

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000

www.breedonaggregates.com

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.hughking.co.uk

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 Building Products 08701 116116

www.tarmac.co.uk

A wide range of data sheets covering mortar mixes and applications are available, free of charge, at the MIA website.

Go to www.mortar.org.uk/resources

House building levels continue to fall



House building levels continue to fall according to the latest year-to-date home registration figures published by NHBC.

In August 2012, the number of new homes registered with NHBC dropped to 9,553, 4 per cent below August last year (9,978). This takes overall year to date totals for 2012 to 72,740 applications; a 15 per cent decrease on the same period in 2011 (85,120).

Private sector registrations in June to August decreased by 11% (21,594), compared with the same period in 2011 (24,315). Public sector registrations also decreased over the same period, this time by 33% (7,678) when compared with the same period a year ago (11,538).

The total number of registrations for the period was 29,272, an 18% decrease on last year (35,854).

NHBC commercial director, Richard Tamayo, said: 'Viewing new home registration figures in absolute terms, year to date, underlines the real scale of the challenge facing the whole house building industry at the moment.'

'Just this month the Government announced a series of measures aimed at supporting the house building industry, in

its capacity as a key driver for economic growth. These measures are certainly needed but their success will only be realised through a concerted effort by the industry and government to ensure they are taken forward. The continued undersupply of new housing means that the UK is missing out on a potential source of much needed economic growth; this obviously needs to be addressed.'

Full regional breakdown of total new homes registered June - August 2012 by region/country:

Region June- August	2012	2011
England - Regions		
North East	1,172	974
North West	2,316	2,254
Yorkshire & the Humber	1,692	1,932
West Midlands	2,149	2,507
East Midlands	2,311	2,132
Eastern	2,858	4,031
South West	3,737	3,480
Greater London	4,084	7,778
South East	5,319	6,190
Totals for England	25,638	31,278
Scotland - Councils	2,085	2,977
Wales - Unitary Authorities	1,108	1,065
Northern Ireland - Counties	422	528
Isle of Man	19	6
Totals for UK	29,272	35,854

Remix Dry Mortar at Llandough Hospital, Cardiff

Treforest based Millisun Brickwork Contractors has chosen Remix Dry Mortar to provide factory produced dry silo mortar to the new combined mental health assessment unit and stroke rehabilitation unit at Llandough Hospital, Cardiff.

Under main contractor, Interserve, Millisun's £1 million, 18-month masonry contract is part of an overall £40m investment by client Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust to replace old units. The contract involves both new build and structural alterations to existing buildings.

The scheme has been designed by Cardiff-based Boyes Rees Architects. Remix technical department has worked closely with the design team, comprising personnel from Boyes Rees, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust and Interserve, to ensure the right mortar selection to complement the masonry units being used. The team chose designation iii natural yellow mortar complying with BS EN 998-2, the contract specification for mortar. The material has been supplied via two 35-tonne capacity mortar silos to cater for the 6,000m² of 100mm Llanharan 7n medium density concrete blocks and 3,000m² of Ibstock Milburn Buff Multi facing bricks.

Millisun managing director Chris White said 'Sourcing factory produced dry silo mortar



from Remix provided us with numerous, significant advantages over other more traditional methods of providing mortar on a live, working hospital site. The sensitivity of working on such a site provided it's own challenges and these were met through the provision of factory produced mortar delivered by the Remix dry silo system. As well as adhering to a stringent specification for mortar, other considerations such as minimising disruption for patients and staff were paramount and the dry silo system helped achieve this through significantly reduced traffic movements and noise minimisation'.

Remix commercial manager Mark Levenson commented "Millisun's decision to specify factory produced mortar on the Llandough Hospital scheme once again illustrates the benefits of so doing by satisfying the projects technical demands and the demands of working in such a sensitive environment. As well as providing quality, factory produced mortar, our silos were able to provide the material in the most suitable manner for the needs of this site compared to other traditional means of doing so. We are naturally delighted to lend our support to Millisun on such a worthy project".

Design guidance for low carbon homes

A guidance report for the cost effective design specification for low carbon homes has been produced following a joint study between The Concrete Centre and A2Dominion.

'Zero carbon performance – Cost-effective concrete and masonry homes', shows how concrete and masonry construction can meet the demands of mainstream zero carbon homes. By adopting one of its existing designs for a three-bedroom, five-person house, A2Dominion set out to reduce design risk by building on existing knowledge, minimising additional costs, using local skills and materials and enabling design to reflect local vernacular.

The result is a design that is conventional in appearance, can be built as a mid- or end-terrace and can be faced with brick or rendered concrete blockwork.

The design makes full use of the thermal efficiency of concrete and masonry construction. The homes have a high level of insulation and air tightness, with triple-glazed windows and brick and block, full-fill cavity walls.

Copies of the study's findings, 'Zero carbon performance – Cost-effective concrete and masonry homes', can be downloaded from www.concretecentre.com/publications



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