

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000
www.breedonaggregates.com

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

New housing registrations continue to fall



The gap between private and public sector housing registrations continues to widen, say the latest figures published by the NHBC, leading to a marginal 2% decrease in the number of homes across all sectors registered to date this year in the UK.

Worryingly, the NHBC figures show registrations for the public sector decreased 20% in January 2012 compared with January 2011 and 58% in February 2012 year-on-year. On a brighter note, private sector housing registrations have shown increases this year, with a 9% rise in January followed by 27% in February, compared with the start of 2011.

'Clearly what we need in the short term is better economic confidence,' says MIA director, Brian James. 'In the much longer term we will be looking closely at the effect of the government's first-time buyers' mortgage initiative and the recently announced national planning and policy framework document – but I stress, both of these can only at best bring longer term increases in our need for increased new housing stock.'

Generally, the house building industry appears to welcome the new planning

system, seeing it as a more pro-growth approach which could support a much needed increase in house building. Among others, the HBF has sounded a note of caution, pointing out that its success is dependent upon both its interpretation by local authorities and how central government ensures it does actually deliver more homes.

But others fear the new planning system, in conjunction with the planning implications of the Localism Act enacted last year, could lead to even-more protracted planning applications where local groups fail to put local needs in the context of an overall national problem.

In HBF's latest Housing Pipeline report, published in March, figures showed that just 115k housing permissions were granted in 2011, half the required level and half the number in 2006.

HBF executive chairman, Stewart Baseley, said of the new planning system:

'The proposals are sensible and will balance a community's housing needs against environmental and other considerations. We now need to see the system implemented quickly so we can start to tackle the country's acute housing crisis.'

Update for mortar website

The MIA website has been updated to ensure it best serves visitors and the mortar industry at large. It continues to offer technical information and advice for end-users with downloadable data sheets, learning texts and general information.

Visit www.mortar.org.uk

Shades of black served up by Hanson in Birmingham

Five differently coloured, factory-produced mortars are being supplied by Hanson for the construction of the new Waverley school in Yardley Green Lane, Birmingham.

The site is being developed by Lend Lease with the brickwork being carried out by specialist contractor, Irvine Whitlock.

The five colours – various shades of black plus a natural mortar – are dispensed through five on-site silos. This provides material at the touch of a button, ensuring colour consistency and general quality control. The system also minimises waste and reduces the number of material deliveries required across the life of the contract.

The 'all through' Waverley school will provide educational facilities for some 1,530 primary and secondary pupils aged between five and 16.



Five silos on site ensure readily available mortar supplies

Business sessions provide answers for mortar industry

The morning business session at this year's MIA lunch in London on 3 May will include presentations from three speakers covering a range of subjects of interest to the mortar industry.

Regulated Dangerous Substances:

Dr Andrew Smith is principal consultant in sustainability and construction materials for the Ceram group of companies. He will review the current state of development of standards and guidance relating to manufacturers' testing and declaration of the release of Regulated Dangerous Substances. This forms part of the declaration of performance and CE marking. He will also look at the current situation regarding the European Commission's revision of the M116 Mandate. With a focus on mortar, the European Mortar Industries development of a dossier to support 'Without testing' will be highlighted, along with other possible options/routes available to industry.

Dr Smith has an MSc in industrial mineralogy (Hull) and a PhD in Concrete (Leicester). He was formerly head of research and technical development for Hanson Bricks Europe.

Eurocode 6

Professor John Roberts, principal of the Technical Innovation Consultancy and emeritus professor of civil engineering – Kingston University, will present an overview of masonry design to Eurocode 6 and describe the role of supporting standards. Based on his experiences as an expert witness he will draw attention to some of the issues raised by specification requirements in the context of masonry design with particular reference to BS EN 998-2.

Professor Roberts has extensive experience of work on British Standards and Codes of Practice, and currently chairs or is a member of a number of the committees involved in the development of the European Standards. He is a past President of the British Masonry Society.

External thermal insulation composite systems (ETICS)

Ed Hiam of Hi-Dry Consultancy is going to make use of his 20 years' experience in the mortar and additives industries to help demystify ETICS, especially in terms of the recent development of the use of environmentally-friendly breathable

insulation systems. He will also point out the growing awareness of the applications of ETICS not just by architects and specifiers but also of the general public.

Mr Hiam, now principal of Hi-Dry Consultancy, has previously worked for Fosroc and Weber and describes himself as a "drymix" chemist. He is currently engaged by Lime Green Products Limited.



mortar industry association

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