



# Hellesdon Rivers Mental Health Facility



**Mental health is now much more widely talked about in our personal and professional lives. Some of us may well have dealt with negative or anxious feelings, but others are unable to pull through times like this without support. When a person's mental health has been affected to a point where they require professional residential care, it is important that they are provided with a secure and protective environment.**

Hellesdon Hospital is a mental health facility in Hellesdon, Norfolk. It is managed by Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. The hospital is due to be expanded to create the provision of five 16 new bed wards. As part of the specification process for the superstructure on the Hellesdon Rivers scheme Sam Dawe, Technical Manager at Innovaré Systems was, not only asked to design a new structural wall solution to meet stringent robustness tests under Annex B of the Department of Health Environmental Design Guide for Adult Medium Secure Services but also undertook personal responsibility for trying to single-handedly destroy his own work afterwards.

A slightly unusual request but one that Innovaré Systems were keen to support given the critical importance and purpose of the knowledge and data the tests have now provided.

All internal walls for Medium Secure Services should be of standard but robust construction, with non-removal wall finishes and reflective of the need to reduce noise and echo. Internal walls in patient areas particularly those in seclusion or high dependency areas should be able to resist sustained attack. The specification of the wall panel and door fixture successfully resisted a range of attacks from different implements including a sustained attack comprising 15 consecutive blows with a minimum swing of 1m with a 6kg rubber paving maul.

Project	Hellesdon Rivers Robustness Test Trial Panel
Client	Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust Contractor
Contractor	Vinci Construction UK Ltd
Architect	Hoopers Architects

Vinci was keen to use SIPs for this scheme because of the associated benefits it brings but also the need to satisfy the various stakeholders regarding robustness, maintenance, and repair of the solutions. Innovaré is proud to be developing offsite timber-framed panels capable of providing medium-security adult accommodation, which is resilient, quiet, safe, and warm.