

Weekly News Summary

12th December 2023

Materials prices plummet as housing demand slumps:

Construction buyers reported the biggest fall in purchasing costs for 14 years last month as the ongoing house building slump hit materials demand. The bellwether S&P Global/CIPS UK Construction Purchasing Managers' Index PMI registered 45.5 in November, down fractionally from 45.6 in October and below the 50.0 no-change value for the third month running. House building was the biggest drag (index at 39.2) followed by civil engineering (43.5) as commercial building showed some resilience (48.1). To read more Click [Here](#)

Government commits to more timber construction:

The Government has set out an ambitious plan to raise the use of timber in the construction of homes and buildings. It has published a roadmap to boost the safe use of sustainable UK timber in construction while planting forests to increase domestic timber supply. To read more Click [Here](#)

HS2 publishes £1bn of work packages up for grabs:

HS2 has published details of over 300 work packages its construction partners will procure in the next 18 months. Robin Lash, HS2's supply chain lead said: "Forward planning is absolutely crucial for businesses, so we've worked closely with our stations and civils contractors to develop a simple procurement pipeline setting out what we'll need and when. To read more Click [Here](#)

Balfour Beatty tops November contracts league:

Balfour Beatty's Scottish office helped to lift the firm to pole position in the contracts league for the first time since the start of this year. The Scottish region is in line for three big building projects: The HMP Highland and design and build of a new hospital in Fort William and the refurbishment of Caithness General in Wick for NHS Highlands, together contributing to an estimated £300m-plus haul of work. To read more Click [Here](#)

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,570.29	25.4	0.34%
DAX	16,769.45	-24.98	-0.15%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,541.75	1.56	0.03%
S&P 500	4,622.44	18.07	0.39%
Nikkei 225	32,843.70	32.7	0.10%
Dow Jones	36,404.93	157.06	0.43%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,599.00	15.00	0.20%

Current value as at 11:02 BST, 12th Dec 2023

ABOUT UKR

UKR is an established construction recruitment agency supplying trades & labour to the UK construction industry. We recruit at all levels across the following disciplines: Construction, Civil Engineering, Mechanical & Electrical, Rail and Utilities on a temporary, contract and permanent basis.

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Taylor Woodrow wins £120m Meridian Water infrastructure: Taylor Woodrow has been awarded a £120m contract to put in infrastructure for Enfield Council's Meridian Water regeneration project in north London. Meridian Water is a £6bn 20-year regeneration programme led by the London Borough of Enfield Council, bringing 10,000 homes and thousands of jobs to Enfield. Vinci's civil engineering subsidiary will put in roads, bridges and paths and re-naturalise. To read more click [Here](#)

Strabag tunnel drive in Yorkshire sets new world record: Civils contractor Strabag UK has broken the current record for the world's longest single tunnel boring machine drive at the potash mine project under the Yorkshire moors. Tunnellers on the Woodsmith project near Whitby recently reached 25.8km on what will be the conveyor tunnel for a permanent mineral transport system. This will be used to transport tens of millions of tonnes of polyhalite from under the North York Moors National Park to the coast before the fertiliser material is shipped around the world. To read more click [Here](#)

Beams installed for HS2 viaduct: A viaduct in Northamptonshire has become the first on the HS2 project to have all its deck beams installed. They may have cancelled the northern links but construction of the abbreviated HS2 rail line between Birmingham and London continues. The 163-metre long Highfurlong Brook viaduct, near the village of Aston le Walls, between Banbury and Daventry, is one of more than 50 viaducts being built as part of the project. To read more click [Here](#)

UKGBC warns construction 'significantly off track' on net-zero targets: The UK construction industry is significantly off track from the path required to meet the country's net-zero objectives, a new report by the UK Green Building Council says. It also highlights "a critical and substantial gap" in government policies "that could make or break the built environment's efforts to meet the required decarbonisation pace and scale". The analysis found that between 2018 and 2022, carbon emissions from the UK built environment fell by 13% – six percentage points less than the 19% required to meet the UK's net-zero commitments.

To read more click [Here](#)

Eco cricket stadium plan for Gloucestershire: Gloucestershire County Cricket Club is looking to move into a new purpose-built stadium with "club-leading standards of environmental sustainability". The club confirmed it is "exploring opportunities" for a relocation to a bigger site in South Gloucestershire "to ensure [its] competitiveness and long-term sustainability". To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
Conversion to Dwelling	Dartford	£100,000	11/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Tonbridge	£100,000	11/12/2023
Golf Training Studio	Leeds	£100,000	11/12/2023
Shop Front	Durham	£100,000	11/12/2023
Workshop	Stevenage	£1,500,000	11/12/2023
115 Dwellings	Rochester	£15,000,000	11/12/2023
12 Apartments	Sheffield	£1,500,000	11/12/2023
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	Paisley	£200,000	11/12/2023
4 Dwellings	Dumfries	£500,000	11/12/2023
Cafe and Restaurant	East London	£400,000	11/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Tonbridge	£100,000	11/12/2023
Conversion to 2 Flats	York	£200,000	11/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Swansea	£100,000	11/12/2023
8 Dwellings	Nottingham	£900,000	11/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Truro	£100,000	11/12/2023
8 Dwellings	Stevenage	£900,000	11/12/2023
2 Dwellings	Cambridge	£300,000	11/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Peterborough	£100,000	11/12/2023
Multi-Use Games Area	Newcastle Upon Tyne	£100,000	11/12/2023
Extension to Care Home	Birmingham	£100,000	11/12/2023
Extension to Bar	Milton Keynes	£100,000	10/12/2023
Retail Units	Leeds	£100,000	10/12/2023
Playpark	Guildford	£100,000	10/12/2023
Storage Facility	Lincoln	£100,000	10/12/2023
Extension to Public House	Plymouth	£100,000	10/12/2023
Mixed Use Development	Edinburgh	£100,000	10/12/2023
Office	South East London	£100,000	10/12/2023
Mixed Use Development	East London	£100,000	10/12/2023
Mixed Use Development	Oldham	£100,000	10/12/2023
Depot	Bristol	£100,000	10/12/2023



Contractor ranked by work won during November 2023

Rank	Contractor	No. contracts	Value
1	Balfour Beatty	7	£306.8m
2	Morgan Sindall	18	£262.9m
3	Farrans	2	£145.0m
4	Ardmore	3	£120.0m
5	GRAHAM Construction	3	£110.0m
6	Willmott Dixon	8	£108.6m
7	Mace	3	£93.9m
8	JJ Rhatigan & Company	1	£90.0m
9	Wates	4	£89.3m
10	Hill Partnerships	3	£86.5m
11	Robertson	5	£80.8m
12	Vinci	5	£79.2m
13	GMI	3	£74.9m
14	Bouygues	2	£69.0m
15	United Living (Cardiff)	1	£55.0m
16	Cala Homes South Home Counties	1	£52.5m
17	Kier	4	£51.3m
18	Glencar	1	£50.0m
19	IB Vogt GmbH	1	£49.9m
20	Morrison	5	£48.5m
21	Thomas Johnstone	1	£48.0m
22	Barnwood	2	£47.4m
23	Breheny	2	£47.0m
24	McAleer & Rushe	1	£45.8m
25	J.J. Rhatigan & Co	1	£45.0m

Ranking	Contractor	No. contracts	Total (£m)
26	Winvic	1	£45.0m
27	Pioneer Design And Build	1	£35.1m
28	Buildfifty5	1	£35.0m
29	DNA Construction	1	£35.0m
30	Keltbray	1	£33.1m
31	Galliford Try	4	£33.0m
32	Harmonix Construction	3	£32.5m
33	Ogilvie Construction	3	£30.3m
34	Aztec Construction Services	1	£30.0m
35	WW Martin	1	£30.0m
36	Jackson Civil Engineering	3	£29.6m
37	Bowmer & Kirkland	4	£29.3m
38	O'Brien Contractors	1	£25.0m
39	Tilbury Douglas	4	£25.0m
40	MTX Contracts	2	£23.6m
41	Readie	1	£20.0m
42	John Turner	2	£19.9m
43	Beard	5	£19.1m
44	Story Contracting	1	£18.3m
45	Marbank Construction	2	£18.0m
46	Speller Metcalfe	4	£18.0m
47	Holmpatrick Developments	1	£17.0m
48	Parkway	1	£16.9m
49	Rooff	2	£16.1m
50	GF Tomlinson	3	£15.8m



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