



Rain dampens industry forecasts: Heavy rain in the first quarter of the year has prompted modest revisions to industry forecasts. The Construction Products Association’s spring forecasts, out today, predict a slightly bigger fall in output this year than it previously thought, and a slightly bigger return to growth next year. To read more Click [Here](#)

Recruiter warns that construction skills shortages are about to get worse: A construction and engineering recruitment specialist says that an imminent skills shortage will “make 2007’s war for talent look like a water fight”. Simon Harris, the managing director of construction, property and engineering recruitment at Randstad UK, says a combination of mega construction projects already under way in the UK and projects that are yet to begin — such as water infrastructure developments, the construction of the Lower Thames Crossing, the expansion of the National Grid and the Stonehenge Tunnel — as well as the imminent resurgence of the house-building market, is set to intensify the current talent shortage and lead to “a brutal labour shortage”. To read more Click [Here](#)

£1bn London Blackfriars tower blocks approved: A US-Korean development consortium has got the planning green light for a trio of towers at the southern end of Blackfriars Bridge in London. The landmark £1bn scheme of around 1m sq ft involves building two residential towers of 40 and 22 storeys and an office building reaching 45 storeys and topping out at nearly 200m. To read more Click [Here](#)

In pictures | The best images of April: A round-up of the best images of February 2024. Quinn replaces V&A roofing - Quinn London is undergoing the complex replacement of the 1,600 sq m Victorian roofing at the Victoria & Albert Museum in South Kensington, London. To read more Click [Here](#)

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	8,174.20	27.17	0.33%
DAX	18,093.45	-38.33	-0.21%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,971.75	-9.34	-0.19%
S&P 500	5,116.17	16.21	0.32%
Nikkei 225	38,379.50	444.74	1.17%
Dow Jones	38,386.09	146.43	0.38%
FTSE 100 Futures	8,186.80	25.4	0.31%

Current value as at 09:20 BST, 30th April 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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Plan lodged for tallest skyscraper outside London: Developer Salboy has lodged plans for a dominating residential skyscraper in central Manchester that would be the tallest outside of London. The next phase of its Viadux scheme off Great Bridgewater Street will now see construction of two residential towers of 76 and 23 storeys containing a total of 915 apartments. Architect simpsonhaugh supported by M&E consultant Ridge and structural engineer Renaissance have designed the scheme. To read more click [Here](#)

Science Museum displays first hydrogen-fired brick: The London Science Museum has put on display what is claimed to be the world's first brick to be fired with hydrogen power. Brick maker Michelmersh made the Hybrick using electrolytic hydrogen to fire the kiln. It claims that the manufacturer of HyBrick produces between 81% and 84% less carbon emissions than conventional brick firing. Using renewable electricity to separate water into hydrogen and oxygen through electrolysis, the hydrogen is used instead of natural gas to power the kiln. To read more click [Here](#)

Balfour Beatty awarded contract to build Scotland's first net zero prison: Balfour Beatty has confirmed that it has been awarded a contract to construct the new £209M HMP Highland in Inverness, Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Prison Service. Balfour Beatty was first appointed to deliver the pre-construction phase, including the design of HMP Highland, in 2022. This latest phase, valued at £119M, will see the company progress with the construction of the new, modern 18,500sq m facility comprised of two new interconnected buildings and associated infrastructure. To read more click [Here](#)

Gove approves major Cambridge North mixed-use scheme: Housing and levelling up secretary Michael Gove has given the go-ahead to build 425 flats along with five commercial buildings near Cambridge North station. The decision to call in the scheme followed South Cambridgeshire District Council's failure to determine Chesterton Partnership's plan for the scheme on a 17-hectare former railway sidings site within the allocated timeframe. To read more click [Here](#)

Unions win HS2 site access battle at Old Oak Common job: HS2 joint venture Balfour Beatty, Vinci, SYSTRA has finally agreed to allow construction union officials access to its HS2 Old Oak Common site. The agreement secures the right of Unite officials to visit the project's inductions and rest facilities to talk to all the workers on the site during their breaks, in order to deal with any concerns or worries they may have. The access deal was signed after a two-year campaign by Unite, which included regular demonstrations, leafletting workers and resolving their concerns. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
149 Flats	North London	£20,000,000	27/04/2024
Mixed Use Development (30 Units)	Aberdeen	£3,500,000	27/04/2024
Swimming Pool	Colchester	£100,000	27/04/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Hull	£100,000	26/04/2024
Extension to Hospital	Torquay	£100,000	26/04/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Newcastle Upon Tyne	£100,000	26/04/2024
3 Dwellings	Redhill	£400,000	26/04/2024
2 Dwellings	Darlington	£300,000	26/04/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Reading	£100,000	26/04/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Swansea	£100,000	26/04/2024
3 Holiday Lets	Edinburgh	£400,000	26/04/2024
Conversion to Mixed Use (1 Unit)	Reading	£100,000	26/04/2024
11 Dwellings	Tonbridge	£1,500,000	26/04/2024
Extension to Hospital	Swansea	£500,000	26/04/2024
Retail Unit	Norwich	£800,000	26/04/2024
Dwelling	Halifax	£200,000	26/04/2024
Conversion to Living Unit	Sheffield	£100,000	26/04/2024
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	Halifax	£200,000	26/04/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	North West London	£200,000	26/04/2024
8 Dwellings	Bournemouth	£900,000	26/04/2024
Industrial Unit and Storage Facility	Southampton	£8,000,000	26/04/2024
Conversion to 3 Holiday Lets	Ipswich	£200,000	26/04/2024
Mixed Use Development (14 Units)	Gloucester	£2,500,000	25/04/2024
2 Dwellings	Nottingham	£300,000	25/04/2024
14 Apartments	Derby	£2,000,000	25/04/2024
6 Dwelling Development	Canterbury	£500,000	25/04/2024
Tennis Courts	Edinburgh	£100,000	25/04/2024
Hydrogen Workshop	Lancaster	£100,000	25/04/2024
450 Dwellings	Canterbury	£50,000,000	25/04/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Inverness	£100,000	25/04/2024



Contractor ranked by work won during March 2024

Rank	Contractor	No. contracts	Value	Ranking	Contractor	No. contracts	Total (£m)
1	Lendlease	3	£481.1m	26	Downing Developments	1	£46.1m
2	Royal BAM	7	£463.8m	27	OCU Group	1	£45.0m
3	ISG	10	£325.2m	28	Galliford Try	3	£43.2m
4	Wates	3	£313.3m	29	Glencar	3	£42.2m
5	Willmott Dixon	7	£266.5m	30	McLaren	2	£41.9m
6	HG	2	£260.0m	31	Britcon (Scunthorpe)	4	£41.1m
7	Morgan Sindall	15	£235.6m	32	Barnwood	2	£40.8m
8	Multiplex Europe	1	£200.0m	33	Thomas Sinden	3	£38.5m
9	Countryside	1	£150.0m	34	Keady Construction	2	£38.0m
10	Ryebridge	1	£150.0m	35	Access Building Contractors	1	£35.0m
11	Winvic	3	£131.6m	36	Core Special Projects	1	£33.9m
12	Hill Partnerships	1	£130.0m	37	Vinci	3	£33.0m
13	The Torsion Group	1	£90.0m	38	Speller Metcalfe	5	£29.3m
14	JJ Rhatigan & Company	1	£88.0m	39	Darwin Group	2	£29.1m
15	Caddick	5	£76.8m	40	Farrans	1	£28.0m
16	McAleer & Rushe	1	£72.0m	41	Jones Brothers	2	£27.7m
17	Kier	9	£61.2m	42	Vistry	1	£27.5m
18	Bowmer & Kirkland	5	£60.2m	43	Collins Construction	1	£25.0m
19	McLaughlin & Harvey	1	£60.0m	44	Higgins	1	£25.0m
20	Tilbury Douglas	9	£56.2m	45	Interclass	4	£23.0m
21	Mott MacDonald Bentley	2	£51.7m	46	Osborne	2	£22.4m
22	Morris Property	1	£50.0m	47	J Murphy	1	£22.0m
23	Robertson	4	£49.0m	48	Hobson & Porter	3	£21.0m
24	Gilbert – Ash	3	£48.0m	49	Amey	1	£20.0m
25	VolkerWessels	4	£46.8m	50	Luddon	4	£19.6m



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