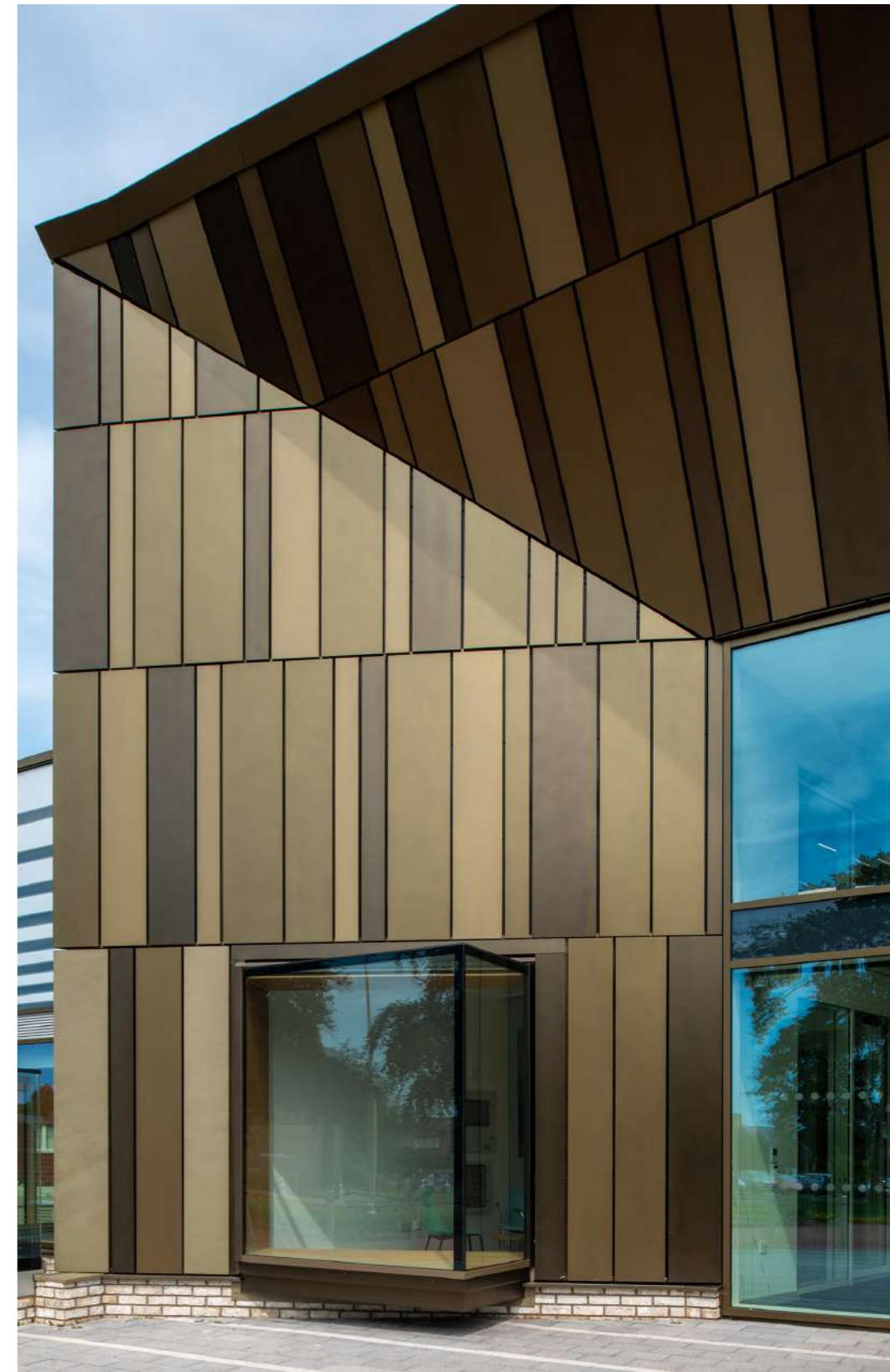


Northern Centre for Cancer Care

Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle





**“ The new building is fantastic,
I had radiotherapy in the old building
and the difference is incredible,
when I walked into here I thought...
*You know what, they can really do
something for me in here* ”**

Cancer care patient

P+HS
architects

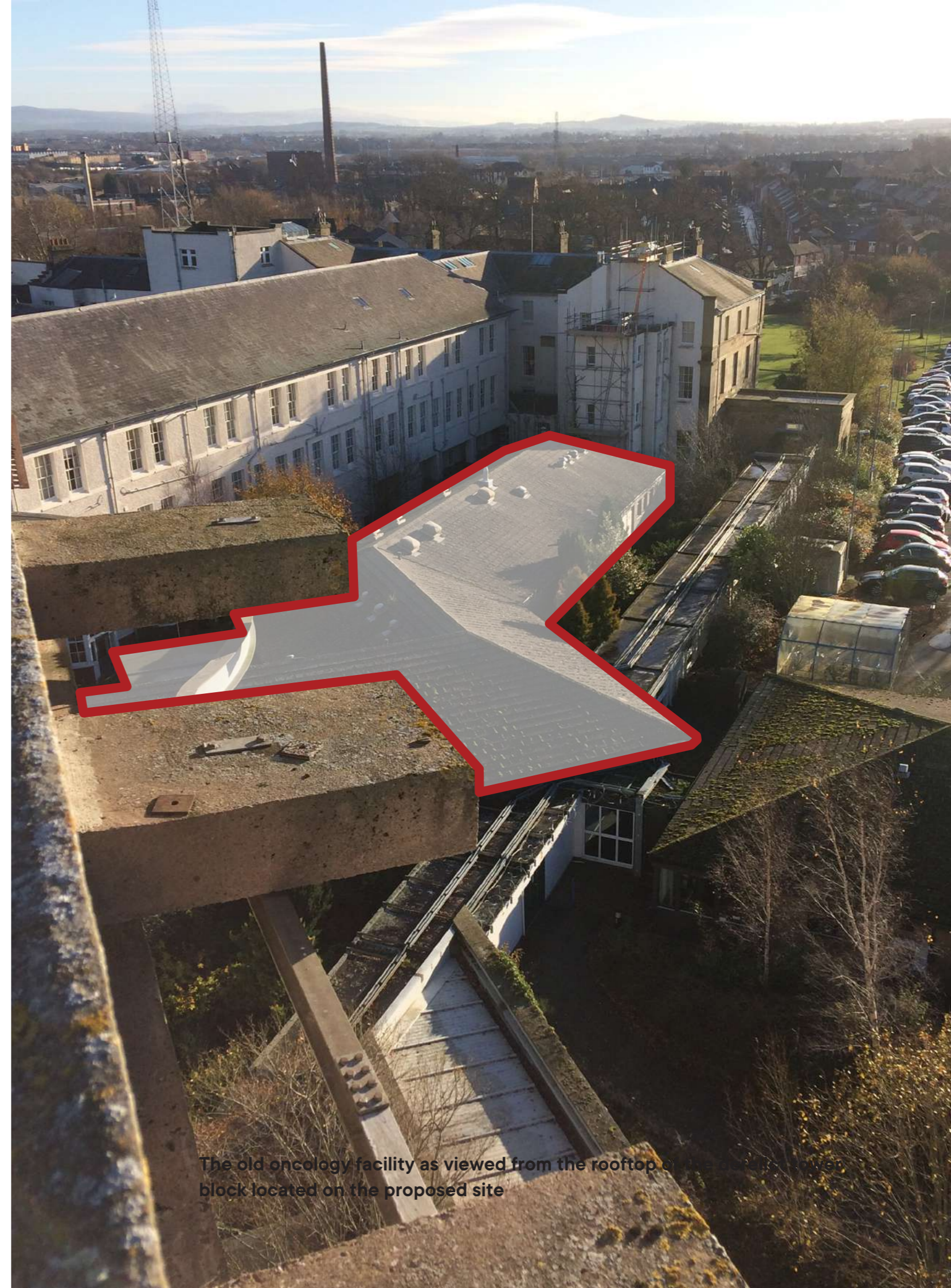
Old Facilities

The Northern Centre for Cancer Care is located at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, on the former site of a redundant tower block. The old oncology department at Cumberland Infirmary was outdated and fell short on expected standards of clinical compliance for the provision of a safe, effective and high quality local service.

Although the standard of care provided by the Trust remained exceptional the standard of care that could be provided was hampered by the facilities the department occupied. There was no room for future growth of the service, stretching the cancer care services to their breaking point. Cumberland Infirmary also suffered staff recruitment issues, with other facilities elsewhere in the country offering far better built environments complete with modern equipment and technology, something which Cumberland Infirmary could not compete with in their existing buildings.

Patients using the services would often have to travel between different areas of the hospital and between different sites as part of the patient pathway, particularly between chemotherapy and radiotherapy services which were located in different buildings adding further distress to an already stressful situation.

Adjacent: The old oncology facility as viewed from the rooftop of the now demolished derelict tower block located on the new site of the Cancer Centre.



The old oncology facility as viewed from the rooftop of the now demolished tower block located on the proposed site

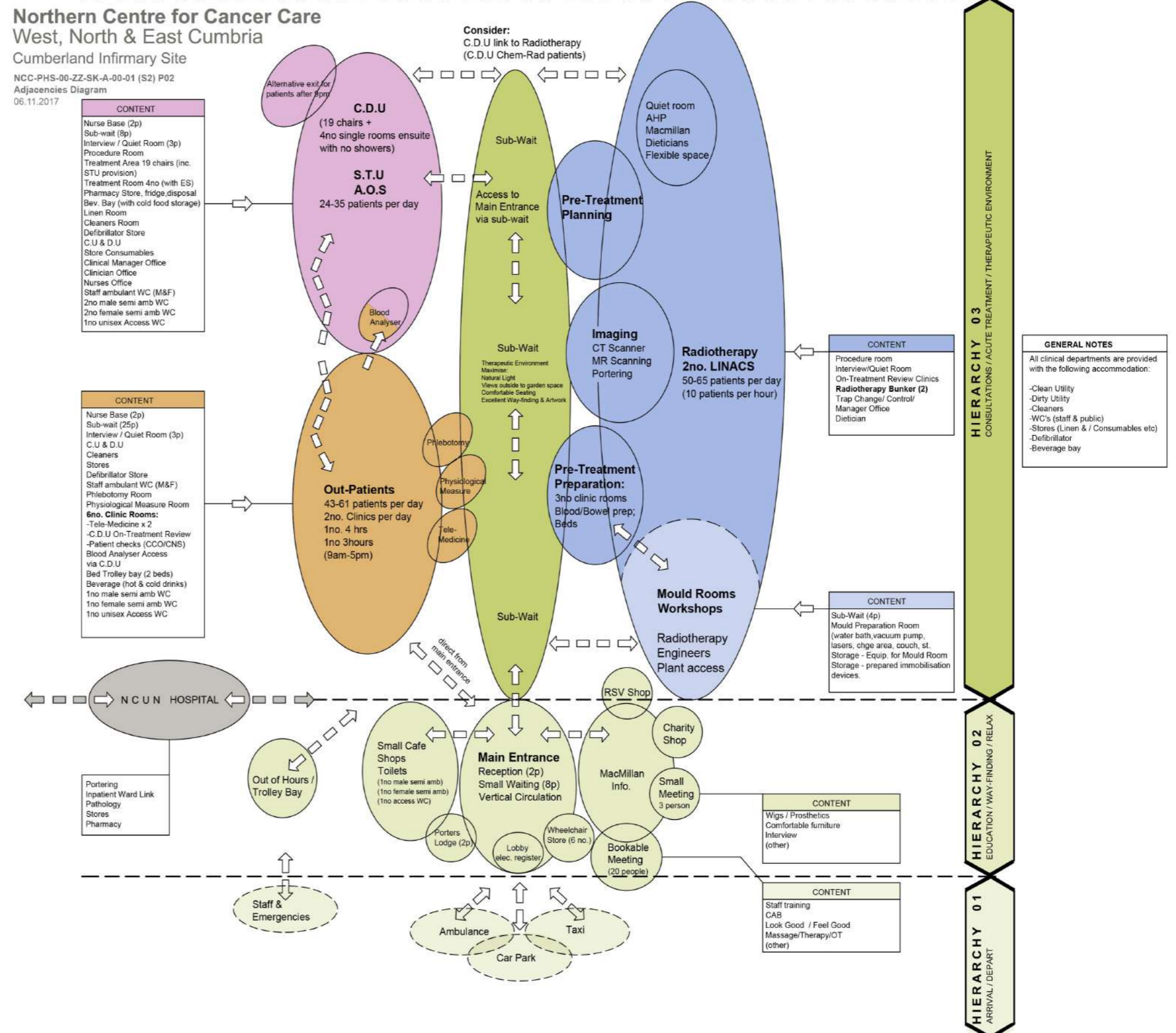
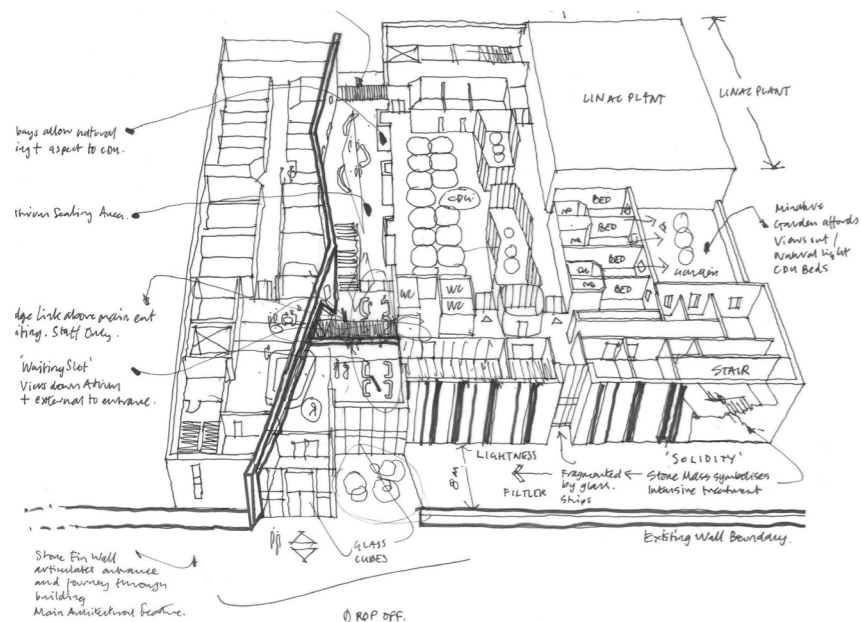
Developing the design together

“Jill had made a list of ‘must haves’. It was easy to say what we didn’t want! We looked at the flow, the function, the environment, and futureproofing.

The architects listened and put forward ideas too. It was a really collaborative process.”

“We can see how the architects really listened to feedback - Adding a staff rest room and meeting room; a flow allowing movement between linacs and CT without walking through the main waiting areas; side rooms for chemo patients that retained visual access from the nurses’ station”

Suzanne Stanley Oncology Services Manager Cumbria NHS



Internal strategy rationale

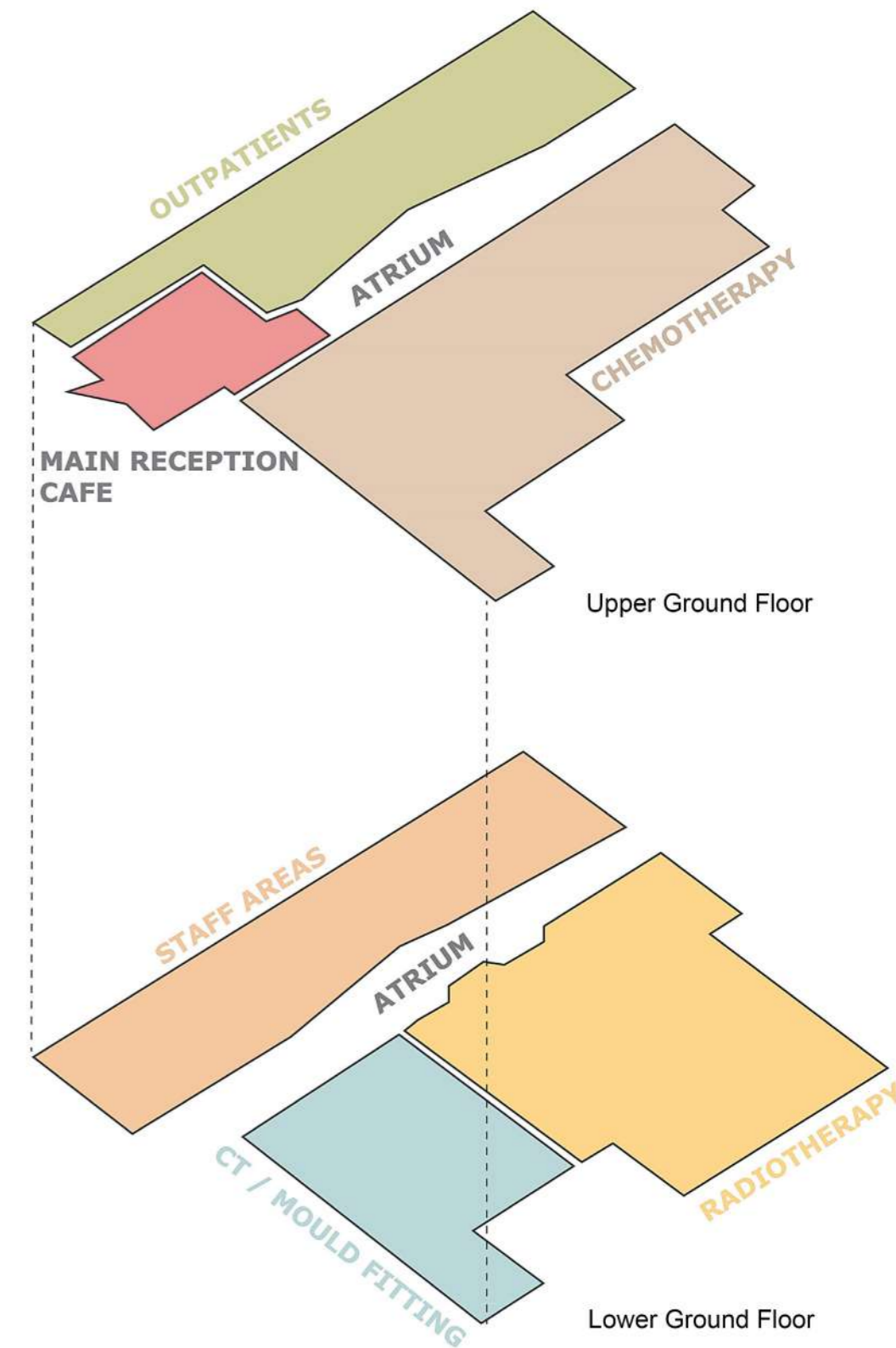
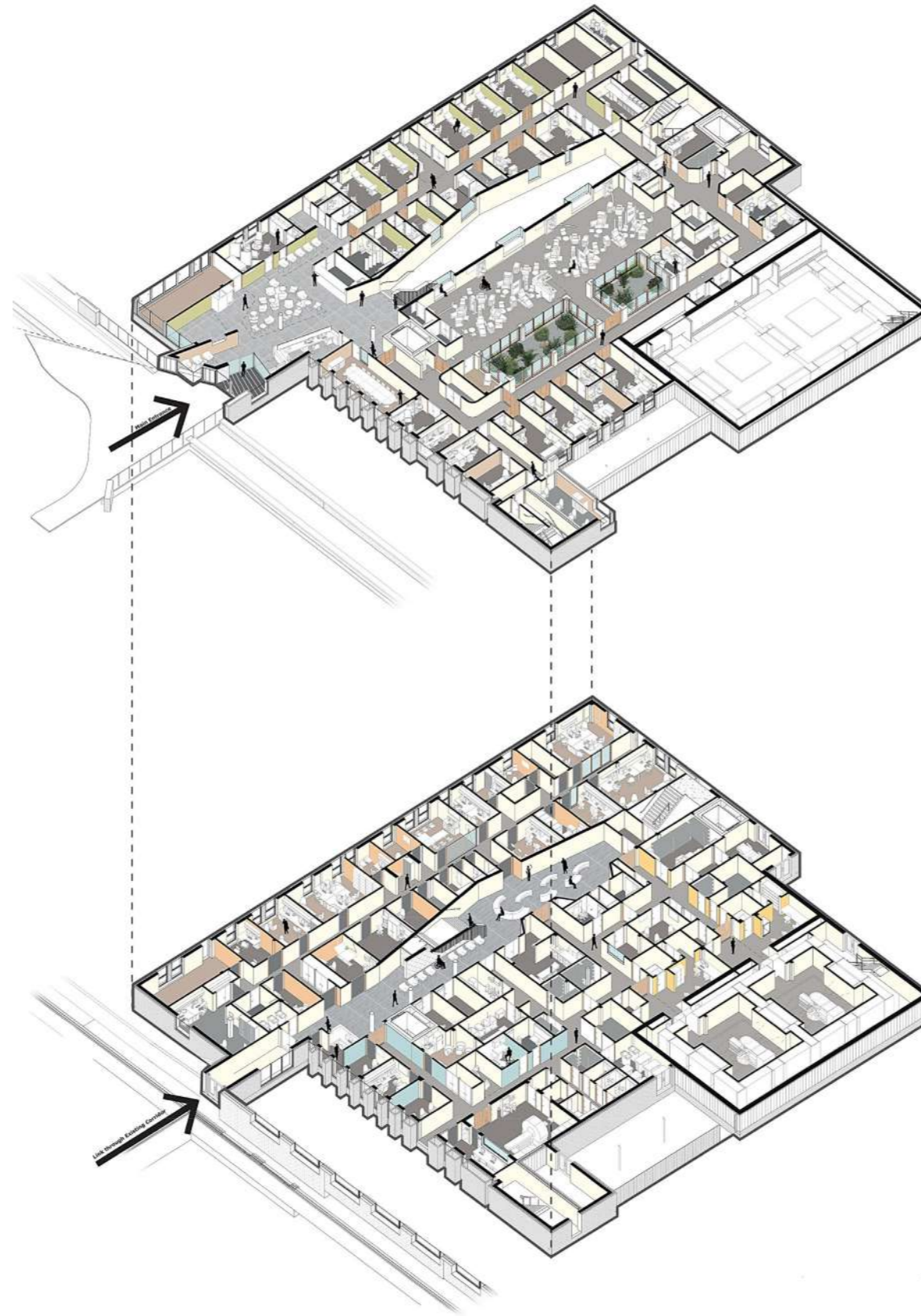
The project builds on the concept of achieving simplicity from the complex.

Avoiding stress and anxiety, users can access multiple departments (outpatient, chemotherapy, radiology) from a central entrance and waiting area, without needing to circulate via faceless traditional hospital street.

The Reception, Outpatients and Chemotherapy Departments are located on the ground floor in close proximity to the main entrance.

Radiotherapy occupies the lower ground floor providing two modern LINAC suites including control rooms patient change and support facilities. A sub-reception, CT suite and Mould Room departments make up the remaining clinical accommodation. Staff offices and support spaces are located adjacent the clinical spaces wing.

A central atrium with top lit glazing divides the lower ground floor providing circulation and patient seating spaces outside each of the sub-departments of Radiotherapy.





The new centre [has] really revolutionised our working day. We feel bright, energised and really so proud to be here. We've always given a fantastic service and really good care to our patients but now we can do that in a beautiful building with beautiful surroundings.

It's just a pleasure to be here all day.

Helen Taylor
Lead Treatment Radiographer

A welcoming building with a sense of support

Guided by the aspirations of the clinical teams, 'people' were central in driving the design.

A highly functional layout with simple wayfinding, how people would experience each space, colours, natural light and the smallest of architectural details were carefully considered to create a place that is compassionate, therapeutic and supports healing and recovery.

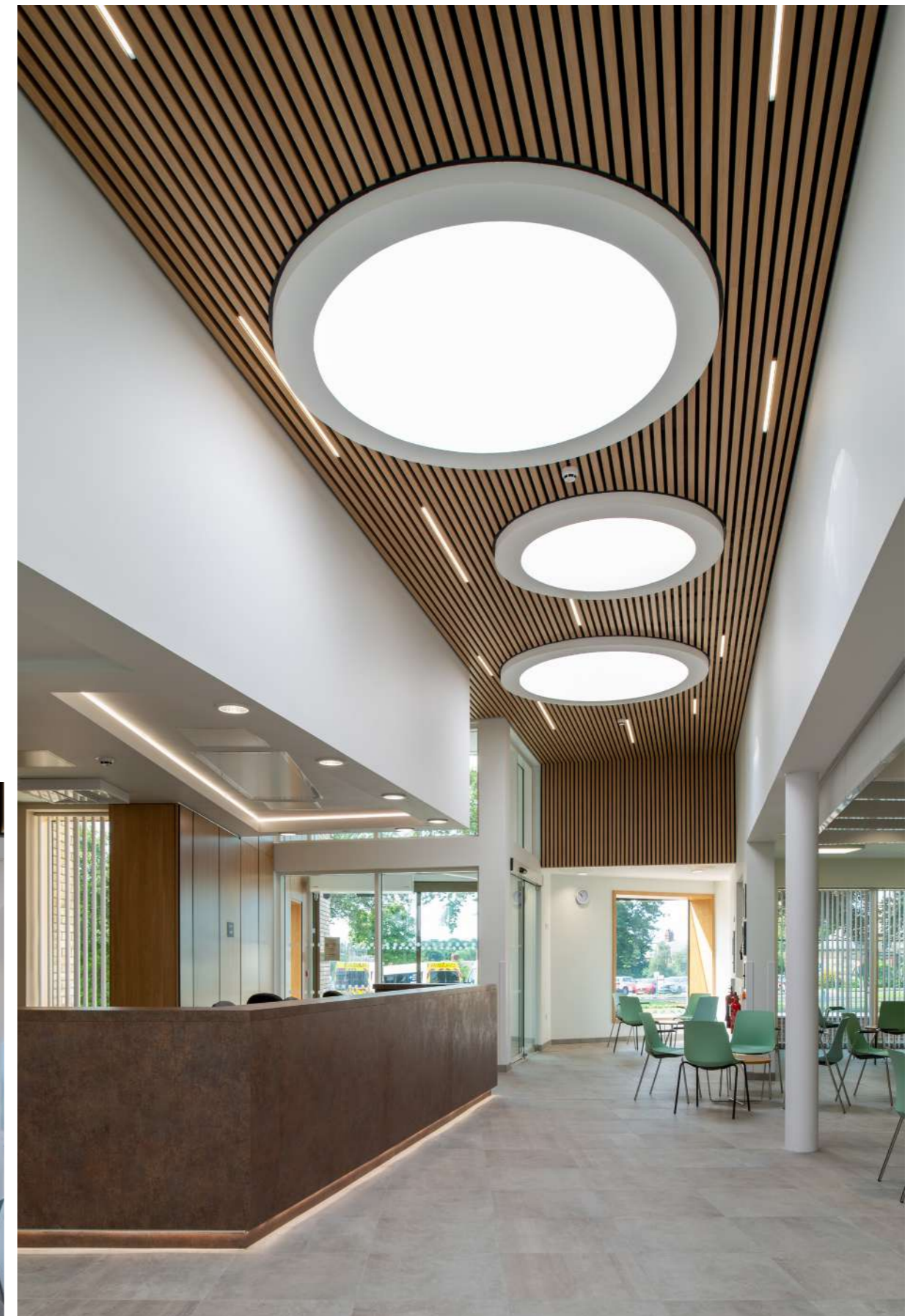
The design subtly considers and balances the introverted functional requirements of the building with a person-centric outward looking facility.



The cafe, run by charity People First provides meals for Chemo patients has something a *“bit more personalised than standard hospital food!”* (Vic, People First) Traditions are forming as a sense of community grows within the building - patients are often regular visitors over time. At the end of their treatment cycle, patients ring the bell to mark the milestone and get a free cuppa from the cafe.

“The NCCC is a benchmark. On entry to the building there’s nothing clinical about it. People come in and get that as their first impression.”

Phil Powell, Directorate Manager



The geometry of the space draws people towards the atrium and heart of the building



“It’s a nice, pleasant place to come and the staff are amazing. Clean and welcoming treatment areas and the communal areas are quite social; it’s nice that people can chat to one another while they are waiting. The building is light and airy; it doesn’t feel like a hospital.”

Patient

“I like the way the colours in the atrium artwork are picked up in the furniture.”

Patient



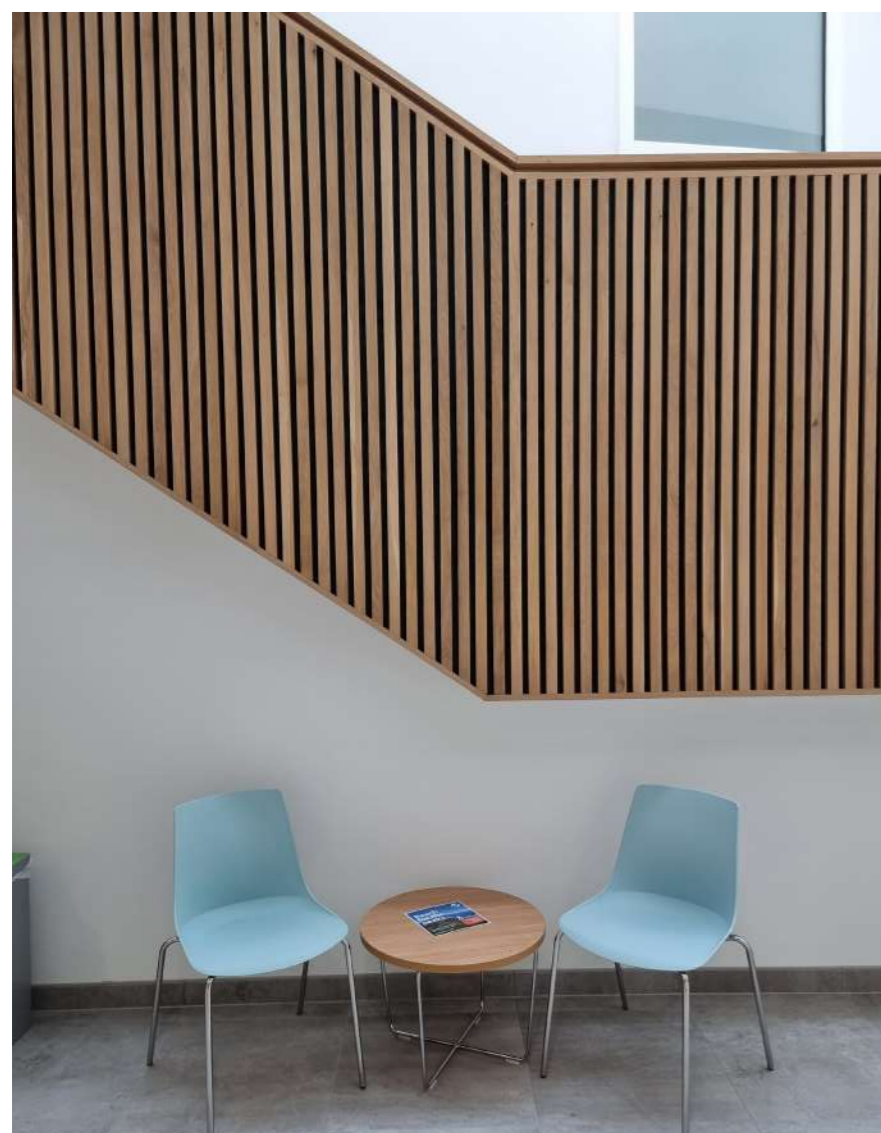
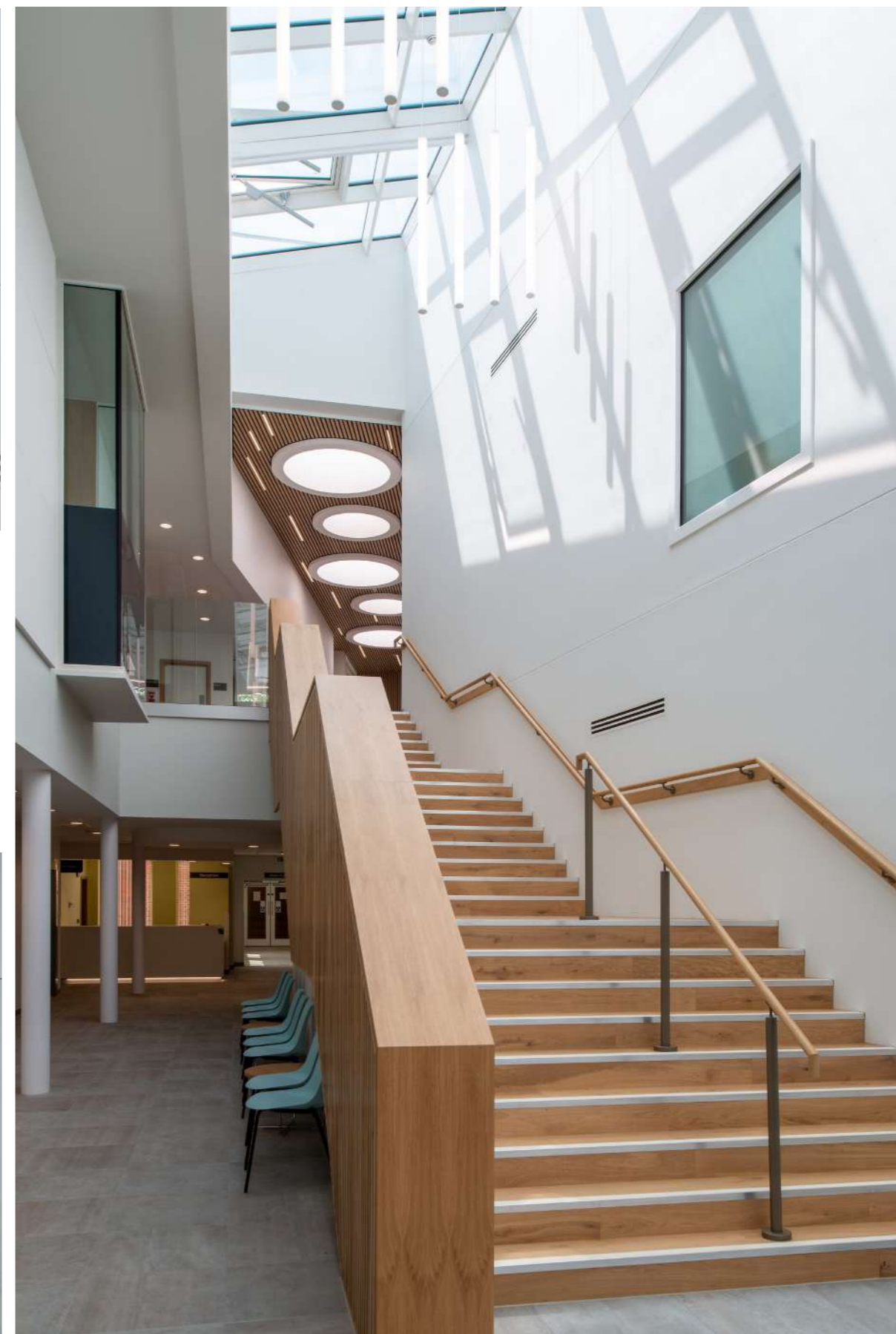
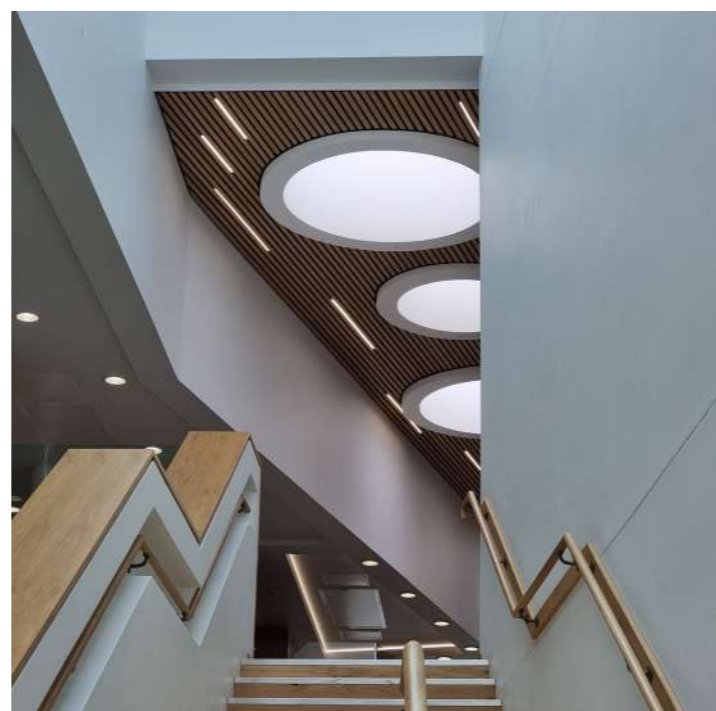
A feature in itself, the beautifully detailed staircase creates a flow within the building

Using a simple palette, design detailing celebrates high-quality materials and craftsmanship.

The central cascading staircase flows from ground to lower ground floor, opening up the space and allowing participants to understand the building as one and the services it provides.

“People come in and they want to walk down the stairs. The wood takes the edge off it – non-clinical, natural, tactile material.”

Phil Powell, Directorate Manager



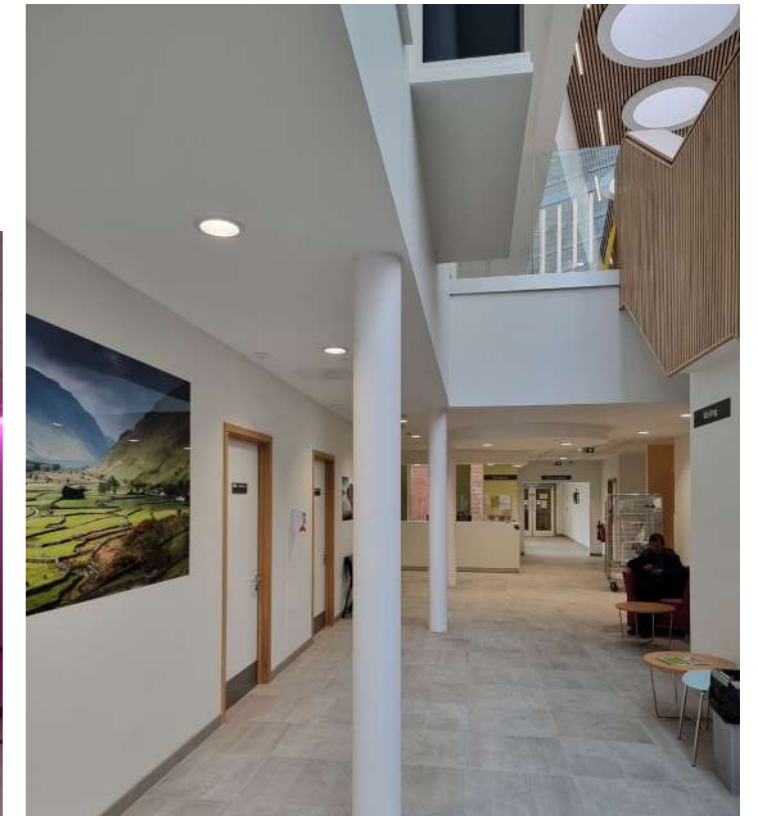
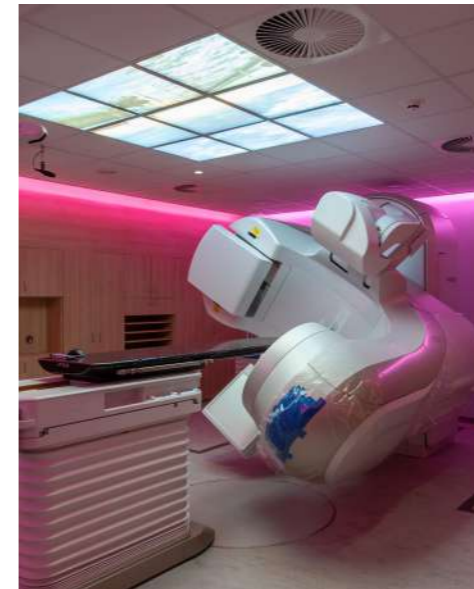
Artwork provides interest at every turn

The Atrium is the main public space of the building as a point to gather and transition.

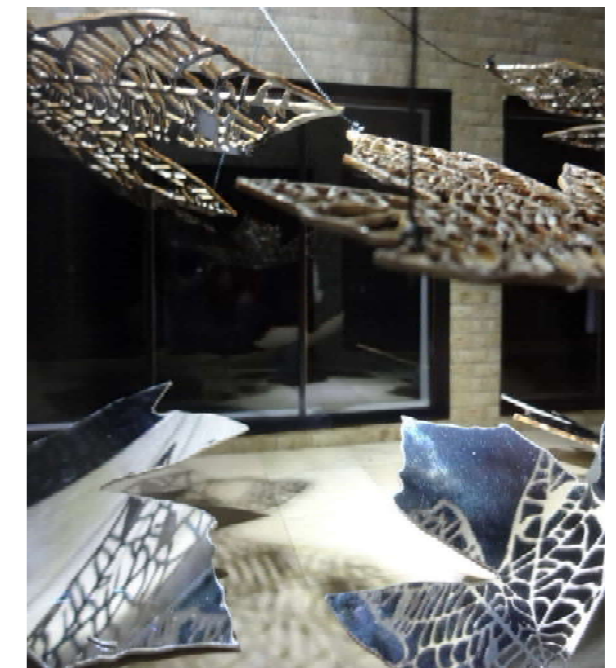
A print of an original textile *The Seasons* by Daniel Ibbotson was printed onto acoustic panelling, mitigating noise but also creating a focal piece of artwork within this key space.



Scenes of the local landscape are abundant throughout the building used on walls, sliding doors to the LINAC bunkers themselves and as backlit artwork within the treatment spaces.



Further artwork includes *Floating Leaves* installed within lightwells alongside the chemo suite providing views for patients of a constantly changing artwork, acting as a positive distraction to the treatment process.



Model images describing the space at late afternoon.

“It’s a seismic change. Cancer is difficult; this building gives people more confidence”

Phil Powell, Directorate Manager

Cancer Services & Clinical Haematology, Newcastle Hospitals NHS



Scan for staff feedback
interviews or click link here

<https://bit.ly/3P3Wkuw>

