

Weekly News Summary

2nd April 2024

Site labour rates start rising again: Labour rates on construction sites last month moved closer to the all-time high seen at the end of 2023. Latest figures from the industry's biggest payroll provider show average earnings for self-employed tradespeople increased to £1,017 per week during February – almost the same as the December peak of £1,044. Hudson Contract said this followed the usual poor month of January when earnings dipped due to bad weather and some sites being slow to reopen after Christmas. To read more Click [Here](#)

Government 55-day average payment rule comes into force: Contractors bidding for public works contracts worth over £5m must demonstrate they pay all invoices within 55 days, or face a public work ban. The new stricter payment rules came into force from 1 April and require firms to demonstrate they are paying 95% of invoices within 60 days, and also paying all their invoices within an average of 55 days. To read more Click [Here](#)

Construction completes on London's super sewer: Construction of the £5bn Thames Tideway Tunnel is now complete and commissioning work should begin in the summer. "This is the moment we've all been waiting for," said Tideway chief executive Andy Mitchell. "The underground civil engineering on the Tideway project is now complete following eight years of dedicated hard work from all our teams working in the capital. " To read more Click [Here](#)

In pictures | the best images of March 2024: A round-up of the best images of March 2024. Fort Gilkicker redevelopment - A Grade II-listed 19th-century fort in Gosport, Hampshire, is being converted into 26 homes after falling into disrepair. Mabey Hire used 22 sensors to monitor site-wide vibration to ensure no damage was caused by the hydraulic breaker used to remove concrete. To read more Click [Here](#)

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Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,972.02	19.4	0.24%
DAX	18,458.45	-46.06	-0.25%
Euro Stoxx 50	5,087.35	-18.81	-0.37%
S&P 500	5,243.77	-10.58	-0.20%
Nikkei 225	39,866.50	25.5	0.06%
Dow Jones	39,566.85	-240.52	-0.60%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,994.80	1	0.01%

Current value as at 13:33 BST, 2nd 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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Robotic micro-factories launched to build affordable timber homes: A robotics company and tech startup are using automated modular construction to build affordable and low-energy timber homes. ABB Robotics and AUAR are working together to deploy robots in a global network of micro-factories to construct buildings made from sheet timber. Instead of using thousands of components shipped from different places, the robotic micro-factories simplify the supply chain by working with one type of material and one machine type. To read more click [Here](#)

Hydrogen-fuelled diggers to be allowed onto highways: Hydrogen-powered diggers could be a regular sight on the roads thanks to new government plans. The Government has today started consultation on proposals to allow all non-road mobile machinery powered by hydrogen to use the highways. The move would lift a major barrier to the widespread use of hydrogen-powered plant in construction allowing machines to and from building sites using the public highway. To read more click [Here](#)

Construction green light for Hampshire garden village: Construction of the first wave of hundreds of homes for a new garden village at Welborne in Hampshire has been approved by the Fareham Borough Council Planning Committee. The first phase of 363 homes will be built by Welborne's house build partners – Thakeham and Pye Homes. Master Developer Buckland has formed a joint venture with three house builders enabling the construction to follow a single Design Code and Street Manual across the site which will eventually house 15,000 people. To read more click [Here](#)

Turnover at Wates tops £2bn for first time: Wates Group saw turnover exceed the £2bn mark in 2023 for the first time in its 127-year history. Latest accounts for the firm show turnover up to £2.18bn from £1.89bn last time generating a pre-tax profit of £46.2m compared to £33.7m previously. Wates also ended the financial year with a record forward order book of £8.54bn but net cash was lower at £138m from £153m following investment in the House Building Joint Ventures portfolio. To read more click [Here](#)

Hinkley Point spoil repurposed for Agratas battery plant: Kelston Sparkes is reusing spoil from its work for Hinkley Point C on the nearby Gravity site in Bridgwater. As we reported last month, Kelston Sparkes has been appointed by Agratas – the battery manufacturing arm of Tata – to undertake the groundworks for a multi-million-pound gigafactory factory on the Gravity Smart Campus in Puriton, Bridgwater. Kelston Sparkes has been working for Gravity for two years undertaking preliminary groundworks on the land of the former Royal Ordnance factory. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
Extension to Industrial Unit	Milton Keynes	£300,000	02/04/2024
8 Dwellings	Chelmsford	£900,000	02/04/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	Blackpool	£200,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Bradford	£100,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	Enfield	£200,000	29/03/2024
Mixed Use Development (2 Unit)	Reading	£300,000	29/03/2024
2 Dwellings	Stoke-on-trent	£300,000	29/03/2024
8 Apartments	Preston	£900,000	29/03/2024
Sports Pavilion	Peterborough	£400,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to 6 Flats	North London	£400,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to 3 Houses	Edinburgh	£300,000	29/03/2024
6 Dwellings	Leicester	£700,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to Mixed Use (2 Units)	Birmingham	£200,000	29/03/2024
3 Dwellings	Bath	£400,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	Southall	£200,000	29/03/2024
Extension to Activity Centre	Derby	£200,000	29/03/2024
One Storey Extension	Doncaster	£100,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to Care Home (2 Beds)	Preston	£100,000	29/03/2024
12 Dwellings	Dundee	£1,500,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to 3 Dwellings	Leicester	£200,000	29/03/2024
Extension to Industrial Unit	Coventry	£100,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to Mixed Use (2 Units and 9	Northampton	£400,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Shrewsbury	£100,000	28/03/2024
16 Holiday Lets	Falkirk And Stirling	£2,000,000	28/03/2024
Pavillion	Preston	£100,000	28/03/2024
20 Dwellings	Galashiels	£2,500,000	28/03/2024
7 Dwelling Development	York	£700,000	28/03/2024
Conversion to 3 Houses	Edinburgh	£300,000	28/03/2024
Student Accomodation (145 Beds) and R	Edinburgh	£8,000,000	28/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Hull	£100,000	28/03/2024



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



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