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QA Hospital, Heli Catch Fence

The problem

Design and install a heli-pad safety fence around the perimeter of the roof on the new Pathology Block at QA hospital, Portsmouth. The design and installation had to integrate with construction of the roof and accommodate the main contractors design changes.



A section of the completed fence

The solution

Using experience gained from the design and construction of cantilevered rock catch fences and maintaining lighthouse heli-nets, Vertical Technology created a design that would satisfy the client and comply with the Aviation Authorities requirements. All design calculations were independently checked by the clients consulting engineers.

- Design and fabricate 3 types of spar to fit the concrete ring beam, for end loads and fit the curved steel frame access ramps.
- Design the cast in cradle anchors for the ring beam.
- Produce construction drawings.
- Install and load test the fence spars.
- Complete the fence with bespoke nets.





With no edge protection and the spars in an awkward location, roped access was widely used to install the heli-pad safety fence.



The curved ramp section had to accommodate changes to the clients design at the 11th hour.



On some sides the drop was 30m with tight space below making roped access ideal.