

CASE STUDY

New Fire Station for Whitley Wood

Whitley Wood Fire Station is home to a specialist firefighter training facility and serves as a vital educational resource for fire crews, as well as an important community asset for local residents.

After a leak caused irreparable damage to the old building, the fire station needed an urgent replacement. Speed and sustainability were key priorities for the build, so the team chose to replace the training centre with an upgraded modular building. The Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service chose to award to Premier Modular, via the NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS) Modular Building Framework Agreement.



THE CHALLENGE

Originally opened in 1992, Whitley Wood Fire Station prepares firefighters for unique emergency situations with practical training, such as working at height or in water, handling hazardous materials, and deployment to terrorist incidents. Alongside training, the station also hosts community activities including fire safety education and youth group visits.

Following a leak, plans were made to redevelop the facility with an upgraded education space and improved amenities, including car and bike parking. The new building had to be constructed on a fully operational site, minimising disruption and meeting a tight schedule to ensure firefighters could continue their essential training without interruption.

Speed and sustainability were key priorities for the build, so the fire station team made the decision to replace the training centre with an upgraded modular building.



THE SOLUTION

Premier Modular was appointed by the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service as the principal contractor. It was tasked with designing and delivering a two-storey modular building to provide space for work, training, and welfare facilities.

To create the new purpose-built space, the modular training facility was constructed using 20 modules across two-storeys, comprising 435m² per floor, complete with a main entrance staircase and separate fire exit staircase. As part of the full turnkey design, Premier Modular also worked on the site's groundworks ahead of the building installation.

The building's ground floor provided a functional training facility. This included:

- Equipment stores and space for fire kit
- Drying areas
- Shower rooms for use after training
- A main plant room
- Training briefing area





THE SOLUTION

The first-floor facilities featured:

- Offices
- Meeting rooms
- A training room
- A breakout room with kitchen.

Despite the training facility being a standalone building, linking systems, such as access control, were installed to improve operations across the wider site.

As an integral part of the community, it was important for the building to be both functional and adaptable so it could be used for training and local events. Folding partitions were included in rooms for flexibility so the space could be adapted depending on its use.

Outside, a canopy was installed to offer shelter to visitors and fire crew, and an eye-catching cladding in 'fire red' was fitted as a feature around the building to create a unique and aesthetically pleasing finished look.

To minimise the environmental impact of the building, solar panels were installed to generate power for the building.

THE RESULT

Delivery and installation of Whitley Wood Fire Station's new training facility was scheduled during a cold weather snap. The first snow of the year started just as work began, but as the building was constructed offsite, the cold weather didn't impact the project's timeline.

As part of a full turnkey solution, foundations and groundwork were prepared ahead of delivery, allowing the install to go ahead on time, and with minimal disruption, despite the weather.

The new training centre was successfully delivered and constructed within just four days. The final design achieved an 'Excellent' BREEAM rating for sustainable building performance, so the fire station will have reduced bills and operational carbon in its lifetime.

Utilising the Modular Buildings Framework Agreement, the station had access to modern methods of construction, safe in the knowledge that compliance was covered.

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Our strategy aims to have Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service achieve net zero carbon emissions in line with the UK Government's target of 2050 and working with sustainability-conscious partners such as Premier Modular Limited has helped the Service take a crucial step towards achieving this goal.

Christian Riley

Communications and Engagement Officer
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To find out more about Premier Modular, contact hello@premiermodular.co.uk, to learn about NHS SBS' framework agreement, contact sbs.hello@nhs.net