

CASE STUDY 5

OVER THE TOP

Medway NHS Trust are constructing a new Ophthalmology ward in the grounds of Medway Maritime Hospital at Gillingham, Kent. Due to numerous underground services and some poor ground conditions within the site area it was specified that piled foundations should be installed. So far so good!

The site of the new ward is bounded on all sides by occupied hospital buildings and therefore not available for construction traffic. The only access? – over the roof!

On a Saturday morning in early December 2004 our restricted access piling rig, power pack and ancillary equipment, together

with 30 tonnes of sand and 15 tonnes of cement were craned over the hospital roof using a 100 tonne mobile crane. This operation took approximately 45 crane lifts.

Because the crane was positioned on the main access route to the hospital and A&E, a temporary traffic management scheme involving diversions had to be implemented.

Daily labour access to and from the site was via a scaffold walkway constructed over the hospital roof.

We installed 28 No 250 to 300mm diameter auger bored piles to depths of 5.5 to 12.0m. Once drilled the piles were reinforced and completed with a C40 sand/cement grout.

On completion of the pile installation we craned the equipment back over the roof ready to move on to the next challenge. All in a day's work!

