

## NHS Nightingale Case Study

When Prince Charles opened the NHS Nightingale facility on 3 April, it marked the culmination of a project that began less than two weeks previously. During this time, the construction industry joined forces with the military and NHS, working together to plan, design and build this ambitious and unprecedented facility.

Build UK Contractor member [Wilson James](#) was involved from the very early stages. Initially tasked with coordinating the construction logistics aspect of the operation, it was soon asked to support the NHS supply chain as well. Jason West, Wilson James' Head of Logistics and Integration for NHS Nightingale, explained:

*'The NHS needed security and construction logistics functions to be implemented and we were ready, willing and able to respond. We used expertise from all areas of our business to coordinate with the military and other private sector contractor companies to support the NHS. The whole really was greater than the sum of its parts and the level of cooperation and collaboration demonstrated across the board was incredible to witness.'*

Managing the security of a dynamic and complex site requires a high level of strategic implementation and, by drawing on its experience with projects like the 2010 Commonwealth Games, Wilson James was able to configure a workable and effective system that kept people and assets safe, as well as a chain of custody to protect equipment. At the same, it made sure that workers were able to access the areas they needed to without hindrance or delay.

For Lee Evans, Wilson James Security Lead on NHS Nightingale, this was one of the most striking aspects of the experience:

*'All over the site boundaries were broken between competitors and it takes something very special to make that happen. This was a tough project with long antisocial hours and little preparation or planning time. Despite that, it has been very rewarding and there were no serious injuries, incidents or accidents. For me personally, configuring the security for NHS Nightingale's opening ceremony the opening ceremony of NHS Nightingale, along with our security partners and the Metropolitan Police, was particularly special.'*

Such an extraordinary period in the UK's history is exemplified by [the creation of NHS Nightingale](#). Arguably the UK's most ambitious medical project, it is now one of the world's largest critical care units for treating patients with coronavirus. NHS Nightingale will be able to hold as many as 4,000 patients across 80 wards and is the first of several such facilities planned across the UK.