

Project Scope Overview	
Customer:	Needham & James LLP
Installer:	Connect Network Systems Division of Allcoopers Ltd
Site Location:	Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 651 10/100 Ethernet and Telecommunication outlets • Multi-mode fibre installed between four floors including Main Communications room • Seventeen Citrix® servers supporting all applications across four sites • Premium office space; installed with raised floors for the installation of the heating system and 'service floor pods' each with four RJ45 sockets and power outlets
Equipment:	Category 6 UTP

Project Brief

Over the past 50 years Needham & James has become well established as one of the most respected and progressive legal practices in the Midlands. With a strong commercial client base and a range of legal services in fields such as commercial property, banking and company law. A move to new premises in Stratford has provided a flagship building that reflects a growing prominence in a number of key business areas and also ensures state of the art IT and communications facilities needed to optimise client service. With ambitious expansion plans for further growth; including new premises at Birmingham, the future looks bright. Connect Network Systems were contracted to install 650 Category 6UTP connections across 4 floors of the new purpose-built offices, with multimode fibre linking each floor and the communications room.

Project Summary

New builds are often considered an easier option but the main contractor and M&E couldn't work exactly to the original design. An example is on the 4th floor where the height of the floor was constructed too low. This meant the main access to the floor was now in line with the RSJs supporting the floor. Eventually a new cable run was found from the service shaft onto the floor avoiding any structural issues and allowing the design to stay within the Cat6 length limitations.

An interesting feature of the install is that each desk pod was run through cable management from the floor tile without an interconnect. The matching floor and carpet tile have the hole cut into a corner; allowing adjustments of a few centimetres by rotation, or traditionally moved without any need to cut carpet or tiles.

The server room on the first floor has 4 x 45U racks which house the cabling system, including telecoms and 24 port high density panels, HP 2626 Gigabit switches, telecoms switch, 17 x Citrix servers and is also the termination point for the 2 and 1 Meg leased lines to the other three offices. These LAN and WAN networks are supporting the company with applications such as BigHand digital dictation and TFB plc's legal practice management software.

"Very pleased with the final solution as we managed to work closely with Paul and get a network that suits this ambitious legal firm. The products from Connectix gave us a quality feel that you need in this type of high profile site."

Lee Sloan, Project Manager at Connect Network Systems

"Extremely pleased with the Connect teams 'can do' attitude throughout the project this made the delivery of our data infrastructure refreshingly easy. The key being 128 staff up and working on time and since the installation we haven't had one network issue This is critical in a centralised, server-based management system the capabilities allow organisations like ours to quickly and efficiently deliver the latest resources across a distributed enterprise but the network has to be very reliable!! So far so good..."

Paul Ella, IT Manager at Needham & James

