

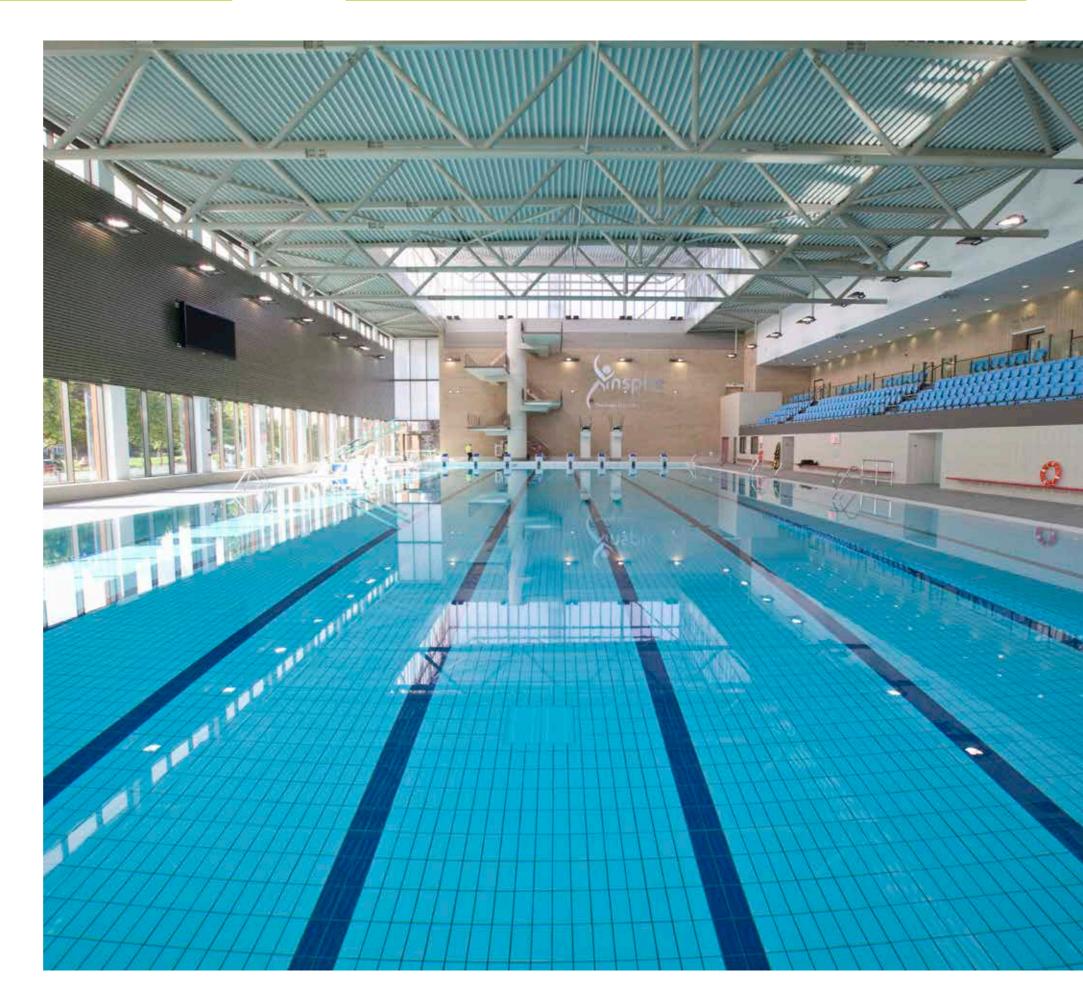
LUTON AQUATIC LEISURE CENTRE



AQUATIC CENTRE STOPSLEY, LUTON

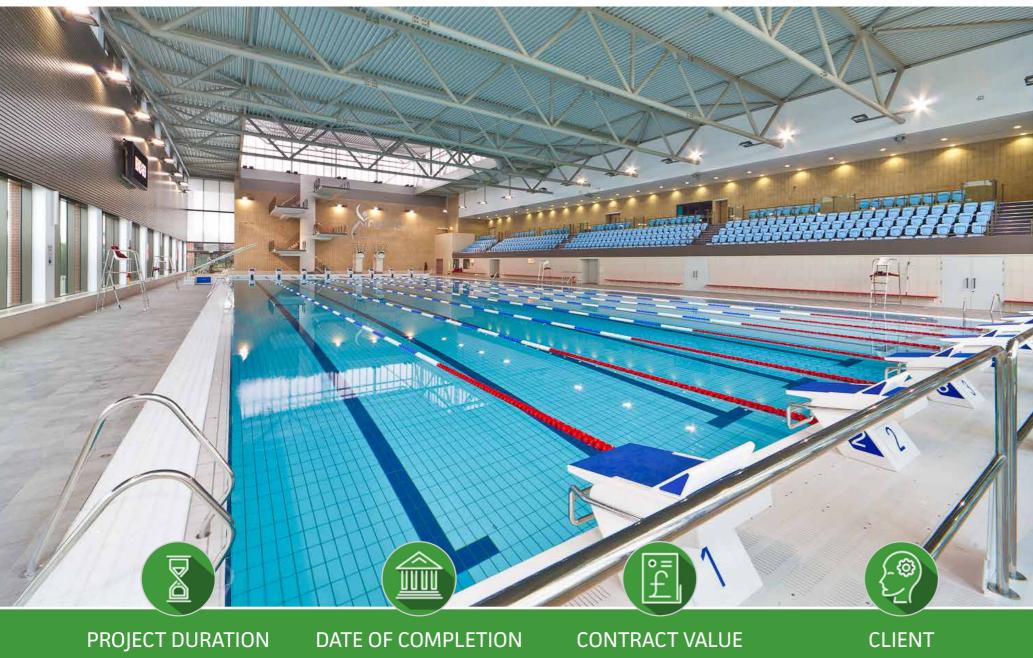
Luton Borough Council made a commitment to build an Aquatic Centre at Stopsley to improve the provision of sports and leisure facilities in the town. The new centre, which was to include both wet and dry leisure facilities, would help to increase participation in physical activities by all ages, to improve health and fitness. The Council appointed Wates Construction as Principal Contractor with a budget of £26 million.

Toureen Group was contracted by Wates for the construction of the aquatic areas, due to our proven expertise in excavation, swimming pools and basements. This was an extremely complex structure to manage and, with it being a large community asset with national profile and access, we had to ensure that it could withstand the highest level of scrutiny.



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22 MONTHS

MARCH 2012

£4.8 MILLION

WATES



Aquatic centre specifications...

- A national competition standard/Olympic size (50m), eight lane swimming pool with moveable floors and booms
- Integrated diving area
- Spectator seating for 400
- International diving facilities and tower with boards up to 3m and platforms up to 10m high
- A dry training centre for swimmers and divers
- A 20m x 10m community pool varying between 0.9m and 1.5m deep.

Reinforced concrete foundations and a reinforced concrete surround was used to construct the swimming pools which were built to BS8007: Code of Practice standards for the design of concrete structures for retaining aqueous liquids. The structure used waterproof membrane tanking methods to achieve water tightness and all construction joints, wall and slab penetrations were sealed using hydrophilic strip. The process ensured that the pools were completely



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watertight and they passed a seven-day water tightness test, at the first attempt, having no leaks. The walls of the swimming pool were constructed to -0/+10mm tolerances through strict supervision and quality controls by our engineers and site team. 1200mm diameter ventilation ducts were installed to the perimeter of the pool and the diving tower was fabricated off-site in precast concrete to give it the highest possible finish.

It is clear that the Luton Aquatic Centre; providing a national competition standard, 50 metre swimming pool, with integrated international diving facilities and a dry training centre for swimmers and divers; represents a substantial and much needed improvement to the facilities available in Luton and has since featured in the TV show "Splash!".

Evidence from Team Luton (Swimming) suggests that the Aquatic Centre has the potential to be of major economic benefit to Luton, particularly when hosting major swimming competitions, and is now considered the optimal model for ongoing investment in municipal sports facilities.

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