

**Producer members**

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

**Anglia Lime Company 01787 313974**

[www.anglianlime.com](http://www.anglianlime.com)

**Breedon Southern Ltd 01332 694000**

[www.breedonaggregates.com](http://www.breedonaggregates.com)

**CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833**

[www.cemex.co.uk](http://www.cemex.co.uk)

**Cornish Lime Company 01208 797779**

[www.cornishlime.co.uk](http://www.cornishlime.co.uk)

**CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090**

[www.euromix.com](http://www.euromix.com)

**Holcim UK 01530 610098**

[www.holcim.co.uk](http://www.holcim.co.uk)

**Marshalls Mortars & Screeds**

**0345 3013030**

[www.marshalls.co.uk](http://www.marshalls.co.uk)

**Mortar and Screed Company Ltd**

**01952 224202**

[www.mortarandscreed.co.uk](http://www.mortarandscreed.co.uk)

**Remix Dry Mortar 01329 231200**

[www.remixdrymortar.co.uk](http://www.remixdrymortar.co.uk)

**RTU 02890 851441**

[www.rtu.co.uk \(Belfast\)](http://www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast))

**Tarmac 03701 116 116**

[www.tarmac.com](http://www.tarmac.com)

**Tillicoultry Quarries Ltd 01294 557515**

[www.tillicoultryquarries.com](http://www.tillicoultryquarries.com)

**Watts Mix 01262 675383**

[www.wattsmix.com](http://www.wattsmix.com)

# Getting more brickies on the trowel



Concerted efforts are being made to attract and train more bricklayers for the UK construction industry.

A recent government report highlighted the significant shortage of bricklayers, impacting the ability of the industry to meet demand particularly for housing and infrastructure development.

The shortfall in numbers mirrors the overall broader skills gap across the construction industry, caused by an aging workforce, declining apprenticeships and post-Brexit immigration constraints.

In a major move to improve the situation, NHBC has recently announced it is investing £100 million in a national network of twelve new multi-skill training hubs. Initially, these will deliver trained apprentices in key trades including

bricklayers as well as site carpenters and ground workers.

NHBC director of business change, Roger Morton, said:

*'The housebuilding industry offers excellent career opportunities. It's a sector that is evolving fast and offers secure, well-paid and progressive career paths. Whether you are just starting out, looking for a career change or returning to work, there is a place for you in this industry.'*

Additionally, the Guild of Bricklayers continues its annual skills competition for industry trainees. It runs regional competitions for bricklaying trainees at both senior and junior levels studying at colleges around the country. Winners of both groups go to a national final later this summer. MPA Mortar helps sponsor the competition by supplying factory-produced mortar for all events.

And the national Super Trowel competition goes from strength to strength promoting the skills of the bricklayer. Super Trowel 2025 has regional heats in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales before the final at Stoneleigh Park, near Coventry in August. The overall challenge for the competitors, say the organisers, is 'Laying the most bricks in record time to perfecting the final details of a wall'. MPA Mortar supports the events by supplying mortar.

## Holcim buys Eco-Readymix

Holcim has acquired Eco-Readymix Ltd, producer of mortar and concrete in the north-west.

Eco-Readymix was established in 2004 and has sites in Wrexham and Ellesmere Port with a third site due to open in the Midlands. It produces factory-produced and dry silo mortar and will operate as Holcim UK.

# City of London challenge for CEMEX mortar supply



Challenge of supplying colour-consistent bagged mortar to tight delivery schedules to a sensitive construction site was faced by CEMEX in its contract for the Whittington Building in the City of London.

The Whittington Building is a high-quality, five-storey, 3,500 square feet office and retail space built within the historic Guildhall Conservation Area for the Mercers' Company. Its brick facades were chosen by architects, Stanton Williams to complement the surrounding Georgian buildings. Operational carbon control was also a key factor for the architects, for which they incorporated high levels of insulation, natural ventilation, careful distribution of the Portland stone facades to reduce solar gain and minimising the use of steel frames: this last factor was achieved by increasing the use of bricks and lignite blocks in the external walls.

CEMEX supplied mortar – M4 light and Tudor brown, Braintree light and Doveholes white – in 1 tonne bags which were called off to a tight schedule as storage on site was at a premium. Colour consistency was vital as was the mortar's need to remain usable for up to 61 days after delivery.

*The Whittington Building.*

## New Learning Text planned

Technical committee of MPA Mortar is working on a further subject in its learning text series which will explain and describe the various steps to be taken when using factory-produced mortars safely and efficiently in both cold- and hot-weather conditions.

Broadly, mortar should not be used when the air temperature drops to 3 degrees Celsius and below while, in hot weather, water evaporation is the biggest factor to be considered.

Additionally, in some cases, extreme weather

conditions may call for the use of special construction techniques or protective measures to ensure that the masonry work is not adversely affected.

Copies of the learning text, 'Mortar cold and hot weather working' will be available via the MPA Mortar website later this year. The series of learning texts already available can be reached at [www.mortar.org.uk/technical\\_information/learning\\_texts](http://www.mortar.org.uk/technical_information/learning_texts).



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