



Special points of interest:

- * 5860 Roof sprinklers
- * 12200 In-Rack sprinklers
- * Over 1 km of Distribution mains.
- * over 30 km of range pipe-work.
- * 530,000 Sq-ft warehouse
- * Barrel vault ceiling
- * 22m apex height

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A&F Break all the records to Get Sainsburys over "The Bridge" on time

A&F have managed to turn around an amazingly fast track project on behalf of Sainsbury's supply chain.

With less than a week's notice to quote A&F have managed to secure this major project against strong competition from the "BIG Boys"

The client had made a last minute decision to fit out this speculative 530,000 square foot Distribution Centre for their Christmas rush.

In order for the business plan to work, the stock had to start rolling in on the 19th October come what may.

A&F who service and maintain Sainsbury's distribution network and have also completed a number of successful fit outs within their estate were asked if they could fulfill such a task.

Managing Director—Mark Stansfield who has Project Managed over 11 million square feet of distribution centre fit outs, decided it was time to show everyone what A&F were capable of doing. A&F were extremely busy at the time and were on another site for the same client, fitting out 12,500 heads at their Hams Hall depot when the call came.

"we had less than a week to; visit site, obtain costs & provide our quote.

The next challenge was to demonstrate that we were capable of supplying the project and thus delivering it on time—see below story and programme.



Aerial & flank Shots of the 48,500 Sq m Storage & Distribution Centre



The programme & Associated Challenges.

Due to the lack of lead time and the steadfast moving in date then the programme had to be dynamic.

Due to all Firepumps and tanks being built to order with 10-12 week lead times (in most cases), meant the pumps wouldn't be available until

after the product started rolling in.

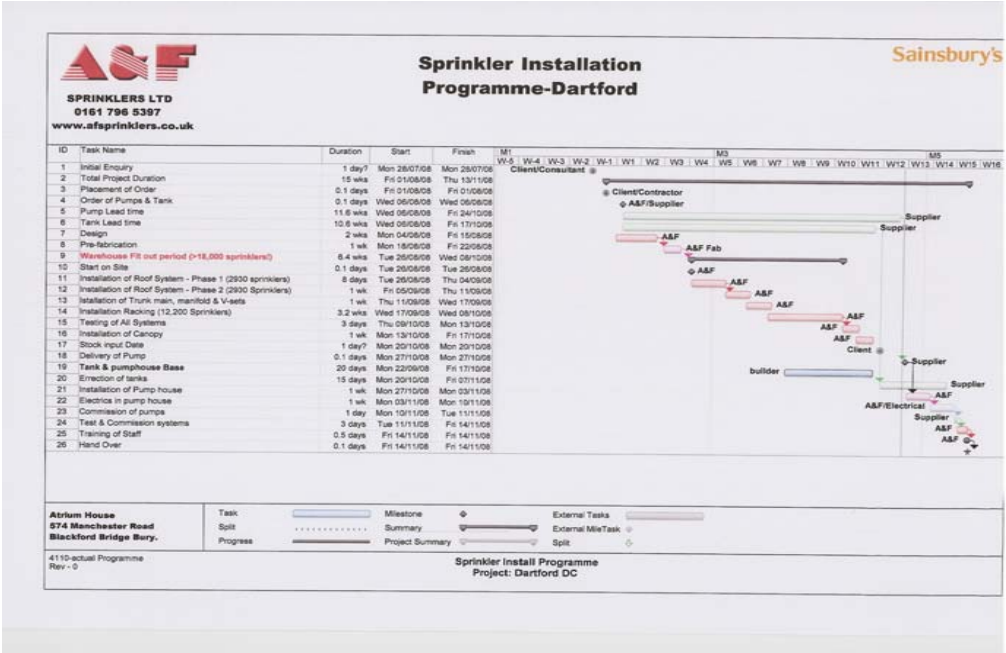
A&F did not want the risk of testing a new system with product in situ so we looked outside of the box....

"With so much pipework, we needed a bit more than a truck driven tanker

to fill our systems on time. First of all we ensured that the hydrant system was mad live by the utilities. Then we used a specialist test pump (developed with our supply chain) we then pressure tested all our systems to the statutory 15 bars. "cont...pg 2.

Round the Clock around the country 24/7. No job too Big No Job too Small.

Programme



North East Flank View

Over 18,000 Sprinklers Fitted & Tested in less than 7 Weeks!

Testing without Tanks & pumps

Because the Pumps & tanks would never have been ready on time, we needed to act fast.

Due to the number of systems and the vast quantity of pipes involved, then the sometimes used lorry tanker & pump would take too long and we would miss the hard fast moving in date.

So what did we do?

The speculative built unit had been fitted with an external underground hydrant system.

We ensured that this was connected by the utilities ASAP.

We then spoke to our supply chain and developed a specialist pump that would work from a hydrant supply but deliver Sprinkler test pressures.

This allowed us to fill the systems

quickly and efficiently so that we could verify there integrity before any product was imported into the building.

All systems were installed and tested to 15 bars over a week before the move in date.

This along with the clients progressive storage ramp-up quantities helped appease the officer.

As the temperature dropped, we even hard piped and lagged the feed to maintain happy equilibrium all round!

Temporary Connection for the fire officer.

Further to a communication break down between building control and the fire officer, on move in day the fire officer was not happy that the sprinklers were not live and there wasn't any protection.

As a result A&F came to the rescue by sending one of our Small works teams straight to site.

We conducted a flow and pressure test on both the hydrant and a local

water main (800mm diameter!)

We then produced Hydraulic calculations that demonstrated the amount of temporary protection that was available on this site.

We have then connected the sprinklers to one of these supplies, with the other available for the brigade and their tenders. In the regrettable event of a fire.



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To whom it may concern,

Re: A&F Sprinklers ltd & Sainsbury's

A&F Sprinklers Ltd (A&F) were chosen for the installation of the Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems at Dartford RDC in August.

The works included the design, material supply, build, test and commissioning of the whole sprinkler system as initially specified by Sainsbury's and Couch Perry & Wilkes.

A&F were selected after responding to a tender process with the most competitive quote. It quickly became apparent there were many other benefits of this selection.

A&F were able to swiftly mobilise their design team and on-site management with appropriate resource headed-up by Mark Stansfield and Derrick Parr.

Mark and Derrick quickly developed an understanding of Sainsbury's requirements and why meeting our timescales were so important. We built an excellent working relationship and collaborative way of working that also included other external parties - Architects, M&E consultants, Insurers and other contractors. This approach meant we were able to move through the design to commissioning phases at speed and deal with any issues as they arose.

I was impressed with A&F's ability to develop the sprinkler system solution from a brief outline document and deliver a robust, technically compliant solution; aligned to our requirements and timescales.

We were able to meet the operational start-date of our Dartford RDC due to the on-time delivery of the engineering solution, of which, A&F played a very integral role. The pace we went from design, to materials arriving on-site, to build, test and commissioning were unprecedented.

On this project, A&F Sprinklers Ltd demonstrated their ability to meet aggressive timescales, provide value - cost and quality and offer appropriate design and project management. With this in mind, this was a valuable partnership and I would have no hesitation in re-employing A&F on future projects.

Gavin

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