

Weekly News Summary

12th March 2024

2026 start for £6bn London Earls Court scheme: The developer behind the ambitious £6bn redevelopment of Earl's Court in London has confirmed it will start construction in 2026. Launching detailed plans for phase one, the Earls Court Development Company confirmed plans would be lodged this summer for phase one. This will consist of major infrastructure works for the site and over 1,000 homes, the first cultural and commercial buildings, and the park. Rob Heasman, CEO of ECDC, said: "Forging a new piece of city that is inclusive, climate resilient and brimming with opportunity is a great privilege. To read more Click [Here](#)

Merchant sales volumes down nearly 14% in 2023: Sales volumes of materials through British builders' merchants were down by 13.7% in 2023 compared to 2022. The latest BMF Builders Merchants Building Index (BMBI) report confirms the extent of the slowdown throughout the whole of 2023. In the fourth quarter of the year, daily sales volumes were down 10.1% on the previous quarter and by 12% compared to Q4 2022. To read more Click [Here](#)

15-year London Waterloo Station revamp plan: Ambitious plans for a major overhaul of London's Waterloo railway station and the surrounding area have been unveiled. The 15-year revamp plan includes opening up boarded-up railway arches, a new southern station concourse and a large mansard rooftop extension along the station front entrance. To read more Click [Here](#)

Greatest woman builder revealed: To mark International Women's Day, Barbara Jones has been voted as the most inspirational woman builder by readers of CIOB's editorial titles. Barbara Jones, founder of Straw Works, has been voted as the greatest woman builder of all time. Receiving a resounding 40% of the votes, Jones is a clear favourite across CIOB's international membership and the wider built environment sector. To read more Click [Here](#)

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,758.37	89.14	1.16%
DAX	17,820.75	65.3	0.37%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,938.55	7.9	0.16%
S&P 500	5,117.94	-5.75	-0.11%
Nikkei 225	38,843.00	-17.5	-0.05%
Dow Jones	38,769.66	46.97	0.12%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,788.80	66.8	0.87%

Current value as at 11:25 BST, 12th March 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

Mitchell House
433 Chiswick High Road
London
W4 4AU
0208 994 4139
info@ukrgroup.co.uk
www.ukrgroup.co.uk

ukrgroup.co.uk



Fast-fit ground beam delivers three house plots a day: An innovative 'clip and pin' ground beam system for housing foundations is releasing multiple plots to brickwork trades in half the time of other systems. The new precast concrete beam system using a proprietary interlocking joint is the brainchild of Scottish engineering specialist Akela Ground Engineer. 'ABeam' features a special steel pinned joint, allowing for prefabricated ground beams to be installed in a matter of hours. Lego-like female and male metal plates at the end of each beam allow the beams to be clipped together at speed. To read more click [Here](#)

Construction reluctant to hire people with criminal convictions: A new report by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) is urging the government to break down barriers blocking people with criminal records from working in construction. The study, called Building Opportunity: Employing People with Criminal Convictions in Construction, found that just 25% of construction executives say they would hire people with a criminal conviction – despite the sector facing a significant skills shortage. To read more click [Here](#)

£2bn Leeds to Bradford tram plan unveiled: Plans for a tram system running between Leeds and Bradford have been set out today by West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin. The mayor said work on two lines, serving Leeds and Bradford, could begin in 2028 with Government backing. It is the most significant step towards realising the city's mass transit dream since the Trolleybus scheme was scrapped eight years ago. To read more click [Here](#)

Understanding the Spring Budget 2024- and what it means for UK construction: Chancellor Jeremy Hunt has delivered the Spring Budget for 2024, delivering promised tax cuts- and not much else. As predicted, the chancellor confirmed the 5p cut in fuel duty, as well as extending the freeze in fuel duty. With a general election looming over the session, the Spring Budget for 2024 was a raucous affair on both sides, as the chancellor took several jabs at Labour deputy Angela Rayner's owning multiple properties and the Liberal Democrats, who are aggressively campaigning in the chancellor's own constituency. To read more click [Here](#)

£450m Coventry city centre regeneration thumbs up: Development partners, The Hill Group and Shearer Property Group, have got the green light for the first phase of the highly-anticipated £450m City Centre South regeneration project in Coventry. The landmark housing-led proposals are set to radically transform the centre around Coventry market, creating a pedestrian-friendly residential, shopping and leisure hub. Phase 1 includes 991 homes as well as 8,000 sq m of commercial space, all set within 17,000 sq m of public open space. Phase 2 will provide further commercial space and up to 584 homes. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
6 Industrial Units	Bath	£400,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Gloucester	£100,000	09/03/2024
Extension to Retail Units	Southall	£100,000	09/03/2024
2 Warehouses	Aberdeen	£1,500,000	09/03/2024
Storage Facility	Enfield	£100,000	09/03/2024
Extension to Diagnostic Clinic	Dartford	£100,000	09/03/2024
Extension to Office	Hull	£400,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to HMO	Peterborough	£100,000	09/03/2024
Extension to Office	Brighton	£100,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to 9 Flats	North London	£500,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to 3 Dwellings	Ipswich	£200,000	09/03/2024
Extension to Retail Unit	North London	£100,000	09/03/2024
4 Dwellings	Bath	£500,000	09/03/2024
3 Dwellings	York	£400,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Hemel Hempstead	£100,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Exeter	£100,000	09/03/2024
Cafe	Gloucester	£200,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Walsall	£100,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to 20 Dwellings	Sutton	£1,500,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Newcastle Upon Tyne	£100,000	09/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Edinburgh	£100,000	08/03/2024
27 Dwellings	Chelmsford	£3,000,000	08/03/2024
Shopfront	Blackpool	£100,000	08/03/2024
Care Home (75 Rooms)	Chester	£4,000,000	08/03/2024
Extension to Cafe Bistro	Sheffield	£100,000	08/03/2024
Storage Building	Norwich	£100,000	08/03/2024
205 Dwellings	Swindon	£25,000,000	08/03/2024
Care Home (250 Beds)	Sheffield	£30,000,000	08/03/2024
Extension to Chiropractic Clinic	Swansea	£100,000	08/03/2024
3 Dwellings	Stevenage	£400,000	08/03/2024



Contractor ranked by work won during February 2024

Rank	Contractor	No. contracts	Value	Ranking	Contractor	No. contracts	Total (£m)
1	J Murphy	3	£673.8m	26	Edgewater Contracts & Specialist Joinery	2	£32.2m
2	Bouygues	1	£672.3m	27	McLaren	1	£30.5m
3	Morgan Sindall	11	£549.2m	28	CField Construction	1	£30.0m
4	Kier	5	£479.9m	29	CL Projects UK	1	£30.0m
5	Skanska	1	£200.0m	30	ISG	4	£29.8m
6	Domis Construction	1	£195.0m	31	Vinci	2	£27.5m
7	Willmott Dixon	8	£172.3m	32	TanRo	2	£27.3m
8	United Living	1	£160.0m	33	Sir Robert McAlpine	2	£27.2m
9	Multiplex	1	£150.0m	34	Magrock	2	£27.0m
10	Graham Construction	2	£130.5m	35	ARJ	1	£25.0m
11	HG	1	£130.0m	36	Vistry	2	£25.0m
12	Winvic	6	£105.4m	37	Lovell Partnerships	1	£24.0m
13	Galliford Try	5	£99.4m	38	Integrated Health Projects	4	£23.0m
14	GMI	1	£88.0m	39	Esh	3	£20.8m
15	RG Group	1	£71.0m	40	Barnfield	3	£20.7m
16	BCEGI	1	£67.0m	41	Morrison	2	£19.7m
17	Higgins	1	£60.0m	42	Kind & Company (Builders)	1	£18.5m
18	Mace	1	£50.0m	43	Gillespies LLP	1	£18.4m
19	Octavius Infrastructure	1	£46.2m	44	Beard	4	£17.9m
20	Bugler	2	£45.0m	45	Darwin Group	1	£17.3m
21	Wates	2	£42.8m	46	Mildren	1	£17.0m
22	Royal BAM	3	£41.7m	47	Adderstone Group	1	£15.6m
23	Barhale	3	£37.3m	48	Amiri	2	£15.0m
24	Bowmer & Kirkland	1	£35.8m	49	Deconstruct (UK) t/a The De Group UK	1	£15.0m
25	Caddick	2	£32.2m	50	Merit Holdings	1	£15.0m



DISCLAIMER

This report has been prepared using non-independent research materials available from public sources, which are believed to be reliable as at the date of this report. UKR Group and its employees make no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of this report. This report should therefore not be relied on as accurate or complete. The facts and opinions on this report are subject to change without notice. UKR and its employees have no obligation to modify or update this report in the event that any information on this report becomes inaccurate.

UKR Group is a trading name of UK Recruiting Ltd (Company Reg. No. 8803952). Registered in England and Wales. Registered office: Mitchell House, 433 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 4AU.

For further clarification or details, please contact UKR at info@ukrgroup.co.uk