

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Anglia Lime Company 01787 313974
www.anglianlime.com

Breedon Southern Ltd 01332 694000
www.breedonaggregates.com

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833
www.cemex.co.uk

Cornish Lime Company 01208 79779
www.cornishlime.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090
www.euromix.com

Marshalls Mortars & Screeds
0345 3013030
www.marshalls.co.uk

Mortar and Screed Company Ltd
01952 224202
www.mortarandscreed.co.uk

Remix Dry Mortar 01329 231200
www.remixdrymortar.co.uk

RTU 02890 851441
www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

Tarmac 03701 116 116
www.tarmac.com

Tillicoultry Quarries Ltd 01294 557515
www.tillicoultryquarries.com

Watts Mix 01262 675383
www.wattsmix.com

Mortar Industry 2024



Michael May.

Chairman of the executive committee of MPA Mortar, Michael May, looks at the successes and the challenges facing the industry.

A strongbox of mortar information

For more information on factory-produced mortar, including technical data sheets, learning texts and standards go to the MPA Mortar website at www.mortar.org.uk

It is pleasing to be able to report the successes that have been achieved within the industry over recent years. Significant strides have been made in reducing its environmental impact through the adoption of lower carbon cements and the use of alternative fuels. Recycling much of its returned product also reduces the need for new raw materials as well as minimising waste. We have also seen companies within the industry exploring and implementing new technologies.

The mortar industry plays a vital part in the UK construction industry supply chain, contributing significantly to the national economy while it supports a large number of jobs.

But there are challenges ahead.

The push towards net zero emissions by 2050 is a major challenge. I have mentioned our successes in this area above but we need to go further, adopting

more new energy-efficient technologies and processes to lower emissions from production and transportation.

Labour shortages are also a concern. The construction industry has a shortage of skilled workers. An ageing workforce and the reduced influx of skilled workers from the EU because of Brexit are impacting on the delivery of masonry structures.

Inevitably, rising prices have affected the industry. Inflation has driven up costs of materials, energy and labour while global supply chain issues have led to shortages as well as adding to project bills.

But the mortar industry is strong, experienced and recognised for supplying quality products. Moving forward, we will continue to work to overcome these challenges through investment in training, embracing new technologies and developing more sustainable practices.

Dry mortar from CPI the answer in Bath development



The Bath Junction development

High-quality, dry mortar mix has been supplied by CPI Euromix to a residential project that will become the largest purpose-built, build-to-rent scheme in the historic city of Bath.

Three on-site silos processed more than 1,000 tonnes of dry-mixed mortar that was provided for the Bath Junction development, which will provide much-needed, affordable housing and commercial spaces for the city's rental market.

Due for completion in 2025, the project includes 316 residential units comprising studios and one-, two-, and three-bedroom homes. A total of 7,000 ft² of flexible commercial space will increase the development's mixed-use appeal.

Sustainability, as well as affordability, is a key consideration of the 297,000 ft² project, with developer Watkin Jones targeting the 'Home Quality Mark Level Three' standard.

Attractive green spaces and landscaped communal courtyard gardens will enhance the development's biodiverse credentials, along with rows of newly-planted trees at the buildings' frontage.

The buildings' aesthetic appeal was crucial to their design. A total of 750,000 bricks were used for the facades, installed in a range of patterns by brickwork contractor, Falcon Construction. CPI's dry mortar mixes were integral to the finishing process, blending seamlessly with the brickwork across the three buildings to provide stability and a strikingly smart appearance.

Manufactured at CPI's Bristol Avonmouth plant and delivered readymade in silos to site, the company produced 650 tonnes of 'special white' dry mortar and 400 tonnes of natural mortar. The use of silos reduces waste, mixing time and speeds up the installation process. Self-contained storage also reduces deliveries and labour hours, enhancing a project's sustainable credentials.

CPI's coloured mortars were applied across a 10,000m² brickwork area. Their specification, although not a headline design detail, leverages the developer's intention to deliver housing that offers affordability and adds to the city's desirable property portfolio.

Fast bricklaying at Super Trowel event



Super Trowel underway at Milton Keynes.

Summer saw the second-ever Super Trowel event, this time held at the Marshall Arena in Milton Keynes. It was organised by Brick Jackets, Joe Short, Bricklayers Social Club, Ashley Francis and Hertford College tutor Jack Dawson.

Fourteen teams of bricklayers and hoddies, who had their own competition on set up before the main event, were lined up against one another

in a one-hour, speed laying session.

This year there was also a junior competition, which the organisers are hopeful will grow next year. MPA Mortar member CPI Euromix supplied the mortar for the contestants from two outside silos. There was also a display silo in the venue, where CPI staff were available to talk all things mortar.

Bricklayer Charlie Collison won the event for the second time, breaking his previous year record by over one hundred bricks, taking the final count to 710 bricks laid in one hour.

A lifetime achievement award was given to Peter Roberts who has designed Brickwork Tutors Toolbox training aids, including one on mortar with help from MPA Mortar manager Mick Russell. These training aids are used by colleges and NHBC for brickwork students, but

they are also good for refresher tests for more seasoned 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 industrial sand industries.