

## 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)

**Eco-Readymix Ltd 01978 846976**

[www.eco-readymix.co.uk](http://www.eco-readymix.co.uk)

**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)

**Mortar and Screed Company Ltd**

**01952 224202**

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

**Premier Mortars 0345 3013030**

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

**Remix Dry Mortar 01329 231200**

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

**RTU 02890 851441**

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

# Carbon challenge needs whole-life views

**In this extract from an article first published in Construction News in October this year, head of architecture, housing & sustainability at The Concrete Centre, Guy Thompson, examines the carbon challenge facing the construction industry**



Guy Thompson

**Against the backdrop of climate change, the construction industry needs to chart the roadmap to a net-zero-carbon society by 2050.**

This requires an intelligent and informed industry discussion about embodied and operational carbon. Crucially, it now calls for a reinvigorated focus on the whole-life performance of buildings and assets.

"Clients need to have a far greater appreciation of the fact that buildings must last longer and may have multiple uses over their lifecycle".

The reality is that many projects are currently conceived without sufficient consideration of lifecycle carbon impacts. There is all too often a focus on short-term

embodied carbon in building-material selection, rather than consideration of carbon emitted across the lifecycle of assets.

Whole-life thinking calls for a longer-term perspective. Specification decisions and carbon measurement must consider the operational performance of a building or structure, its flexibility to adapt to user needs and its recycling at the end of life, as well as the materials used to construct it.

While embedded carbon from manufacturing processes may be easier to calculate, it fails to address some critical factors that are of key importance when assessing the true environmental impact of buildings and infrastructure over their lifetime.

For example, a product with a higher embodied carbon footprint at the point of delivery could actually be three or four times more durable, more thermally efficient, or might require much less maintenance over its lifespan than an alternative with lower embodied carbon.

All these factors should be considered when assessing a whole-life carbon footprint.

The complete article can be accessed at: <https://www.concretecentre.com/News/2019/Carbon-challenge-needs-whole-life-views,-not-half.aspx>

## Mortar Industry name change

MPA Mortar is the new name for the Mortar Industry Association (MIA).

It is thought the original mortar association probably formed sometime during the 1960s. However, it is known that its 50th annual lunch will be celebrated in 2021.

MPA Mortar manager, Mick Russell: 'This change makes great sense, underlining our position as an integral component of the Mineral Products Association. It is ironic though that ten years ago the then Mortar Producers Association – MPA for short - changed its name to the Mortar Industry Association when the then Quarry Products Association added other products to its portfolio and became the Mineral Products Association.'

# Colour consistency and finish ability key at Base

Colour consistency and finish ability were the principal reasons CEMEX was chosen to supply factory-produced mortar for the housebuilder Countrywide's Base development at Newhall in Harlow, Essex.

Quality was key as Countrywide has already won several prestigious awards for earlier phases of the Base development. The new phase of new homes will be available in late 2019 with some 700 units to be built over the coming years. The development includes one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments sitting alongside three- and four-bedroom houses.



Part of Countrywide's Base development at Newhall in Harlow, Essex.

CEMEX will have supplied to the development over two years, 2,700 tonnes of dry silo mortar, both M4 black medium and M4 natural mortar.

Site manager for brickwork contractor Dilpreet, Satnam Dhesi, said; 'I have used CEMEX before on a number of developments and the product quality, finish ability and overall aesthetic appearance is second to none.'

## Continuing sponsorship

MPA Mortar has agreed again to sponsor the Guild of Bricklayers 2020 annual skills competition for industry trainees.

It will do so by supplying factory-produced mortar for the regional contests and the final. It will be the sixth year the association has sponsored the competition.

The guild runs nine regional competitions for brick laying trainees studying at accredited colleges. Students compete in junior and senior categories and are given up to six hours to construct a brickwork model from drawings supplied. The work is marked by industry judges and winning competitors from each heat go forward to compete in the national finals.

# Don't jet wash fresh brickwork

At a recent meeting between NHBC and MPA Mortar, mortar industry representatives condemned the practice of acid jet washing of fresh brickwork.

In the process, the faces of the bricks first have diluted hydrochloric acid applied to them, which is then jet washed off. It is a practice used on some sites to remove mortar splashes on newly completed units and so expedite their finished appearance for sale.

MPA Mortar producer member, Eco-Readymix's sales director, Georgi Billington, explains:

'The biggest issue we face with acid jet washing is the damage done to the face of the mortar joint. Bricklayers spend time and care to create a clean, smooth finish to a mortar joint. This brings the cement to the front of the joint and seals the mortar creating a solid, finished surface.'

'By jet washing with acid, usually too close to the face work, it blasts off the sealed joint and also the face of the brick too. This then leaves the joint exposed, worn and exposed to the elements and potentially causing further damage.'



Georgi Billington: 'Should brickwork be carried out carefully and tidily, jet washing should not need to take place. I visited a perfect example of this ... on a site in Cheshire where great care and quality workmanship had been shown by the bricklayers.'



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