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30 July 2009

### **TERRAPIN PRESCRIBES 'FLAT PACK' SOLUTION FOR HEALTH CENTRE**

Terrapin's offsite construction technology has assisted rapid completion of Welwyn Garden City's new walk-in health centre. Terrapin's Unitrex building system provided a fast and flexible solution for the 300m<sup>2</sup> structure, with factory-built panelised units delivered in flat pack form ready for speedy assembly and finishing on site. Start of erection on site to handover of the single storey building to NHS East & North Hertfordshire, the Primary Care Trust, was completed by Terrapin in just nine weeks. The scheme was delivered under the NHS LIFT initiative by Assemble Community Partnership, on behalf of the PCT.

*Full story on next page*

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*High-res pics attached separately and available at <http://www.terrapiin.ourpressoffice.com/project/healthcare.html>*

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Spring House Medical Centre offers a full range of GP and related medical services from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week. Terrapin worked with Assemble's project PM and QS Tropus and Spicer to design and build the modern healthcare facility which incorporates reception and waiting areas, consulting and treatment rooms, management offices and clinical stores. The specification also includes air conditioning and an innovative 'light pipe' system in the main lobby to provide an energy efficient source of natural light. The flat roofed building is clad in lightweight aggregate panels, and the internal partitioning is specified to provide 90 minute fire resistance and sound insulation up to 56dB. Grey

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powder coated aluminium windows are complemented by low threshold aluminium entrance doors, with ramp access for wheelchairs in accordance with Part M of the Building Regulations.

As part of the contract, Terrapin agreed to sign up to the Code of Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS), an industry initiative aimed at encouraging best practice beyond statutory requirements. The CCS assessed the site as clean, tidy and considerate to close neighbours. Using offsite construction methods played a key role in complying with the Code explains Terrapin Project Manager, Adam Johnson. “A faster build programme, fewer deliveries - and therefore fewer traffic movements - all help to minimise disruption to residents. In addition, less waste is produced on site, which contributed to a good CCS score for our environmental performance on this project. Reducing the work that needs to be completed on site also improves health and safety - another category covered by the Code.”

Terrapin is a privately owned company and is one of the UK’s leaders in offsite construction. It has been expanding the potential of Modern Methods of Construction since 1949 and now offers a range of complementary MMC technologies that can be used individually or combined to create bespoke building solutions for every application;

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panel based technology, volumetric design technology and steel framed, element build technology.

Terrapin is the first company to be accredited under Build*off*site's new supplier registration scheme operated by Lloyd's Register. The scheme standardises all aspects of the offsite process and ensures best practice, offering clients confidence in the assured levels of competence, methodology and safe working of the accredited supplier.

Ends

469 words

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