

# Steel appeal for Barnsley

## High quality, custom-fabricated steelwork is the finishing touch to a striking endoscope decontamination unit

Just across the M1 from Britain's one-time Steel City of Sheffield is Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, where a steelwork manufacturer has recently and impressively left its mark.

Like many others, the trust has amalgamated endoscope decontamination into sterile services, and a new-build endoscope reprocessing facility opened towards the end of last year, featuring a striking row of new, highly-efficient Wassenburg AERs and custom-built, high quality steel furniture from Neocare, that "fits the bill exactly."



dosing for the manual wash using a Serchem dispenser and chemicals. It's out of the way, it's brilliant." The dispenser fits on a specially made bracket that be easily moved along the sinks if required.

Carol said: "We've had a number of custom-built items made for us. On the dirty side there is little, purpose-made table with a drawer for the connectors, between the two double-drainer sinks. There's a work table for all the writing and working instructions work and one in the corner for the filing.

"On the clean side, in the gowning room, there's a bench



Carol Swayne, sterile services manager Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Ladley of Neocare provided us with a quote incorporating all the steelwork we needed, which included custom-building it to our specifications. Following evaluation of the quotes we decided to proceed with Neocare as it offered the most cost-

good product which was within our budget and offered excellent value for money.

"The quality of the welding is superb too. They're all clean, smooth lines."

All Neocare's work is manufactured from Marine Grade 316 stainless steel - the highest quality. While the company has a vast range of standard equipment, the majority of its work is custom-made to suit specific requirements by Food Grade trained welders. All items are built to ISO 14544 Part 5 Cleanrooms and associated controlled environments.

It's not just the quality of the steel, it's the attention to detail and fitness for purpose that sets the work apart.

"All the items have antimicrobial feet," explained Carol. "You can easily put the castors back on if you need to wheel the units around to do a deep clean.

Infection prevention and control thought they were fantastic as well.

"The detail of the design and quality is very good. There's a foot control for the rise and fall sinks - rather than the hand control on the side that you see on others - which is better for infection prevention and control. Also the distance, the actual rise and fall travelled, is quite a bit more than on others I've seen.

"The sinks have automatic



effective solution.

"Steve came quite a few times to ensure everything was OK, it was a fantastic service," said Carol. "Everything's made with a better quality steel than is usually used.

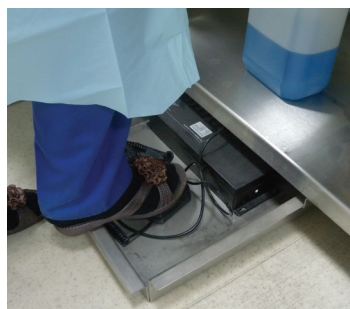
"While I've no expertise, you can see the difference in the quality of the build and the grade of the steel. Our estates team certainly appreciate it, as does our project manager, so they knew we were getting a



for staff to sit on while changing, with space for their shoes underneath.

"There's an interlocked pass-through hatch with a shelf, so you can pass clean and dirty through.

"Also in the cleanroom the bench and shelf are just one long, continuous surface, without any breaks - nowhere for dirt to hide."



As an example of the quality of service and attention to detail, Carol explained: "We had an issue with the pass-through hatch - which wasn't down to Neocare, but the contractor who installed it. When Steve heard, he came in with a colleague and they re-fitted it themselves. It's now a very good job - perfectly finished."

Carol said: "We did all the designs together, myself and Steve. It's been a good relationship with Neocare. It's not just about selling the product, you want the after sales too. "Through having items custom-built to our dimensions - height, depth and width - and designed to



fit awkward corners, so we can utilise every available space. It all came together quite quickly. "I would certainly go down this route again of having custom-built, using the same grade of steel as well. You need it to last a lot of years."

With a user's perspective, Joanne Pursley, endoscopy technician, said: "The steelwork we've had done is ideal. The sinks are a bonus as they rise and lower to suit the operator. It's custom-built so everything's to hand. Neocare asked my advice.

"Compared to what we had in the old department, the quality of the work is impressive."

Considering some of the benefits in more detail, Neocare's Steve Ladley explained:



chemicals." Steve said: "The connector to the taps is Neocare's WRAS-approved, anti-microbial flexi-hose - not EPDM. Ours won't grow biofilm as others do.



"It's impregnated with silver. Any microbes in the water are killed when they touch the walls of the hose. And flexi-hose lasts for ten years."

"Also, with others the sink's waste is chrome on brass, screwed into the bowl on a rubber seal. This can be a problem waiting to happen. It stays damp



"Everything we supply is Marine Grade 316 stainless steel - the highest quality."

But it's not just the quality of the steel that makes Neocare stand out. "You'll find that with some other manufacturers, the bowls are bought in and welded into place. Ours are custom-built as part of the unit.

"We normally make the bowls to 500mm x 500mm x 200mm deep, which is an optimum size for the scope's manual wash. This size gives a saving on chemicals and the cost of the sink. In fact, over the life-time of the unit users save the cost of the sink on



and offers an ideal environment for Pseudomonas Aeruginosa to colonise.

"Ours are custom-made, by ourselves, in Marine Grade 316 stainless steel and welded into place, which prevents any issues with Pseudomonas. So we're fully compliant with HTM 04."

A particular feature is the foot-operated, rise and fall mechanism. The foot pedal sits discreetly in a sliding tray, which an operator can easily pull out with their foot. This means that the pedal is out of the way of the operator when not required.

The extent of the electrically height adjustable travel of the sinks is an impressive feature too. "They move 350mm," said Steve. "Others are usually only 150 to 200mm.

"We designed ours with advice from health ergonomics professionals on the position of the bowl, to reduce the risk stress on the wrists, elbows, shoulders, neck and back. Operators can be stood for long periods of the day, so it's important that all aspects of design are taken into account.

"It's not just about height adjustment. It's also about the depth of the bowl, the position of the bowl in the sink and the length of travel of the height adjustment. The optimum mixture of these three elements will provide the perfect Health & Safety sink for each operator."

Another feature of the sinks is the 300mm high rear and side splash panels, which are fitted as standard. These help to prevent contaminated water or detritus from being accidentally splashed onto surrounding walls, making the clean-up of the immediate area simple and reducing the risk of secondary contamination.

"We fit antibacterial feet to every item," said Steve. "These can be easily interchanged with

castors for manoeuvrability."

Steve emphasised: "We manufacture everything to ISO 14544 Part 5 cleanrooms standard, which requires items to be as smooth and indentation free as possible, without any holes. We apply that principle to everything we build for sterile services and endoscopy decontamination departments. We maintain the integrity of the steel with minimum welding and inclusions.

"The project with Carol for Barnsley Hospital is typical of the work we do. They specified all the sizes, but we went round and measured everything. It was all delivered on time, with no delays and on budget. Our costs also include delivery and installation.

"Neocare use European certified stainless steel. We will custom-fabricate anything. It's all bespoke."

Carol added: "If anyone has any ideas for their own department, I'd certainly



recommend Neocare. Steve will work you to ensure everything is exactly as you want it.

"You're the customer and nothing is too much trouble."

For further information, call Steve Ladley of Neocare on 01594 832044 or 07717 001144, e-mail [steve@neocare.org.uk](mailto:steve@neocare.org.uk) or visit [www.neocare.org.uk](http://www.neocare.org.uk)



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