Britannia Completes Fire Damaged Store Ahead of Schedule

Shoppers in Quedgeley can look forward to the early return of Next thanks to Britannia Construction completing the store rebuilding ahead of schedule.

When fire ripped through the 7,500 sq ft store last August it caused extensive damage. The heat was so intense that parts of the building's steel frame became buckled and twisted. The interior was completely destroyed along with much of the roof. The adjacent Brantano store was also damaged.

Cheltenham-based Britannia, who constructed the original building shell, was commissioned to rebuild the store. When work began in October when it was revealed that the damage to the frame was more significant than anticipated and around 90% had to be replaced. Specialist demolition contractors were brought in to remove the damaged material to allow the rebuilding to proceed.

Despite the complicated nature of the work, Britannia handed over the completed shell ahead of schedule. The unit will then be fitted-out by Next prior to reopening for business later this year.

Britannia's contract also included repairing the fire-damaged Brantano store. Even though the fire damaged the roof and façade, the store was able to continue trading while repairs were completed.

Paul Halfpenny, Managing Director of Britannia, commented: "Re-building the store in such a short timescale was only possible thanks to a magnificent team effort by our project team, suppliers and sub-contractors, all of whom worked on the original store. Well done to all."

21st May 2009