

British Forces Post Office Relocation

RAF Northolt, Middlesex, United Kingdom



Client

Defence Estates

Value

€34.5 million / £ 23 million

Schedule

April 2006 – October 2007

Assignment

Design, Manage, Construct & Maintain

Contract Type

Prime Contract

Architect

Stride Treglown



The Ministry of Defence centralised its mail distribution systems at Mill Hill in 1962. However, the buildings there date from 1903 and are no longer suited to meet future needs – currently over four million kilograms of mail flow through the British Forces Post Office (BFPO) per year.

Under this stand alone Prime contract, Bovis Lend Lease will design and construct a new purpose-built facility including a 3,000 square metre headquarters building and a fully equipped 7,000 square metre sorting hall. The project will include the installation of the specialised equipment to sort the thousands of letters, packets and parcels handled by the BFPO. There will also be some external works.

The 'letter from home' statue presently sited at Mill Hill and depicting the importance of the service to morale of the British Forces will also be relocated and given pride of place at BFPO's new home at RAF Northolt.

BFPO staff will take up occupation by autumn 2007.

The commission also includes a three-year compliance period (facilities management) that will be delivered by Vita Lend Lease.

The relocation of the BFPO to RAF Northolt forms part of Defence Estate's Project MoDEL (Ministry of Defence Estate in London). Project MoDEL is making a major contribution to the consolidation of the Defence Estate in Greater London by delivering the development of an integrated "Anchor Site" at RAF Northolt, relocation of London based units and disposal of sites thus rendered surplus to requirements

Approximately 900 military and civilian personnel will join the existing complement of around 900 at RAF Northolt, where they will benefit from brand new living, working and messing accommodation plus sports, social, health and welfare facilities. The primary being an enhanced quality of life for servicemen and women in addition to a flexible estate solution for the long-term – thus allowing efficient and effective delivery of operational outputs.

In parallel MoDEL's disposal portfolio will release around 100 hectares of predominantly brownfield land within the Greater London area offering the opportunities for the construction of thousands of new homes.