

## Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

**Anglian Lime Company 01787 313974**  
[www.anglianlime.com](http://www.anglianlime.com)

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

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

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

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

# Recovery in sales of mortar in 2021

**Producer members of MPA Mortar report a good recovery in sales of mortar in 2021 compared to last year, despite continuing transport and raw materials supply problems.**

Executive chairman of MPA Mortar, Stuart Russell said:

'Mortar volumes have bounced back in 2021 from the COVID-stricken levels of 2020 and considering the challenges throughout the year in the form of HGV driver shortages and raw material limitations, members have really pulled the stops out with volumes up almost 30 per cent year on year. We're not quite back at pre-pandemic levels but with underlying demand for housing remaining strong we are well on the road to this.'

However, the Mineral Products Association's (MPA) latest quarterly survey

which covers producers of aggregates, asphalt, ready-mixed concrete and mortar, cautions that overall demand for mineral products slowed in the third quarter of 2021 after strong sales during spring and summer.

Looking ahead, MPA anticipates demand for most mineral products will remain relatively robust through 2022-23 although limited HGV drivers and haulage capacity will continue to affect supply.

## More on mortar

MPA Mortar holds a stock of information on mortar matters on its website.

This includes technical data sheets, learning texts for students, briefing papers and an on-line mortar quiz to test your knowledge instantly.

And with winter fast approaching, the downloads include guidance on winter working with mortar - see data sheet 7, *Factory-produced mortar for use at low and high temperatures*.

Go to [www.mortar.org.uk](http://www.mortar.org.uk).



*Mortar sales volumes have increased in 2021.*

# CEMEX provides specially developed mortar for zero carbon regeneration project

A pointing mortar, specially developed by CEMEX, is helping the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham complete a £135 million regeneration project at its Gascoigne Estate.

Working for the council's regeneration company, Be First, through contractor, Willmott Dixon, CEMEX is providing the pointing mortar for the off-site construction of brick panels for the phase of the development, which will provide 124 affordable homes as 1-, 2- and 3-bedroomed apartments.

As the brick panels are being produced under factory conditions, the mortar has had to be designed to provide a less than full-depth, high-



*Finished brick panel at the factory.*

quality joint, be easily pumped, while behaving in a uniform manner and deliverable through pointing gun applicators.

Having an M12 specification for long-term durability, the mortar has also been designed, in conjunction with the project architect, to a bespoke colour to emphasise the shade of the brick being used.

The Gascoigne Estate regeneration will provide net zero carbon building with communal green space and extensive cycle parking. The total development will include 328 new homes, 57 per cent of which will be designated affordable.

## NHBC Training Hub off to good start

The NHBC construction industry training hub, opened in May this year, has started well with 18 trainees on its bricklaying apprentice course.

Located in Tamworth alongside a working building site, NHBC is supported by the site's operator Redrow and the Tamworth Borough Council. Apprenticeships run for 18 months and are a mix of theoretical and practical training at the hub and on-site experience for the trainees back with their own employers.

Chairman of the MPA Mortar executive committee, Stuart Russell, after a recent visit to the hub with MPA Mortar manager, Mick Russell, said:

'MPA Mortar is pleased to support the NHBC apprentice bricklayer training hub at Tamworth. This is the first of hopefully many centres to be established by the NHBC to address the widespread shortage of

bricklayers coming into the industry.

With more retiring or leaving the industry than starting, the number of qualified bricklayers is diminishing annually and this underlines the need for real action in order to address the problem. This is a first class set up by the NHBC, which will give the apprentices a great kickstart to their careers ahead.

'Having only seen the pre- set up location it was great to finally see the finished article and the apprentices in action. NHBC should be commended for this initiative and hopefully it is the first of many to help support the industry for years to come.'

Apprentice Harry Jones (20) who works for Bellway Homes is enthusiastic about the course too. 'I found that having an initial five-weeks training at the hub before I went out on site meant I was much more use when I actually arrived at site compared to others

without that experience.' He said he also found working hours at the hub - 7.45 am to 4.30 pm - meant he was better prepared for subsequent working on site.



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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.