

Weekly News Summary

27th February 2024

HS2 launches third London Northolt tunnel TBM: HS2's London tunnels contractor Skanska Costain Strabag joint venture has launched the third tunnel boring machine to be used to dig part of the 8.4-mile Northolt Tunnel under the outskirts of the capital. The tunnel will be constructed using a total of four TBM's in two phases – known as 'Northolt Tunnel West' and 'Northolt Tunnel East'. Two TBMs, named Sushila and Caroline, are already constructing the longer 5-mile eastward Northolt Tunnel section between West Ruislip and Greenford. To read more Click [Here](#)

Battersea power station and The Piece Hall among landmarks given new life: The BT Tower, an iconic feature of London's skyline, is set to be turned into a hotel after it was sold for £275m. It joins a list of landmarks across England that have been converted for new ventures, as the country and its buildings evolve. To read more Click [Here](#)

Construction wages in decline as differentials diminish: Construction site wages were down by an average of 0.7% in the last quarter of 2023, according to the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS). Fourth quarter wages were down 0.7% compare to the third quarter and up by a below-inflation 3.1% on the year, the latest Hays/BCIS Site Wage Cost Indices shows. Comparing Q4 2023 with the previous quarter, unskilled and semi-skilled site labour did see an increase in wages, of 0.4% on average. To read more Click [Here](#)

City of London hots up as 9m sq ft under construction: The City of London Corporation has revealed construction work is revving up across the Square Mile as investors start returning to the Capital's financial centre. A new heat map of construction sites show over 9m sq ft of floorspace being delivered over the next few years, equivalent to the floorspace of around 10 'Cheesegrater' buildings, or 18 'Gherkins'. To read more Click [Here](#)

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,688.12	3.82	0.05%
DAX	17,540.45	117.22	0.67%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,882.55	18.26	0.38%
S&P 500	5,069.53	-19.27	-0.38%
Nikkei 225	39,275.00	66.5	0.17%
Dow Jones	39,069.23	-62.3	-0.16%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,669.20	1.7	0.02%

Current value as at 12:50 BST, 27th 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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Highest number recorded of women in construction apprenticeships: Protrade found that 10% of the estimated 24,530 people starting construction apprenticeships in 2022-23 were young women- an increase of 2% on the previous year. Despite the findings of Protrade on the growing uptake of construction apprenticeships by women, general evidence there are still significant barriers to further uptake. To read more click [Here](#)

Willmott Dixon set for Manchester science park job: Willmott Dixon is understood to be on the verge of winning the next major phase of work at Manchester Science Park. Construction intelligence and market leads specialist Barbour ABI said the development is worth £75m. The Enquirer understands that Willmott Dixon is in the final stages of negotiation with developer Bruntwood SciTech – a 50/50 joint venture between Bruntwood and Legal & General – with an official announcement due shortly. Work to redevelop the Park’s existing Greenheys building will provide 131,000 sq ft of specialist lab space. To read more click [Here](#)

Skanska and Morgan Sindall win £277m duo of Cambridge jobs: Railway pension fund manager Railpen has named Skanska and Morgan Sindall as main contractors for its first two major developments in Cambridge. Skanska has taken the biggest of the two schemes, clinching a £200m contract to build what is set to be the most sustainable speculative office scheme outside of London. Architect AHMM has designed the 540,000 sq ft Botanic Place project, which is to achieve BREEAM Outstanding, WELL and Wired Scored ‘Platinum’ ratings. To read more click [Here](#)

BT Tower to become hotel: The BT Tower in central London will be turned into a hotel after the iconic building was sold for £275m by BT Group to MCR Hotels. Brent Mathews, Property Director, BT Group said: “The BT Tower sits at the heart of London and we’ve been immensely proud to be the owners of this important landmark since 1984. It’s played a vital role in carrying the nation’s calls, messages and TV signals, but increasingly we’re delivering content and communication via other means. To read more click [Here](#)

Universities slow to embrace construction degree apprenticeships: Only 21 of the UK’s top 100 universities offer construction degree apprenticeships, research has found. A study by the University Vocational Awards Council (UVAC) has found that more work is needed if the UK’s higher education system is going to be able to meet the needs of construction employers. Of the 100 universities reviewed, the greatest provision of degree apprenticeships is in business and administration subject areas, with 48% of universities offering a programme for those progressing their career in human resources, as a business analyst or even as a business manager. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
Extension to Office	South West London	£100,000	24/02/2024
One Storey Extension	Wakefield	£100,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to 4 Flats	Northampton	£300,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	Milton Keynes	£200,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	Lerwick	£200,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Office	Shrewsbury	£100,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Bath	£100,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Manchester	£100,000	24/02/2024
4 Dwellings	Reading	£500,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Canterbury	£100,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Bath	£100,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Student Accomadation (4	Dundee	£15,000,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Exeter	£100,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Bath	£100,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Rochester	£100,000	24/02/2024
Industrial Unit	Stevenage	£2,000,000	24/02/2024
3 Dwellings	Carlisle	£400,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Paisley	£100,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	Southampton	£200,000	24/02/2024
2 Dwellings	Bournemouth	£300,000	24/02/2024
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	Lerwick	£200,000	23/02/2024
2 Dwellings	Nottingham	£300,000	23/02/2024
2 Dwellings	Sheffield	£300,000	23/02/2024
Alterations to Office	Paisley	£100,000	23/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Canterbury	£100,000	23/02/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Exeter	£100,000	23/02/2024
Sports Facility	Colchester	£100,000	23/02/2024
2 Dwelling Development	Northampton	£200,000	23/02/2024
2 Dwellings	Norwich	£300,000	23/02/2024
2 Dwellings	Bournemouth	£300,000	23/02/2024



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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