

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

C&G Concrete Ltd 01780 482000
www.candgconcrete.co.uk (East Midlands)

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

Need technical information on mortars?

Visit www.mortar.org.uk

Shortage of homes threatens future generations of homeowners



Fears that the level of house building is stagnating could lock future generations out of owning a home, says the NHBC, reporting on the latest figures relating to new home registrations.

In August this year, 9,978 new homes were registered with NHBC, a drop from 11,310 in July. In August last year, almost the same number of houses at 9,954, were registered.

NHBC chief executive Imtiaz Farookhi said: "At a time of significant national debate about the planning process, our registration figures support what is increasingly being recognised by objective commentators. This is that the number of homes being built is simply too low to support the needs of the UK population.

"Insufficient supply inevitably leads to higher prices and this is creating a two-tier Britain, split between those lucky enough to already own a desirable property and the younger generation who can see their own aspirations of home ownership dashed by

unwillingness at local level to build the homes that would make that possible. It is impossible to see this as anything other than social divide."

In 2006, 185,000 new homes were built in the year while in the first eight months of 2011, that figure is more than 100,000 homes lower.

Of the new homes registered in August, numbers for the private sector were up by 8 per cent compared to the same period last year but those in the public sector dropped by 16 per cent.

Chairman of the MIA marketing committee, David Stewart, said: "These are challenging times for all concerned within the construction industry, including the mortar producers within the Mortar Industry Association. Rest assured the MIA members will continue to promote the benefits of using all types of factory-mixed methods of mortar, promoting both their economical and technical benefits."

Factory-produced mortars for Chetham's School of Music project

Factory-produced mortar has been supplied by Tarmac Building Products for the construction of a new six-storey building for the Chetham's School of Music in Manchester.

The new building, designed by Roger Stephenson Architects, is being constructed next to the existing Chetham's campus and will be completed and opened during 2012. It will provide a mix of music and academic facilities and incorporate two performance spaces, including a full orchestral auditorium with 400 seats, offices, administrative space and an outreach centre.

Main contractor Sir Robert McAlpine has called for both traditional build and precast panel construction on the project.

Brickwork contractor, PLF, pays tribute to the exacting, intricate design requirements which include battered brickwork, curved



An artist's impression of the finished building

areas and an internal feature staircase also faced in brick. Tarmac Building Products supplied a 30-tonnes silo to site to provide the buff-coloured Y113 mortar required, enabling PLF to call off material as and when required. In all, some 500 tonnes of mortar was supplied to the contract. Additionally, Tarmac provided a second silo dispensing natural coloured mortar for use on internal blockwork.

The Chetham's school construction site is tight for space, located as it is alongside Manchester's Victoria railway station, so Sir Robert McAlpine directed that half the overall volume of brickwork would be made in panels by Thorp Precast, giving better overall project programming. Thorp pointed approximately 4,000 m² of specialist panels using matching hand-made brick slips, again using silo-delivered buff mortar from Tarmac.

Fourth report on sustainable concrete

The Sustainable Concrete Forum published its fourth performance report in October.

In his introduction, forum chairman Andy Spencer says that in 2008, when the concrete industry first agreed on its sustainable construction strategy, it knew that sustainability would change the design, construction and supply chains within the built environment – the exact journey, however, has been for more complex than forecast.

Nevertheless, despite the general economic downturn and lack of growth within the construction sector, the industry's commitment to delivering a sustainable built environment is undiminished.

In the report, performance highlights include:

- **Supporting the government target on responsible sourcing**

88% of concrete production is responsibly sourced to BES 6001 making concrete the leading construction material for responsible sourcing.

- **Reducing CO₂ emissions**

CO₂ emissions for a standardised concrete mix have

reduced by 16.3 per cent compared to the 1990 baseline and is on track to meet the 2012 target.

- **Extending coverage of environmental and quality management systems**

These systems underpin any sustainability strategy and performance shows that the use of such systems continues to increase in the industry and supply chain and underpin any sustainability strategy.

- **Reducing creation and increasing usage of waste**

The concrete industry is a net consumer of waste, using almost 47 times more than it produces.

- **Continuous improvement**

The industry is proud of its progress since its initial strategy was agreed in 2008.

The strategy is being developed to ensure that it will drive continuous improvement.

The overall Sustainable Concrete Forum vision is that, by 2012, the UK concrete industry will be recognised as the leader in sustainable construction,

by taking a dynamic role in delivering a sustainable built environment in a manner that is profitable, socially responsible and functions within environmental limits.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded free of charge from www.concretecentre.com.



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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