

# Weekly News Summary

## 16th January 2024

**Construction output down again in November:** Latest estimates from the Office for National Statistics show a recovery in repair & maintenance work, but insufficient to offset the continuing decline in new work. Construction output in Great Britain fell 0.6% in the three months to November 2023, according to the ONS. This came solely from a decrease in new work (3.6% fall), as repair & maintenance increased by 3.8%. To read more Click [Here](#)

**Sizewell C nuclear plant construction a step closer:** Construction of the Sizewell C nuclear plant in Suffolk has moved a step closer after a Development Consent Order (DCO) was officially triggered. The project, partly funded by the French energy company EDF, is expected to cost in the region of £20bn. Building permission was granted in July 2022 with a number of conditions set, which developers said had now been met. To read more Click [Here](#)

**Contract awards drop by 14%:** Contracts awarded for construction projects in the UK fell £11.1bn to £69.2bn in 2023 – a 14% reduction from a record £80.4bn in 2022. Latest research from construction analysts Barbour ABI shows sectors hit hardest were residential housebuilding down 14%, commercial developments down 15% and hotel and leisure falling by 29%. A lack of confidence in the market was also reflected in applications for new construction projects, which fell by 16% to under £100bn. Housing applications are now 21% down on pre-pandemic levels. To read more Click [Here](#)

**Build cost inflation sinks below 1%:** Volume house-builder Taylor Wimpey reports that recent escalations in supplier's tender prices have now all but stopped. According to Taylor Wimpey, build cost inflation in its sector is now running at between zero and 1% on new tenders, having gradually come down throughout the second half of 2023. The legacy of high inflation will continue to be felt for some months, however. To read more Click [Here](#)

| Currencies       | Last      | Chg.    | Chg. % |
|------------------|-----------|---------|--------|
| FTSE 100         | 7,551.27  | -43.64  | -0.57% |
| DAX              | 16,500.92 | -121.3  | -0.73% |
| Euro Stoxx 50    | 4,427.95  | -26.73  | -0.60% |
| S&P 500          | 4,783.83  | 3.59    | 0.08%  |
| Nikkei 225       | 35,619.18 | -238.29 | -0.66% |
| Dow Jones        | 37,592.98 | -118.04 | -0.31% |
| FTSE 100 Futures | 7,548.20  | -40.8   | -0.54% |

Current value as at 10:15 BST, 16th Jan 2024

## 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.

## CONTACT US

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**World's first pothole robot hits highways in Hertfordshire:** A pothole robot is being tested on the roads of Hertfordshire in what is claimed to be a world first. The autonomous robot has been developed by tech company Robotiz3d and academics at the University of Liverpool who have been working in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council Highways Engineers. The team has now developed the first Autonomous Road Repair System (ARRES) which identifies and characterises cracks and potholes in the road using Artificial Intelligence. To read more click [Here](#)

**Housing trades tender price inflation squeezed to 0-1%:** Britain's second biggest house builder has seen trade contractor tender price inflation all but disappear as orders slide. In a trading statement covering 2023, the firm said UK completions were down a third to 10,438 from 13,773 in 2022. Despite ongoing market and planning challenges, chief executive Jennie Daly said full-year operating profit would be at the top end of its previous guidance range of £440m to £470m. To read more click [Here](#)

**Work starts on epic year-long HS2 viaduct deck slide:** HS2 main works contractor EKFB has started a year-long bridge slide to push almost half a kilometre of deck into position high above the Misbourne Valley in Buckinghamshire. The Wendover Dean Viaduct will be the first major railway bridge in the UK to be built with a 'double composite' approach. The increased strength of the steel/concrete composite deck design allows it to slide over the viaduct piers in an epic push of 90 to 180m long sections. To read more click [Here](#)

**Why is it still so hard to build new homes in England?:** A derelict former gasworks near the centre of fast-growing Coventry, home to carmaker Jaguar Land Rover, seemed an ideal spot for redevelopment. A local planning inspector certainly thought so when he recently approved plans to build 700 homes on the site. But the decision last October came only after several years of negotiations, two refusals and a community outcry. Along the way, the developer, Complex Development Projects (CDP), and the council tweaked everything from the block's height to its brick patterns — leaving its planning consultant "totally bewildered" by the objections from residents. To read more click [Here](#)

**Go-ahead for 40-storey Sheffield co-living tower:** Joint developer SFGE Properties and Oppidan Life has gained planning approval to build a 40-storey residential block in Sheffield city centre. It plans to redevelop the site of the former Primark store in the Castlegate area to create just over 430 co-living flats. Designed by architect Hodder + Partners, the £40m Kings Tower scheme involves the demolition of the vacant shopping store at 57 High Street. To read more click [Here](#)



## Planning Leads

| Title                                 | Location             | Value      | Publish Date |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------|
| 2 Dwellings                           | Preston              | £300,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Conversion to Dwelling                | Liverpool            | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Conversion to Dwelling                | Southampton          | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Care Home (48 Beds)                   | Edinburgh            | £3,000,000 | 15/01/2024   |
| Extension to Restaurant               | Reading              | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Industrial Unit                       | Redhill              | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Conversion to HMO                     | Sheffield            | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| 2 Dwellings                           | Doncaster            | £300,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Warehouse                             | Colchester           | £200,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Hotel (25 Rooms)                      | Llandudno            | £1,500,000 | 15/01/2024   |
| Conversion to Dwelling                | Tonbridge            | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Conversion to Bungalow                | Cambridge            | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Conversion to HMO                     | Durham               | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Conversion to Office                  | Doncaster            | £200,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| 3 Dwellings                           | Colchester           | £400,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Mixed Use Development (2 Units and 36 | Kingston Upon Thames | £5,000,000 | 15/01/2024   |
| Extension to Industrial Unit          | Bolton               | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Conversion to 2 Dwellings             | Colchester           | £200,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Conversion to Dwelling                | Norwich              | £100,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| 6 Dwellings                           | Colchester           | £700,000   | 15/01/2024   |
| Shopfront                             | Sutton               | £100,000   | 14/01/2024   |
| Conversion to Dwelling                | Reading              | £100,000   | 14/01/2024   |
| Storage Unit                          | Bristol              | £100,000   | 14/01/2024   |
| Community Diagnostic Centre           | Leicester            | £100,000   | 14/01/2024   |
| Conversion to Dwelling                | Harrogate            | £100,000   | 14/01/2024   |
| Conversion to 2 Flats                 | Belfast              | £200,000   | 14/01/2024   |
| 3 Dwellings                           | Milton Keynes        | £400,000   | 14/01/2024   |
| Conversion to Dwelling                | Southampton          | £100,000   | 14/01/2024   |
| Fabrication Building                  | Falkirk And Stirling | £100,000   | 14/01/2024   |
| 36 Dwellings                          | Canterbury           | £4,000,000 | 14/01/2024   |



#### Contractor ranked by work won during December 2023

| Rank | Contractor                           | No. contracts | Value   |
|------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| 1    | JRL                                  | 1             | £245.0m |
| 2    | Legacie Contracts                    | 1             | £200.0m |
| 3    | Morgan Sindall                       | 15            | £188.2m |
| 4    | RG Group                             | 1             | £120.0m |
| 5    | United Living                        | 1             | £75.6m  |
| 6    | GMI                                  | 2             | £70.8m  |
| 7    | Willmott Dixon                       | 8             | £69.7m  |
| 8    | Royal BAM                            | 5             | £65.8m  |
| 9    | Hill Partnerships                    | 2             | £56.0m  |
| 10   | McLaughlin & Harvey                  | 1             | £52.0m  |
| 11   | Kier                                 | 5             | £44.7m  |
| 12   | Lagan Construction Services          | 1             | £43.9m  |
| 13   | ISG                                  | 2             | £42.0m  |
| 14   | George Cox & Sons                    | 1             | £34.6m  |
| 15   | Classic Builders                     | 1             | £33.5m  |
| 16   | Readie                               | 1             | £33.5m  |
| 17   | Ogilvie Construction                 | 2             | £33.0m  |
| 18   | Farrans                              | 1             | £30.0m  |
| 19   | Mott MacDonald (JBA Bentley)         | 1             | £30.0m  |
| 20   | Deconstruct (UK) t/a The De Group UK | 1             | £30.0m  |
| 21   | Gilbert – Ash                        | 1             | £30.0m  |
| 22   | GRAHAM Construction                  | 2             | £27.7m  |
| 23   | O'Brien Contractors                  | 1             | £25.0m  |
| 24   | 8 Build                              | 1             | £20.0m  |
| 25   | Henry Boot                           | 1             | £20.0m  |

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