

**Producer members**

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

**Breedon Aggregates 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 79779**  
[www.cornishlime.co.uk](http://www.cornishlime.co.uk)

**CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090**  
[www.euromix.com](http://www.euromix.com)

**Hugh King & Co 01294 557515**  
[www.hughking.co.uk](http://www.hughking.co.uk)

**John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067**  
(Liverpool)

**Marshall Watts Mix 01262 675383**  
[www.wattsmix.com](http://www.wattsmix.com)

**Premier Mortars 0345 3013030**  
[www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars](http://www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars)

**RTU 02890 851441**  
[www.rtu.co.uk](http://www.rtu.co.uk) (Belfast)

**Tarmac 03701 116 116**  
[www.tarmac.com](http://www.tarmac.com)

## INDUSTRY BLOCKWORK PORTAL LAUNCHED

The Concrete Block Association has launched its part of the Modern Masonry 'Better built in blockwork' campaign by creating an on-line portal which includes a U-value calculator and a comprehensive set of thermal bridging construction details.

The portal provides guidance aimed across the construction industry, with datasheets to support design, supplier choice advice and guidance as to the benefits of concrete blocks.

Further information at  
[www.cba-blocks.org.uk](http://www.cba-blocks.org.uk)

# MIA committee works on annex to mortar British Standard

**MIA technical committee has been re-working a national annex document, which gives guidance on the use of BS EN 998-2-2016, the British Standard for masonry mortar.**

It is expected that this will shortly be published in conjunction with British Standards.

The annex explains that the standard specifies the constituent materials and performance requirements for mortar for masonry. It is based on performance rather than prescription, and in this way differs fundamentally from past UK practice. However, it does refer to prescribed mortars and the declaration of:

- \* mix proportions by mass or volume;
- \* compressive strength, based on publicly available relationships between strength and mix proportions.



The annex goes on to cover mixes for prescribed masonry mortars and mortar classes, test methods, and cement types



and combinations for mortar mixes. It also touches on the general requirements of the standard, pointing out that the majority of these are based on a system of declared values, for example, workable life and compressive strength, rather than compliance with stated minima or maxima.

MIA manager, Mick Russell, says: 'Work on this annex typifies the valuable work carried out by MIA committees, which are made up of experts from around our industry. We not only cover technical matters but also such areas as health and safety, site procedures and best working practices.'

# CPI supplies mortar for new armed services rehabilitation centre



Mortar from CPI EuroMix has been chosen for the construction of what is likely to be one of the world's best clinical rehabilitation centres for the armed forces. The Defence & National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) is an initiative by the late 6th Duke of Westminster to provide 21st century clinical rehabilitation for the armed forces and, potentially, for civilians too.

The defence facility, at Stanford on Soar, near Loughborough, becomes operational this year with opportunities for the complementary national civilian facility currently under consideration by government.

Respecting the DNRC's setting within the Grade II Stanford Hall Estate with its listed house and parkland, the centre blends innovation with tradition. The defence facility building's interiors are bespoke and contemporary. They are specifically designed and laid out to help patients and clinicians. Approximately 95% of the facility is new build – use of the hall is ancillary and will complement the clinical work across the new build by providing for example offices and staff accommodation.

Designed by John Simpson Architects, the defence facility buildings reflect on the monastic origins of hospitals in terms of how attending to the wellbeing and spiritual needs of patients is every bit as important as their physical health in motivating people

to get better. This approach influenced the arrangement of the buildings, courtyards and gardens.

CPI EuroMix provided Lee Marley Brickwork with 2,500 tonnes of special mix mortar, with the incorporation of grit for aesthetic purposes. The company also provided a silo mixing station, capable of holding up to 35 tonnes of dry mortar. Once plugged into water and power, at the simple touch of a button, the silo produces a perfectly mixed mortar. The system also minimises waste as well as maintaining the mix and colours, which helps to reduce the environmental impact of projects during construction.

## Further increase in new house registrations



According to the latest NHBC UK registration figures, for the rolling quarter, June to August,

42,547 new homes were registered compared to 38,296 in 2017 – an increase of 11%.

Nationally, 30,738 new homes were registered across the period in the private sector compared to 28,660 in 2017, an increase of seven per cent and 11,809 in the affordable sector – 9,636 in 2017 an increase of 23%.

More than 13,700 new homes were registered during August alone, according to the latest figures, with strong growth in London. Of these, 10,588 new homes were registered for the private sector (10,738 in 2017), and 3,125 in the affordable sector (2,801 in 2017).

Commenting on the August figures, NHBC chief executive, Steve Wood, said: 'We continue to see strong numbers in many parts of the UK with a substantial uplift in London, driven by increased activity by housing associations and the continued flow of inward investment on for-sale and private rental developments.

'The continuing uncertainties around Brexit and the UK's economic outlook do not seem sufficient to dent confidence in the new homes market, where NHBC's focus remains on helping developers to build more, high-quality homes for people across the country.'



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