

Weekly News Summary

20th February 2024

First viaduct steel section installed at HS2's complex

junction job: Belgian steelwork specialist Victor Buyck has jacked in the first 300-tonne steel viaduct section on HS2's complex Delta Junction project. Working for the Balfour Beatty Vinci JV, it took the firm 11.5 hours using push-pull jacking to install the 84m long section. It is the first section of two 158m viaducts which will take high speed trains over the M42/M6 link roads in North Warwickshire. To read more Click [Here](#)

Construction new work activity fell 2% in 2023: Construction new work contracted by 2% last year as the slowdown in house building dragged the industry down. But despite the fall in new work activity, a sharp 8.3% rise in RMI work managed to lift the industry's overall output into positive growth of 2% last year. Latest figures from the Office for National Statistics this picture was mirrored in the latest quarterly construction output figures today, which fell by 1.3% in Q4 compared with Q3. To read more Click [Here](#)

Go-ahead for UK's largest mass timber structure neighbourhood: Campaigning development company Human Nature has secured planning for a 685-home riverside estate conceived, built and operated on circular principles and community-first thinking. The Lewes-based company, which was founded by former Greenpeace directors Michael Manolson and Jonathan Smales, has called on a dozen architects to design the UK's 'most sustainable neighbourhood'. To read more Click [Here](#)

Build inflation forecast to stay above 3% this year: UK construction costs are predicted to rise by up to 3.8% in 2024. After a 4.1% increase in UK construction costs in 2023, there will not be much of a slow-down in price rises this year, according to quantity surveyors Currie & Brown. Currie & Brown predicts that construction costs in the UK will go up by between 3% and 3.8% this year. To read more Click [Here](#)

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,655.24	-63.97	-0.83%
DAX	17,110.95	42.52	0.25%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,771.95	11.67	0.25%
S&P 500	4,975.51	-30.06	-0.60%
Nikkei 225	38,300.00	-63.61	-0.17%
Dow Jones	38,563.80	-64.19	-0.17%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,626.80	-63.7	-0.83%

Current value as at 09:40 BST, 21st Feb 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.

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In pictures | More sinkholes appear above HS2's Chiltern Tunnel: Two new sinkholes have opened up in a field above the route of the HS2 Chiltern Tunnel in Buckinghamshire. The first sinkhole, adjacent to Frith Hill on the outskirts of Small Heath in Buckinghamshire, was found during routine monitoring work above the tunnel next to Frith Hill on 7 February. A second, larger sinkhole, was found in the same field on Monday 12 February by HS2 surveyors. To read more click [Here](#)

Oxford United plans first UK all-electric stadium: Oxford United have unveiled plans to build the first stadium in the country powered solely by electricity. The club would use a low-carbon energy supply to create its 'all-electric', 16,000-seat stadium. After an extensive site search, Kidlington five miles to the north of the city centre, has been identified as the only viable available site for the new home of Oxford United. Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet has given consent to lease this proposed Triangle site in Kidlington for the club. To read more click [Here](#)

Robot brickies a step closer to working on sites: A robotics startup has secured £20m in funding to scale-up the number of brick-laying machines it can deploy on sites across Europe and increase the types of blocks and construction tasks the robots can manage. The UK is a core target market for Dutch based firm Monumental which completed its first large-scale 15-metre facade for an office and warehouse building last year. Contractors can hire Monumental as a subcontractor to bring in its robots to work as bricklayers autonomously across the site and alongside humans. To read more click [Here](#)

Multiplex starts on 50-storey Thames tower: Multiplex has started work on a £190m contract to build the tallest new residential tower currently under development in prime central London. An international real estate consortium led by Native Land is behind the £3bn Bankside Yards scheme where the latest high-rise, currently known as Building 2, will be 50-storeys containing 250 apartments. Mutliplex has already worked on other parts of the scheme including completing the ground works and delivering the development's flagship office building. To read more click [Here](#)

Weston sets out £315m plans for London and southeast: Weston Homes has announced plans to launch and develop an additional £315m of new residential schemes this year. Weston Homes has announced plans to launch and develop an additional £315m of new residential schemes this year. Weston's new plans will provide almost 900 more new homes across London and the southeast. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
6 Flats	Oxford	£700,000	20/02/2024
Conversion to 16 Apartments	Swansea	£900,000	20/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Bournemouth	£100,000	20/02/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	York	£200,000	20/02/2024
4 Accommodation Units	Kirkwall	£300,000	20/02/2024
Conversion to Flat	Glasgow	£100,000	20/02/2024
Office	Shrewsbury	£600,000	20/02/2024
Extension for 3 Holiday Lets	Inverness	£400,000	20/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Worcester	£100,000	17/02/2024
Conversion to Care Home (4 Beds)	Sheffield	£200,000	17/02/2024
5 Dwellings	Coventry	£600,000	17/02/2024
Conversion to Office	Norwich	£100,000	17/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Derby	£100,000	17/02/2024
Office	Southend-on-sea	£100,000	17/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Stoke-on-trent	£100,000	17/02/2024
Conversion to Bungalow	Cambridge	£100,000	17/02/2024
Conversion to Mixed Use (1 Unit)	Newport	£100,000	17/02/2024
Conversion to Flat	West London	£100,000	17/02/2024
Residential Development (56 Affordable	Worcester	£6,500,000	17/02/2024
250 Dwellings	Canterbury	£30,000,000	17/02/2024
Extension to Office	Peterborough	£100,000	17/02/2024
Extension for 2 Flats	Cambridge	£300,000	17/02/2024
Extension to Care Home (9 Beds)	Oxford	£500,000	17/02/2024
Extension for Storage Unit	Worcester	£100,000	17/02/2024
Roof Extension for 5 Flats	Enfield	£600,000	17/02/2024
New Shop Front	Cleveland	£100,000	17/02/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Ipswich	£100,000	17/02/2024
Alterations to Shopfront	Oxford	£100,000	17/02/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	Croydon	£200,000	16/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Bristol	£100,000	16/02/2024



Contractor ranked by work won during January 2024

Rank	Contractor	No. contracts	Value	Ranking	Contractor	No. contracts	Total (£m)
1	Royal BAM	6	£472.2m	26	CR Construction (U.K) Company	1	£38.0m
2	London Square	1	£300.0m	27	Multiplex Europe	2	£35.9m
3	Lendlease	2	£292.6m	28	ISG	6	£35.3m
4	Sir Robert McAlpine	4	£266.4m	29	RJ McLeod	1	£32.0m
5	Kier	6	£224.0m	30	Mott MacDonald (JBA Bentley)	1	£31.0m
6	Balfour Beatty	5	£203.3m	31	Morro Partnerships	1	£30.0m
7	Caddick	9	£191.0m	32	Lindum	5	£29.4m
8	RG Group	1	£185.0m	33	Beard	5	£28.3m
9	Vinci	3	£166.4m	34	Parkway	2	£27.6m
10	Dragados S.A	1	£125.0m	35	Key Construction (Midlands)	1	£27.0m
11	Willmott Dixon	9	£112.0m	36	Bugler	2	£26.8m
12	Morgan Sindall	9	£93.5m	37	Jenner	1	£26.4m
13	Winvic	3	£85.0m	38	Bowmer & Kirkland	3	£26.2m
14	GRAHAM Construction	2	£81.9m	39	Hall Construction Services	1	£26.0m
15	Wates	4	£70.0m	40	Bouygues	1	£21.6m
16	McAleer & Rushe	1	£60.0m	41	Tilbury Douglas	1	£21.2m
17	Galliford Try	3	£58.6m	42	8 Build	2	£21.0m
18	MTX Contracts	2	£51.1m	43	RED	1	£20.0m
19	Octavius Infrastructure	1	£47.0m	44	Feltham	2	£19.0m
20	McLaren	2	£46.9m	45	GMI	1	£18.5m
21	Benniman	3	£43.4m	46	Clegg	4	£18.3m
22	Heron Bros	1	£40.0m	47	Leck Construction	1	£18.0m
23	Higgins	1	£40.0m	48	Meldrum	1	£18.0m
24	The Torsion Group	1	£40.0m	49	Elliott Group	1	£17.0m
25	Lovell Partnerships	2	£39.0m	50	Keltbray	1	£17.0m



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