

Weekly News Summary

5th March 2024

Historic breakthrough for HS2's longest tunnel drive: After almost three years of around-the-clock grind, tunnellers celebrated yesterday as HS2's longest tunnel drive came to an end. The 17-strong crew working the enormous Florence TBM achieved an average speed of 16m a day on the 10-mile journey under the Chilterns. The 2,000-tonne TBM is one of 10 machines excavating the 32 miles of tunnel on the HS2 project from London Euston to Birmingham. To read more Click [Here](#)

Go-ahead for London's largest estate £1bn rebuild: Plans have been approved for the £1bn redevelopment of the Carpenter Housing Estate near the Queen Elizabeth Park in East London. Newham Council will deliver 2,022 homes through its wholly-owned housing company Populo Living. Around 300 existing homes – nearly half of the existing estate – will be retrofitted to create the borough's first Green Zone neighbourhood. To read more Click [Here](#)

Competition gets tighter in the capital: London's construction market is becoming increasingly competitive as firms look to fill their order books in light of challenging market conditions, according to new research from Aecom. Aecom's annual London Main Contractor Report, which surveyed 50 tier one and two contractors, notes an increase in tender activity, suggesting increased competition for work. The report, which seeks to provide a barometer of market sentiment, compares the number of projects for which the city's contractors are invited to tender versus the number of bids they submit. It finds that the rate stood at 74% in 2023, compared to 69% in 2022. To read more Click [Here](#)

Plans expand for "new city district" at Bristol airfield: Malaysian firm YTL Developments has been granted planning by South Gloucestershire Council for a revised masterplan for its Brabazon scheme being built on the historic former Filton Airfield. To read more Click [Here](#)

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Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,628.88	-11.45	-0.15%
DAX	17,678.95	-31.5	-0.18%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,901.85	-11.07	-0.23%
S&P 500	5,130.95	-6.13	-0.12%
Nikkei 225	40,097.63	29.43	0.07%
Dow Jones	38,989.83	-97.55	-0.25%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,606.20	-7.8	-0.10%

Current value as at 10:21 BST, 5th 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



Firms named for breaching minimum wage law: Builders merchants, scaffolders and a subsidiary of a large main contractor are among firms named by the government for failing to pay the minimum wage. More than 500 companies have been named after investigations by HMRC found that between 2015 and 2023 they had breached the National Minimum Wage Act. Among the firms were B&Q, which failed to pay a total of £33,887.41 to 77 workers; Wickes Building Supplies, which failed to pay £17,186.64 to 1,870 workers; and Hull-based MKM Building Supplies, which failed to pay £8,370.06 to 41 workers, according to the the Department for Business and Trade (DBT). To read more click [Here](#)

UK's oldest bank set for 'crucial' restoration works: A Yorkshire specialist conservation company is restoring the oldest bank in the UK. Henley Restoration & Remedials will work with main contractor ISG to carry out "crucial restoration work" to the exterior of the Round House in Evesham, Worcestershire. The job involves repairs to historic timber elements, wattle and daub lime render panels, window repairs, and a full decoration package for the facade. To read more click [Here](#)

Graham wins £85m Milton Keynes Lakes Estate revamp: Contractor Graham has started enabling works to regenerate the Lakes Estate in Milton Keynes. It will build almost 200 new council homes, a nursery, community centre and retail space and was appointed under an intensive two-stage tender using the Pagabo framework. The Lakes Estate is located at the southernmost end of Milton Keynes, on the outskirts of Bletchley and ranks in the top 10 most deprived areas in England for crime, income and health deprivation. To read more click [Here](#)

Akela develops alternative ground beam: Akela Ground Engineering has developed a precast concrete beam system that it claims could speed up house-building. Akela's Abeam has a mechanical pinned joint, allowing for prefabricated ground beams to be installed in a matter of hours, with no need for any insitu concrete or follow up trades, the company says. By combining off site fabrication with interlocking sections and secure fastening, the joint design "ensures a robust and efficient way to connect precast ground beams", says Akela. To read more click [Here](#)

Farrans set to install final section of Gull Wing Bridge: Main contractor Farrans will start the "highly technical and challenging" installation of the the final section of the £145m Gull Wing Bridge in Lowestoft on Friday. Installation of the main bascule span is expected to take three weeks. The bascule span is 39.5m long, 22m wide and 35m tall and weighs 1120 tonnes. It was delivered to the site yesterday by barge from Holland. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
Conversion to Care Home (2 Beds)	Southend-on-sea	£100,000	02/03/2024
MOT Garage and Office	Paisley	£200,000	02/03/2024
4 Dwellings	Swansea	£500,000	02/03/2024
Office	Bath	£900,000	02/03/2024
Storage Building	Plymouth	£100,000	02/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Rochester	£100,000	02/03/2024
Extension to Care Home (8 Rooms)	Wakefield	£500,000	02/03/2024
Storage Building	Darlington	£100,000	02/03/2024
Administration Building	Motherwell	£300,000	02/03/2024
16 Dwellings	Kingston Upon Thames	£2,000,000	02/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Rochester	£100,000	02/03/2024
3 Flats	Southend-on-sea	£400,000	02/03/2024
Extension for 2 Apartments	Ipswich	£300,000	02/03/2024
Conversion to 5 Flats	Portsmouth	£300,000	02/03/2024
25 Holiday Let	Harrogate	£3,000,000	02/03/2024
Extension for 2 Flats	Southampton	£300,000	02/03/2024
Conversion to 8 Flats	Oldham	£500,000	02/03/2024
7 Dwellings	Swansea	£800,000	02/03/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	Milton Keynes	£200,000	02/03/2024
Extension for 2 Flats	Enfield	£300,000	02/03/2024
9 Flats	Sutton	£1,500,000	01/03/2024
8 Flats	Paisley	£900,000	01/03/2024
3 Apartments	Gloucester	£400,000	01/03/2024
Extension to Storage Facility	Canterbury	£100,000	01/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Stoke-on-trent	£100,000	01/03/2024
Extension to Office	Cardiff	£100,000	01/03/2024
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	Shrewsbury	£200,000	01/03/2024
Retail Units and Restaurant	Crewe	£500,000	01/03/2024
Extension for Leisure Facility	Reading	£100,000	01/03/2024
Office	Doncaster	£100,000	01/03/2024



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