a very limited budget. The brief was developed out of a close working relationship with the RVC's team, visiting other recent facilities and considering their successes and failures with the occupants to ensure the new facility fully meet RVC's needs now and in the future.

The new facility allows surgeons to incorporate the latest techniques for patient treatment and surgery, which along with the addition of a dedicated standing surgery will allow the Equine Surgery to expand its range of procedures.

The accommodation needs were highly technical with detailed requirements for sterile surgical spaces and complex hoisting arrangements for large unconscious animals.

As well as meeting the hygiene and technical requirements, it was important to create a pleasant working environment for the staff. This was achieved within the limited budget by considered use of colour, careful detailing and modest rooflights to create brightly daylight circulation and changing areas.

The form and materials respond elegantly to the agrarian nature of the edge of the campus adjacent to open fields and countryside, whilst integrating with the contemporary research buildings nearby. By tucking the main bulk of the building into the ground, the levels cleverly offer access from both the higher lunge and exercise yards, and level transfer from the existing adjacent diagnostics area to theatre.



01 Surgical Theatre  
02 Use of colour in washrooms  
03 Exterior of stable entrance