

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

C&G Concrete Ltd 01780 482000
www.candgconcrete.co.uk (East Midlands)

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833
www.cemex.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090
www.euromix.com

Hanson 0845 845 6699
www.hanson.biz

Hugh King & Co 01294 557515
www.kingdrymix.com

John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067
(Liverpool)

Premier Mortars 0845 603 3406
www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars

RTU 02890 851441
www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

Remix Dry Mortar Ltd 01329 231200
www.remixdrymortar.co.uk

Roadstone Dublin Ltd 00 35 31 4041200
www.roadstone.ie (Dublin)

Smiths Concrete Ltd 01295 278177
www.smithsconcrete.co.uk (Oxfordshire)

Tarmac Limited 08701 116116
www.tarmac.co.uk

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Shortage of homes threatens future generations of homeowners



Fears that the level of house building is stagnating could lock future generations out of owning a home, says the NHBC, reporting on the latest figures relating to new home registrations.

In August this year, 9,978 new homes were registered with NHBC, a drop from 11,310 in July. In August last year, almost the same number of houses at 9,954, were registered.

NHBC chief executive Imtiaz Farookhi said: "At a time of significant national debate about the planning process, our registration figures support what is increasingly being recognised by objective commentators. This is that the number of homes being built is simply too low to support the needs of the UK population.

"Insufficient supply inevitably leads to higher prices and this is creating a two-tier Britain, split between those lucky enough to already own a desirable property and the younger generation who can see their own aspirations of home ownership dashed by

unwillingness at local level to build the homes that would make that possible. It is impossible to see this as anything other than social divide."

In 2006, 185,000 new homes were built in the year while in the first eight months of 2011, that figure is more than 100,000 homes lower.

Of the new homes registered in August, numbers for the private sector were up by 8 per cent compared to the same period last year but those in the public sector dropped by 16 per cent.

Chairman of the MIA marketing committee, David Stewart, said: "These are challenging times for all concerned within the construction industry, including the mortar producers within the Mortar Industry Association. Rest assured the MIA members will continue to promote the benefits of using all types of factory-mixed methods of mortar, promoting both their economical and technical benefits."

CPI mortars cut the mustard at Norwich's new City Academy

Mortar from CPI EuroMix has been specified for the extensive facing brickwork at Norwich's new City Academy.

Designed by architects Sheppard Robson and being built by main contractor Kier, the three-storey, 11,000 sq m academy is being constructed in the grounds of the old Earlham High School. The building creates a back-to-back crescent formation, with the main teaching wall facing out across the school fields. The construction includes a central steel spine and cross-laminated timber external walls, floor and roof panels.

The external walls, all of which gently curve, are being clad with facing brickwork. For the main academy walls, mortar was required that would match the yellow brickwork whilst for the building's wings, which are faced with stone, a contrasting mortar was specified. To achieve the desired aesthetics, CPI EuroMix is providing two coloured mortars – straw yellow to blend with the brickwork and black for the areas to be faced in stone.



An artist's impression of the new academy

Working with specialist contractor Osborn Brickwork, CPI EuroMix is providing the mortar in silo mixing stations. Capable of holding up to 35 tonnes of dry mortar, the silo is delivered to site and plugged into water and power. As required, at the touch of a button, the silo produces a perfectly mixed mortar. As well as maintaining mix and colours, particularly important on a project where colour is a key, the system also minimises waste.

Once complete, the complex will feature a

new sports hall for academy and out-of-hours community use, Faraday science, art and design technology workshops and a full complement of traditional teaching spaces.

As part of the school's commitment to creating a sustainable facility, the academy will incorporate a district heating system linked to the University of East Anglia, as well as an extensive range of photovoltaic cells on the roof and a system for rainwater harvesting which will also be used as an educational tool.

Fourth report on sustainable concrete

The Sustainable Concrete Forum published its fourth performance report in October.

In his introduction, forum chairman Andy Spencer says that in 2008, when the concrete industry first agreed on its sustainable construction strategy, it knew that sustainability would change the design, construction and supply chains within the built environment – the exact journey, however, has been for more complex than forecast.

Nevertheless, despite the general economic downturn and lack of growth within the construction sector, the industry's commitment to delivering a sustainable built environment is undiminished.

In the report, performance highlights include:

• Supporting the government target on responsible sourcing

88% of concrete production is responsibly sourced to BES 6001 making concrete the leading construction material for responsible sourcing.

• Reducing CO₂ emissions

CO₂ emissions for a standardised concrete mix have

reduced by 16.3 per cent compared to the 1990 baseline and is on track to meet the 2012 target.

• Extending coverage of environmental and quality management systems

These systems underpin any sustainability strategy and performance shows that the use of such systems continues to increase in the industry and supply chain and underpin any sustainability strategy.

• Reducing creation and increasing usage of waste

The concrete industry is a net consumer of waste, using almost 47 times more than it produces.

• Continuous improvement

The industry is proud of its progress since its initial strategy was agreed in 2008.

The strategy is being developed to ensure that it will drive continuous improvement.

The overall Sustainable Concrete Forum vision is that, by 2012, the UK concrete industry will be recognised as the leader in sustainable construction,

by taking a dynamic role in delivering a sustainable built environment in a manner that is profitable, socially responsible and functions within environmental limits.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded free of charge from www.concretecentre.com.



**mortar
industry
association**

Gillingham House
38-44 Gillingham Street
London, SW1V 1HU

Tel +44 (0)20.7963 8000
Fax +44 (0)20.7963 8001
info@mineralproducts.org
www.mortar.org.uk

MIA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, lime, mortar and silica sand industries