

PDI Complete Utilities Works Without Fuss Or Delay For Buckingham Group Construction



Background

The construction of the £93 million American Express Community Stadium on behalf of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club was one of the most high profile construction projects on the south coast. This 22,500-seater stadium also includes facilities to act as a hub for learning and involvement of the local community.

Construction on the stadium began in December 2008 and was completed in May 2011, in time for the 2011/12 Championship Season.

Main Contractor: Buckingham Group Contracting Limited
Architects: KSS Design Group
Structural Engineers: SKM Europe Limited
Utilities Contractor: PDI Utilities

PDI Utilities were selected by Buckingham Group Contracting after providing a proposal containing a cost effective design and build solution to provide incoming water and gas supplies to the Stadium.

Buckingham Group are one of the fastest growing Land Regeneration, Construction and Rail Contractors in the UK. The Company offers a versatile and capable Civil Engineering, Remediation and Building service to a variety of Public and Private Clients across most of England and Wales.

Utilities Project Requirement

To get both water and gas supplies to the stadium meant installing 570m of gas main, organising and installing an MP to LP Pressure Reduction Station, installing 900m of water main, and two separate fire water mains and hydrants.

Construction of the mains networks was carried out by butt fusion jointing of the pipes. This technique is common within the utilities industry and is carried out by following a strict sequence of operations within carefully managed environmental conditions. This was easier said than done when faced with the unpredictable weather being experienced whilst on site. The weather would often vary from dry and sunny to heavy snow, and everything in between – in the same day!

Technical and industry requirements concerning commercial gas meters is never straight forward, and following construction of the mains networks our management expertise was called upon to advise Buckingham Group, and arrange the installation of the meter directly with the appointed gas supplier.

Throughout the project detailed co-ordination and planning was essential to maintain the highest level of health and safety.

Project Challenges

Obviously all construction projects have their challenges; however some of those associated with this project were quite unique.

The timescales associated with the works were very tight, and whilst this is quite normal, lead-in times associated with the phased works were very short too, meaning that we had to be prepared to react very quickly to site requirements to satisfy our client's needs.

Throughout our works we needed to coordinate very closely with other trades and subcontractors whom were undertaking unrelated activities within close proximity. Access proved a major problem in that regard; because only an 8 metre wide perimeter concourse to the stadium was available for the whole site, therefore carefully managed phasing of the below-ground works was critical.

Aside from the above, the works had to be carried out within close proximity to Falmer Railway Station and the neighbouring Sussex University Campus, which meant that extra care and consideration had to be given to health and safety due to a high volume of pedestrians.

A Successful Project Outcome

The challenges associated with the project were exacerbated by the arduous weather conditions, making the simplest of routine tasks more difficult than usual. Indeed it is testament to our installation teams that they remained on site when other subcontractors had admitted defeat to the rain and snow!

Overall the project proved to be a stern test of our resilience, perseverance, and professionalism, and we think it fair to say that we passed on all counts. Our site teams rose to the challenge and did what was necessary to get the job done, ensuring that all works were completed to timescale, without a hic-up, and within budget.

“The PDI people were very good all-round; the pipe layers were knowledgeable, and spot on with what they did, and the back-up from their head office was good as well.

There were some doubts with regard to what the statutory authorities would want regarding the location of the meters. PDI were able to advise us based on their experience, and this helped us resolve the issue very quickly.

Managing utilities is always a critical path item for us, and I would most definitely like use PDI again on future projects.”

“We needed to get the trenches dug, pipe-work in and back-filled, and re-opened within a tight period so that other sub-contractors were not held up.

In the past it's true to say that we've quite often experienced one or two problems getting contractors to commit to our programme dates, and stay on site until the work was completed.

However, I'm glad to say this was never an issue with PDI.”

Craig Gordon, Buckingham Group Construction

A Hat-trick of Recent Project Successes!

PDI have scored a hat-trick of recent project successes with stadium projects. In addition to the American Express Community Stadium, we have successfully completed new gas connections to Craven Cottage for Fulham Football Club, and have also successfully completed both water and gas connections to the Athletes Village area of the new Olympic Stadium in London.

“Just a thank you and to let you know that your boys worked their socks off at Fulham, I appreciate all their help and your support as well.”

Nigel Cator, Providor Limited



About PDI

Since 1998 PDI Utilities has been offering property developers and contractors alike an alternative, but more effective and less frustrating method of dealing with new utilities supplies.

Our expertise covers the planning and design of new utilities networks, their construction on-site via our own multi-disciplined installation teams, arrangement of meter installations, and dealing with all matters relating to adoption of the completed network.

If you have a utilities requirement on a new housing or commercial development then call one of our utilities experts on **0870 444 1103**, and take advantage of a **no-obligation 15 minute telephone consultation** to discover where the opportunities may lay to remove the hassles and unnecessary costs from your utilities management.



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