

INNOVATION

Apparently June was an innovation free month!

TECHNOLOGY

ORR PUBLISHES ACTION PLAN FOR SAFE ADOPTION OF AI ([see story here](#))

The **Office of Rail and Road (ORR)** has published its Safe AI Innovation Action Plan, which sets out how it will enable the safe adoption of AI within UK rail and England's strategic road network. ORR said one of its first actions would be to clarify safety risks and regulatory expectations for AI use. This will be published by the end of September via the Digital Safety Strategy and Strategic Risk Chapter on health and safety risks arising from the use of digital systems.

BOUYGUES USES BIM FOR MOORFIELDS CONSULTATIONS ([see story here](#))

Bouygues UK has used BIM tools from **Revizto** to allow medical staff to give input on the shape of the new Moorfields and UCL Centre for Eye Health. The technology has been used to create a live, fully navigable 3D model of the new medical centre, walking through operating theatres, assessing the positioning of medical gas outlets, and mapping patient flows through clinical spaces, months before construction reaches those areas. The project has brought clinicians, engineers, and construction teams together in a shared digital environment, helping project teams resolve design issues, reduce errors, and minimise costly rework, with clash detection time reduced from a week to 10-15 minutes.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY FOR LOW-COST RURAL SIGNALLING COLLABORATION ([see story here](#))

Universal Signalling has announced the launch of a new project, which will be delivered in partnership with **Network Rail Scotland** and **ScotRail**. The activity is part-funded by the **European Space Agency** BASS Program under the Space4Rail initiative and supported and endorsed by the **UK Space Agency**. Space Technology for Low cost Rural Signalling (STeLoRS) will examine the feasibility of combining satellite technologies with Universal Signalling's ultra-fast deployment 'U-Cross' system. The goal is to enable rapid deployment anywhere in the world, without dependence on terrestrial communications infrastructure. Advanced positioning technologies will enhance installation speed and accuracy. The work will also lay the groundwork to ensure a direct upgrade path to future railway signalling functions.

NETWORK RAIL HIT BY MORE THAN 7M CYBER ATTACKS ([see story here](#))

Network Rail blocked over 7.1 million malicious emails in three months, highlighting the relentless spike in cyber threats targeting the UK's most critical infrastructure operations. The data, obtained through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request reveals the scale of these malicious attacks towards National Rail between December 2025 to March 2026.

EQUIPMENT

ROBOTS RISE AT SCHINDLER ([see story here](#))

Schindler has added two new R.I.S.E elevator installation robots, aiming to enhance safety, boost efficiency, and reduce the physical strain of on-site labour. The firm now has seven robots in its fleet. Schindler R.I.S.E, or Robotic Installation System for Elevators, has been deployed at 36 job sites worldwide and installed approximately 50,000 anchor bolts – a key structural component in elevator shafts. Projects have spanned Austria, Poland, India, the UK, Brazil, China, Singapore and beyond, as interest in robotic elevator installation continues to grow.

A NIFTY WAY TO FIND SUPPORT ([see story here](#))

NiftyLift has launched a support hub, MyNifty, that brings together manuals, technical documentation, troubleshooting tools and video guidance in a single online platform. The platform is accessible via QR code scanning or serial number search. It is designed to make machine information easier to access for operators, hire companies and service personnel, helping them find the information they need quickly and efficiently. MyNifty provides a dedicated support page for each machine model. Users can access machine-specific information by scanning the QR code located on a machine's serial plate or by entering the machine serial number online. This can also include error code lookup, cage overload override reset codes, and video guides.

HYDROGEN BOWSERS AND SHIPPING SUNLIGHT ([see story here](#))

HyKit has launched its first mobile hydrogen refueller, effectively a bowser for hydrogen. The company's first product is a mobile hydrogen refueller, the MHR-X75. This stores hydrogen in pressurised tanks, inside a unit small enough to be transported on a trailer, and moved around site using a backhoe or material handler. **Brian James Trailers** has developed a trailer suitable for the refueller, and **Moffett** has designed a tailored handler. It can then be used to refuel site equipment or generators.

NETWORK RAIL ROLLS OUT REMOTELY OPERATED DRONES TO MONITOR AND PROTECT THE RAILWAY ([see story here](#))

Network Rail, in partnership with **heliguy™**, has secured approval from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to operate drones beyond the operator's line of sight (BVLOS), marking a significant step forward in the use of remote aerial technology across the rail network. The authorisation enables Network Rail's Western and Anglia routes to deploy remotely operated drones at sites in Gloucester and Romford respectively, supporting infrastructure monitoring, improving situational awareness, and strengthening the response to incidents and security risks. The drones will be operated by heliguy pilots from the company's Remote Operations Command Centre in Newcastle, allowing activity to be managed without the need for personnel on site.

THIEVES STEAL 6,000 LITRES OF PETROL FROM MOTORWAY SITE ([see story here](#))

Thousands of litres of petrol have been stolen from a construction site in Cheltenham. **Gloucestershire Police** are now appealing for witnesses after the raid at junction 10 of the M5 where **Galliford Try** is overseeing early works on a £372m improvement job. Police said 6,000 litres of petrol were taken from plant assisting with the construction work.

NEW LEICA SCANNERS BOOST ACCURACY AND FLEXIBILITY ([see story here](#))

Leica has launched a new RTC series of laser scanners, boasting of its improved data capture speeds and accuracy, and of the ease with which users can upgrade scanning when needed. The Leica RTC series of terrestrial 3D scanners combine the speed, capability and versatility of the Leica RTC360 with the robustness and superior accuracy of the ScanStation P-Series, enabling specialised workflows across surveying, construction, industrial plants, public safety, and infrastructure. The scanners are backed up by a new data service, Livelink, integrated in Leica's Cyclone Field 360 mobile app, which can stream scan data from multiple scanners to cloud service Hexagon GeoCloud, ensuring data is up to date in the field, cloud and office.

AMPS SUPPORTS GLOBAL POWER GUIDANCE ([see story here](#))

AMPS, the Association of Manufacturers and suppliers of Power generating Systems, has worked with the US **EGSA** and **EUROGEN** to produce a globally-relevant guide to on site power. Launched in 1990, *On-Site Power Generation: A Comprehensive Guide to On-Site Power*, was initially produced by the Electrical Generating Systems Association for the US market. The new sixth edition, written with AMPS and EUROGEN aims to internationalise the guidance.

NIXON HIRE EXTENDS WITH PARTNER NETWORKS ([see story here](#))

Accommodation, modular building and renewable energy supplier **Nixon Hire** has launched a strategic partner network with **Safer Group**, **Minster**, **Ritesim**, **Elite GSS** and others, allowing it to extend the services it offers to clients, to include safety and security, cleaning, connectivity and waste management, providing a complete end-to-end site solution. Core and strategic partner services are delivered through one coordinated model, applying the company's "consult, design, install, maintain" approach from procurement through to delivery.

FISCHER ROBOTS AT WORK IN FRANKFURT ([see story here](#))

Robots from **Fischer** are being used to autonomously drill holes in an office building being developed in Frankfurt by **Strabag** and **Ed Zublin**. To install heating and cooling ceiling panels, around 16,000 holes, each 10mm in diameter and 25mm deep must be drilled. This work is being done by the Fischer construction robots. Guided by a digital construction model, the robots drill the holes fully autonomously, creating the basis for fastening the panels with Fischer EA II hammer-set anchors. This enables the panels to be fixed precisely and securely to the concrete structure – a key requirement for the efficient operation of the building's heating and cooling system.

AUSA LAUNCHES 9T DUMPER WITH NEW SAFETY SYSTEM ([see story here](#))

The DR902AHG, launched by **Ausa**, is an all-new reversible dumper combining a 9-tonne payload capacity with safety systems designed to improve visibility and protect workers around the machine. Ausa AI Vision comes standard on the new model and will be available as an option on other dumpers across the AUSA range, extending the technology's benefits to a wider range of customers and applications.

ATLAS COPCO LAUNCHES MOBILE CHARGING STATION ([see story here](#))

Atlas Copco has launched a mobile towable rapid charging station, the FCS 220-240, delivering 232kWh, over 220 kW DC and 50 KW AC outputs, and weighing 3.5t. The mobile charging station is designed for electric vehicles and equipment such as excavators, loaders and trucks. It is IP55 rated for dust and water, and aims to be easy to transport and deploy. Customer tests have shown it can deliver up to five additional operating hours per day for a single hour of charging. Multiple connectors enable simultaneous charging of multiple machines, increasing overall site productivity.

MATERIALS/USES/METHODS

HINKLEY REACTOR 2 MILESTONE HIT 30% FASTER THAN UNIT 1 ([see story here](#))

Construction crews at Hinkley Point C have installed the second reactor's 500-tonne pressure vessel after reaching the milestone up to 30% faster than on Unit 1. The achievement is the latest sign that lessons learned from Britain's first new nuclear plant in a generation are accelerating delivery of the twin-reactor project.

LDD TAKES ALL ROUND VIEW OF SMALLER PROJECTS ([see story here](#))

LDD Construction has launched LDD 360, a one-stop-shop for projects up to £1m, which looks to deliver fully-integrated construction solutions, simplifying project coordination and streamlining delivery across multiple trades and disciplines. LDD 360 will cover a range of services – from strip-out works to feature staircases, BWIC, structural steel and firestopping – with all key project elements managed under one experienced team. It aims to reduce complexity in the process by providing one easy point of contact for a client, creating a more efficient delivery model, reducing costs and project delays.

HS2 SLIDES IN GIANT CURZON BRIDGE AFTER WELDING DELAY ([see story here](#))

HS2 engineers have finally slid the tallest bridge on the scheme into position above Birmingham's Cross City railway line after overcoming major welding challenges that delayed the operation by almost a year. The 4,200-tonne Curzon 2 structure was moved 180 metres in a complex three-stage launch and is now locked onto permanent piers, creating a new 40m-high landmark on the approach to Curzon Street Station. See video in the link.

AECOM DELIVERS REUSABLE SKIN FOR SERPENTINE PAVILION ([see story here](#))

AECOM has helped deliver the annual temporary pavilion at London's Serpentine gallery, designed by Mexican architects **LANZA atelier**, using a technique that will allow reuse of the structure's bricks. AECOM provided multidisciplinary engineering and technical advisory services for the structure, collaborating with the architect, the Serpentine and specialist contractor

Stage One to realise the distinct design vision. Central to the structure's design is legacy beyond its first life and creating a structure that is fully demountable. While traditionally brick walls are fully bonded with mortar beds, a focus on waste reduction during the demount and rebuild meant a slender steel subframe was incorporated inside the wall and a prestress applied along the top edge of the wall via threaded bars. This composite arrangement ensures that the walls and columns can support the weight of the roof, and controls the deflection and dynamic excitability of the walls.

SEVERN TRENT PICKS TRACTO FOR PIPE BURSTING ([see story here](#))

As **Severn Trent** gets underway with renewals under AMP8, it has chosen to use a trenchless technique known as pipe bursting, and tools from supplier **Tracto**, whereby a new pipe is pushed through a damaged or unreliable old pipe, 'bursting' the old infrastructure into the surrounding ground and replacing it with new, without the need for digging. AMP8 calls for more use of trenchless techniques, and Severn turned to Tracto, who supplied four Grundoburst 400G pipe bursting units, selected for their flexibility and ability to repair pipes from 2in to 10in.

OVERBURY INSTALLS CARBON-STORING WALLBOARD FOR L&G ([see story here](#))

Overbury has used **Adaptavate's** Breathaboard at Legal & General's new London headquarters. Breathaboard is a bio-based wallboard alternative, which stores biogenic carbon and can be composted at the end of its life. It has already been used on a number of projects, with more than 100 projects having registered interest.

WORLD-FIRST CURVED ELECTRIFICATION CANTILEVER ([see story here](#))

A world-first cantilever design by electrification specialists, **Furrer+Frey** was unveiled at Rail Live. The Anglo-Swiss engineers state the sleek curved design reduces embodied carbon and installation costs, providing a structure that is lower, lighter and simpler to install, reducing material demand and structural loading while remaining fully compatible with established UK electrification standards. The lower profile in turn lowers wind and ice loading, enabling smaller and simpler foundations.

DESNZ RELEASES UNDERGROUND CABLE REPORT ([see story here](#))

The **Department for Energy Security and Net Zero** has released a study, produced by **Ramboll**, on alternatives to 'cut and cover' undergrounding of electrical transmission lines. The study was designed to identify potential cost savings over routes of 20km and 50km. New emerging undergrounding methods were identified, and a literature review performed to qualitatively assess these methods against key criteria, including capital cost, technical feasibility, minimising environmental impact and whether it can deliver a complete solution. The assessment compared cut-and-cover as a baseline versus cable ploughing, horizontal directional drilling (HDD), microtunnelling (pipe jacking), auger boring, Direct Pipe, E-Power Pipe and Pipe Express.

MURPHY CONSTRUCTS LOW CARBON CAR PARK ([see story here](#))

Murphy has used carbon negative asphalt supplied by **Huyton Asphalt**, **Tarmac**, and **Low Carbon Materials** for a new car park at its One Murphy Hub in Golborne. The asphalt used contains ACLA, a material developed by Low Carbon Materials that uses waste biomass from timber offcuts and surplus forestry products, treated through pyrolysis to keep carbon locked in. Huyton Asphalt recently introduced use of ACLA, in collaboration with Low Carbon Materials and Tarmac, and this represents one of its first uses in North West England.

BEAVER BRIDGES OPENS NEW IRLAM FACILITY ([see story here](#))

The 'state-of-the-art' production facility, Forge 44, at Irlam, Manchester, represents, according to **Beaver Bridges**, a major investment in its manufacturing capabilities, with more than double the production space of its previous premises. This enables the company to increase throughput, improve operational efficiency, and support a growing UK and international order book while maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety. A key feature of the new site is a dedicated trial erection area, allowing complete bridge structures to be assembled and inspected by our clients prior to delivery, providing greater customer assurance and reduced installation risks on site.

KNORR-BREMSE SIGNS FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WITH ATKINSRÉALIS ([see story here](#))

Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK has signed a five-year framework agreement with engineering services company **AtkinsRéalis** to continue supplying its advanced ElectroLogIXS signalling technology for deployment across the UK rail network. ElectroLogIXS is a SIL4-certified, Network Rail-approved signalling, interlocking, object controller and level crossing solution designed to improve the safety, reliability and operational efficiency of modern railway infrastructure. Its modular architecture and advanced digital capabilities make it well suited to support the evolving needs of the UK rail industry.

AMEY LAUNCHES LONG LASTING BARRIERS WITH HILL & SMITH VRS ([see story here](#))

Amey has partnered with **Hill & Smith VRS** to launch an innovative barrier system on National Highways maintenance projects that promises to reduce the need for repairs and reduce roadworks. The first installation of the barriers is now underway. Installation will take place as part of a phased programme, allowing the new technology to be integrated into planned maintenance activity with no additional disruption to road users. The new system uses advanced pre-galvanised steel, offering greater durability and corrosion resistance than traditional barriers. This extends the lifespan of the asset, reducing the frequency of repairs and replacements that can lead to lane closures and delays.

MARLBOROUGH DELIVERS LOWER CARBON STREETS IN BARNET ([see story here](#))

Marlborough Highways has worked with **Holcim UK** and **Low Carbon Materials** to resurface three streets for Barnet Council, using ACLA, a low carbon aggregate alternative for asphalt. The scheme was developed in response to Barnet Council's ambition to reduce carbon emissions from routine resurfacing works on live streets, supporting its BarNET ZERO programme and wider commitment to becoming a net zero borough by 2042.

PAEBBL LAUNCHES NEAR-WHITE, CARBON NEGATIVE, CEMENT ALTERNATIVE ([see story here](#))

Paebbl has launched Rebond 300, a carbon negative cement alternative, with a near-white finish that aims to meet design and architectural demand. Rebond 300 makes use of supplementary cementitious materials (SCM) to achieve a carbon negative impact. It has a carbon footprint of -149kg CO₂ per tonne, and can replace up to 30% of conventional cement in standard mixes, reducing embodied carbon by up to 40% at standard replacement ratios, representing a 10x improvement over Paebbl's first-generation material. It is fully compatible with existing ready mix and precast workflows.

HOLCIM DELIVERS TOUGH ROAD FOR HEYSHAM ([see story here](#))

Holcim UK, working with **Fibre Concrete Solutions**, has helped **Kiernan Construction** deliver a durable roadway at **Peel Ports Group's** Heysham facility, helping the port handle hundreds of daily HGV moves, demanding a robust and highly durable roadway solution. Holcim designed and delivered a range of bespoke concrete mixes, including standard CEM I concrete for general fill, alongside a specialist Strike early-strength concrete, crafted to accelerate construction timelines. Unlike conventional concrete, Strike achieves trackable strength within 24 to 48 hours to fast-track progress on site. In heavily trafficked areas, Holcim provided a reinforced mix combining steel fibres, removing the need for extensive steel mesh.

VASO GLOBAL WINS SUPPORT FOR RECYCLED GLASS PANELS ([see story here](#))

VASO Global has secured £5m in funding to support its development of structural composite panels using recycled glass. The company combines digital design, integrated manufacture and semi-autonomous construction, to provide affordable, thermally efficient, low-carbon homes which are swift to construct, enabling it to respond to the UK's need to build more homes more quickly. The latest funding will enable VASO to develop manufacturing processes at its new manufacturing site in Dumfries, with the plant adopting industrialised construction methods, as well as helping the company to find strategic routes to market.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

FIRST HEATHLAND GREEN BRIDGE OPENS ([see story here](#))

Balfour Beatty and **AtkinsRéalis** have helped deliver the UK's first heathland green bridge, crossing the A3 for **National Highways**. The green bridge connecting Ockham and Wisley Commons acts as a safe crossing over the busy carriageway not just for people, but also for wildlife such as deer, badgers, voles and other small animals. Around 10,000 square metres of heathland were moved from donor sites, with the landscape allowed to slowly establish itself over the coming years. The Cockcrow Bridge is a cornerstone of the green legacy National Highways has pledged to leave as part of a project to upgrade junction 10 of the M25 and the A3 Wisley Interchange.

EAST WEST RAIL ACHIEVES MILESTONE WITH CARBON MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION ([see story here](#))

East West Railway Company (EWR Co) has achieved an internationally recognised standard for carbon management in buildings and infrastructure. The PAS 2080 certification recognises EWR Co's approach to embedding low-carbon thinking across the design and future delivery of the railway. The accreditation demonstrates progress in measuring, managing and reducing carbon emissions and costs across a project's entire lifecycle and value chain – from design and procurement through to construction, operation and maintenance.

UNITED INFRASTRUCTURE, SOILDRI PARTNER FOR AMP8 DELIVERY ([see story here](#))

United Infrastructure and **SoilDri** have formed a national innovation partnership, focused on infrastructure delivery and soil reuse, targeted at AMP8 projects. SoilDri's approach minimises soil-to-landfill, and emphasises value in soil reuse and sustainable utility delivery. The partnership will enable excavated materials to be treated and reused directly on site rather than being removed to landfill and replaced with imported aggregates. At the heart of the partnership is SoilDri SEM, a specialist solution developed specifically for the utilities sector that enables excavated materials to be improved and reused within reinstatement works. Supporting this is the innovative TSM-5, a road-towable soil mixing machine that allows treatment to take place directly at source.

PALLET LOOP DEMONSTRATES CIRCULARITY SUCCESS ([see story here](#))

After two years in operation, recovery scheme **The Pallet Loop** says it has issued more than 3 million pallets and collected 1.8 million after use. It has partnered with some of the construction industry's biggest manufacturers, including **British Gypsum**, **Isover**, **Superglass by Etex**, **Wienerberger**, **Barratt Redrow** and **CEMEX**. The business is also expanding across Ireland, securing partnerships with **Gyproc** through its partners in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, **CJ Sheeran**.

TRAINING, RECRUITMENT & EMPLOYMENT

AMEY EXPANDS PRISON-TO-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME ([see story here](#))

Amey, in partnership with the **Scottish Prison Service (SPS)**, has expanded its Unlocking Future Connections programme to Scotland's largest prison, HMP Barlinnie, to help reduce reoffending by supporting people leaving custody into employment. The initiative forms part of a nationwide programme rolling out across 15 prisons, backed by £245,000 in funding from the **Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)** Industry Impact Fund. Delivered with industry partners including **Speedy Hire**, **Hatton Traffic Management** and **Breedon**, alongside training provider **Raeburn**, the programme supports participants to build skills, develop confidence and access employment opportunities. It also helps address skills shortages across the highways and construction sectors by providing the industry with new talent.

CITB ACCELERATES APPRENTICESHIPS ([see story here](#))

The **Construction Industry Training Board** has launched a new Accelerated Apprenticeships programme to help deliver the government's homebuilding goal of 1.5m new homes by 2029. The programme aims to deliver 1,680 Accelerated

Apprenticeship starts across four years and is designed to increase the pipeline of skilled workers in key homebuilding trades, including bricklaying, carpentry, and roofing. An initial five Accelerated Apprenticeship programmes will be established through further education colleges and training providers, with a further 15 programmes planned by mid-2029, located in areas of highest housing demand, ensuring training provision is aligned to local labour market needs.

CLANCY, BALTIC APPRENTICESHIPS TEAM UP ON SKILLS ([see story here](#))

Civil engineers Clancy have formed a new partnership with Baltic Apprenticeships, brought together by the Energy & Utility Skills Partnership (EUSP), to offer its workforce training in digital and AI skills. Members of the EUSP are investing in AI and digital capability, seeing it as needed to deliver a decade of planned infrastructure improvements. The new Level 4 AI & Digital Transformation apprenticeship has been developed to deliver these skills, seen to be as important as technical skills. The initial pilot between The Clancy Group and Baltic Apprenticeships has already demonstrated strong appetite for digital upskilling, with over 65 Clancy Group colleagues expressing interest.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

EAST WEST RAIL CONSULTATION EVENTS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 3,000 PEOPLE ([see story here](#))

More than 3,100 people attended events for East West Railway Company's last route-wide consultation on the project, with over 5,000 feedback forms also been received between 14 April and 9 June 2026. The 16 events – both in-person and online – allowed people to learn about updated plans and provide feedback on the latest designs for the project which will connect Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge.

HISTORIC HASLEMERE SIGNAL BOX REDEVELOPED AS COMMUNITY MUSEUM ([see story here](#))

Grade II listed landmark Haslemere Signal Box has been transferred into community ownership. South Western Railway (SWR) and Network Rail Wessex formally handed over the keys to the Haslemere Signal Box Trust which will now be managed by the Haslemere Signal Box Trust. In recent years, the Trust has worked closely with SWR and Network Rail to develop plans for the building's restoration and its transition into a heritage asset that can be enjoyed by future generations.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

CONSTRUCTION TEST SCAM KINGPIN JAILED OVER 500 FAKE SAFETY PASSES ([see story here](#))

A test centre boss has been jailed after running a large-scale fraud racket that helped hundreds of workers dodge mandatory construction safety exams, following a joint investigation by the Construction Industry Training Board and Essex Police. The investigation exposed a sophisticated operation at the Whitewaters Training Centre in Halstead, Essex, where 511 CITB Health, Safety and Environment tests were fraudulently completed.

LABOURER DROWNS IN WATER-FILLED SITE EXCAVATION ([see story here](#))

A contractor has been fined after a man drowned when he fell into an exposed excavation hole described as a 'death trap', at a building site in Hertfordshire. He had been working as a labourer on a project building several flats, living in a property adjoining the site when he attempted to make his way home from a night out and fell into one of the exposed excavation holes filled with rainwater. His body wasn't found until around 2pm the following day. An HSE investigation found that new excavation foundations had been dug for the building footings which were crisscrossing the construction site without any designated safe walkways. The contractor had failed to take appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of those moving around and working at the site. At best, large boards and planks were used as bridges over excavations. The boards and planks were slippery and bowed when walked across.

CCTV CAPTURES SCAFFOLDER'S SKYLIGHT ROOF PLUNGE ([see story here](#))

Two construction companies have been fined after a scaffolder broke his arm, leg and suffered head lacerations after falling through a roof skylight while installing temporary edge protection. CCTV footage shows Cranswick falling onto a pallet truck before landing on the warehouse floor. He was on the roof carrying materials from one end of the unit to the other when he stepped on a skylight and subsequently fell more than 6 metres to the concrete floor beneath. An HSE investigation found that both companies failed to plan, manage and monitor the work being undertaken by the scaffolders at the unit. No measures were in place to prevent them falling from the edge of the unit, or through the fragile elements of the roof. The skylights of the unit were almost invisible to the scaffolder and he was unaware of any fragile elements of the roof.

PLATFORM COLLAPSE FRACTURES NECK OF DRILLING WORKER ([see story here](#))

Two construction companies have been fined after a drilling operative sustained fractures to his neck and back when a temporary platform loaded with concrete debris collapsed on top of him. A refurbishment project involved cutting openings through five concrete floors to create a service riser shaft, and carpenters had been instructed to build temporary wooden platforms under each opening to collect the 16kg concrete cores and debris generated by the cutting. The operative was working directly under one of the temporary platforms, when it suddenly gave way and collapsed on top of him, along with chunks of concrete that had not been cleared away. An HSE investigation found that there was no design for the temporary platforms and no calculation made for the safe level of loading. While an inspection form for the platform was completed, it failed to identify any issues with the design, and the person tasked to complete it was not a competent temporary works coordinator. HSE also found deficiencies in the planning, managing and monitoring of the work by the contractor. Risk assessments and method statements provided in advance were inconsistent and their requirements for the principal contractor to provide 'crash decks' were unclear. There was no supervision of the drilling team by the contractor management in the week leading up to the incident or on the day.

RAIL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BRANCH PUBLISHES ITS 2025 ANNUAL REPORT ([see story here](#))

The **Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB)** has published its annual report, which covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2025. The report summarises operational and investigative activity undertaken by the branch during the year. RAIB said it also highlights five themes which have run through the Branch's work during 2025. These are: track worker safety, platform safety, asset integrity, level crossings and overspeeding.

FIT-OUT FIRM BW ADOPTS NEW HI-VIS RULE ([see story here](#))

London fit-out specialist **BW** has rolled out mandatory raspberry-coloured hi-vis vests for all subcontractor operatives on its projects as part of a colour-coded identification system designed to boost visibility and accountability. Under the system, BW project teams wear black hi-vis, visitors wear white and subcontractors now wear raspberry jackets. BW said the distinctive colour gives site teams an immediate visual cue about who is on site and their relationship to the project – helping with coordination, emergency response and day-to-day management on busy projects where multiple trades are working simultaneously.

ALSTOM OPENS NEW HEALTH & WELLBEING SUITE IN DERBY ([see story here](#))

Alstom has opened a new Work & Wellbeing Suite at its historic Litchurch Lane Works in Derby, strengthening the company's commitment to supporting the physical, mental, social and financial wellbeing of its people and partners. The new facility – a dedicated space inside the 150-year-old factory – provides colleagues with access to expert support, guidance and resources to improve wellbeing both at work and beyond. The Suite reinforces Alstom's ambition to create a workplace culture where wellbeing is embedded into everyday life and supported at all levels of the organisation.

LABOURER FALLS TO DEATH THROUGH WINDOW OPENING ([see story here](#))

A contractor has been fined after one of its employees was killed when he fell through an unglazed window opening from an external scaffolding platform, landing on an internal concrete ground floor more than three metres below. Although the company recognised that four unglazed window voids created a risk to workers on the scaffolding platform it was only in the hours after the accident that protective boarding was installed. The HSE investigation identified it was reasonably practicable for boarding or additional inside scaffolding guard rails to have been installed over the window voids to prevent falls from height as soon as they had been created. The company had also not ensured that legally required weekly scaffolding inspections had been carried out so the opportunity for identification of the risks posed by the unglazed window voids by a competent scaffolding inspector was lost.

HS2 CONTRACTORS FINED AFTER TIPPER TRUCK FALL ([see story here](#))

A joint venture working on HS2 has been fined after the driver of a 20-tonne tipper truck was injured when his vehicle fell two metres off the edge of an excavation ramp, and landed on the driver's side. HSE inspectors found that there were no signs on the haulage routes being used. They also identified that there was no edge protection in place to prevent vehicles going over the edge of the ramp, and that excavations adjacent to some of the vehicle routes had unsupported, vertical faces which were at risk of collapse. The HSE investigation found that on the morning of the incident, the earthworks team changed their working area after it was found original material could not be used. This meant moving the excavator's loading position and creating a new traffic route – but the change inadvertently left an unprotected edge on the bank above.

CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL

CONSTRUCTION INVESTMENT GROUP LAUNCHES ([see story here](#))

An investment group has launched with a goal of building a major new UK construction platform, with its first acquisitions completed and more in the pipeline. Founded by construction entrepreneur and acquisition specialist Bradley Lay, **TrueNorth Capital Group** has been established to create a market-leading construction supergroup spanning three core verticals - mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP), external envelope and facades, and manufacturing and offsite construction. First acquisitions include Leeds-based KNG Building Services, a £10m-turnover MEP contracting business,

MENZIES WARNS OF CASH FLOW CRISIS ([see story here](#))

Accountants **Menzies** have surveyed the building sector, with **Censuswide**, and found 93% facing late payments, with invoices now 53 days overdue on average. The survey, published in a Menzies report, *Fixing the Foundations*, found that 86% of firms in Britain's construction sector are already in, or at risk of serious financial distress, with the average firm expecting to reach this point within just eight months. Late payments are now almost universal across the sector, with 93% of firms reporting delays from clients, contractors or supply chain partners running an average of 53 days overdue. The knock-on effect goes beyond cashflow. 20% of firms are now financing their own projects while they wait to be paid, effectively bankrolling clients out of their own working capital. 18% say late payments represent one of the single biggest threats to their business.

EARLY CONTRACTOR INVOLVEMENT CUTS PROJECT COST OVERRUNS ([see story here](#))

Projects where contractors were appointed at RIBA Stage 4 recorded average cost overruns of 17.35%, compared to near-flat performance on projects where contractors were engaged at RIBA Stages 0-2, according to the largest quantitative analysis of early contractor involvement ever undertaken in UK public sector construction. Published by the **Centre for Construction Best Practice (CCBP)**, *Constructing Certainty* analysed 412 public sector projects delivered by 55 contractors across the UK, mapping contractor appointment timing against final cost and programme performance. The findings provide one of the clearest empirical datasets yet linking late contractor appointment to increased project risk, cost escalation and programme overruns across public sector construction.

MINISTERS FAIL TO PLUG IMPORTED FABRICATED STEEL TARIFF GAP ([see story here](#))

The Government has stopped short of closing a controversial loophole in its new steel tariff regime, prompting warnings that cheap imported fabricated steelwork will flood the UK market and put thousands of jobs at risk.

Ministers have confirmed the final shape of the new safeguard measures, under which imported steel sections will face quotas and tariffs, but fabricated steelwork remains outside the regime. The industry has repeatedly warned that overseas suppliers can make minor modifications to steel sections – such as attaching a plate or drilling a hole – and then ship them into Britain tariff-free as fabricated products. Fabricators fear the anomaly will accelerate the offshoring of work and hollow out a sector employing around 60,000 people. The industry estimates up to 30,000 jobs could disappear over the next five to seven years if the measures remain unchanged.

SECTOR NEWS/TRENDS

RAIL

ELECTRIFY TO REDUCE THE COST OF RAIL AND CREATE SKILLED JOBS ([see story here](#))

The **Railway Industry Association** (RIA) has published a report setting out how rail electrification can support economic growth by delivering a more affordable, higher performing and greener railway. *The Electrification Cost Challenge 2.0* finds that a programme-based approach to electrification could reduce infrastructure delivery costs by around a third compared to a well-delivered project today.

New report highlights growth potential of fixing rail bottleneck ([see story here](#))

A new report has highlighted how upgrades to strained rail infrastructure around Ely are essential for regional growth. The **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's** new report sets out a clear and compelling investment case, highlighting that the upgrade would deliver a 5:1 return on investment to the economy, as well as providing capacity for more frequent, faster rail services in Cambridgeshire and the East.

JUNE'S ISSUE OF RAIL DIRECTOR ([see here](#))

Available now – articles on rail safety featured.

€230 million Shared Island funding to support investment in all-island rail ([see story here](#))

The **Department of Transport in Ireland** and **Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland** have secured record-breaking Shared Island Fund investment in all-island rail connectivity, announced by the **Government of Ireland**. Rail projects across the island of Ireland have been allocated €228 million through the Government of Ireland's Shared Island Fund, with projects targeted for full delivery by 2030. These investments will improve efficiency and reliability of rail services, easing congestion and boosting connectivity, in line with the All-Island Strategic Rail Review (AISRR) and the joint Rail Project Prioritisation Strategy, and providing additionality and acceleration of infrastructure delivery.

HS2 reset hinges on contractor deals and £8bn Euston plan ([see story here](#))

A **National Audit Office** report said the **Department for Transport** and **HS2 Ltd** are making progress on the overhaul. But the watchdog warned major risks remain around commercial deals, cost control, delivery skills and the unresolved London terminus. DfT now estimates HS2 will cost between £88bn and £103bn to complete - around double the 2020 Phase One estimate. The NAO said HS2 Ltd's first attempt to renegotiate supply chain contracts last year failed after the client found itself in a weak position with contractors. It said HS2 Ltd did not understand supply chain work well enough, had not managed contracts properly and lacked a reliable total cost estimate to support negotiations. Contractors were also not attracted by HS2 Ltd's proposed approach to transferring more risk onto them. It has now changed tack with deals designed to incentivise cost-effective delivery.

HIGHWAYS

MOTORWAY CONCRETE BARRIER SAFETY DRIVE HITS THE HARD SHOULDER ([see story here](#))

Parliamentary answers have revealed National Highways has replaced just 53km of life-expired steel central reserve barrier with concrete between 2020 and 2025. That is despite its own 2022 improvement plan identifying around 1,620km of steel barrier needing replacement across the network. The Department for Transport mandated in 2005 that stronger H1 concrete barrier should be the default option when life-expired motorway steel barrier is replaced on roads carrying more than 25,000 vehicles a day. But a parliamentary questions tabled by Shadow Transport Secretary Richard Holden has revealed departures from the standard on several schemes.

HIGHWAYS CHIEFS AXE A46 NEWARK BYPASS CONTRACT ([see story here](#))

National Highways has cancelled its contract with Skanska to advance the long-delayed A46 Newark Bypass project in the East Midlands. The scheme to dual 6.5km of the A46 received development consent late last year but no timetable for the project's start has been released. Skanska had been on board to build the job for nearly four years. It is understood National Highways is now going back to the drawing board for a project rethink.

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

HOLLYWOOD GIANT GEARS UP FOR £5BN UK RESORT BUILD ([see story here](#))

Main construction work is poised to start on Hollywood giant Universal's £5bn UK theme park after ministers committed £1.3bn to unlock the transport and infrastructure upgrades needed to make the Bedfordshire mega-project a reality. The entertainment resort, branded Universal United Kingdom Resort, will rise on the former Kempston Hardwick brickworks site and is set to become Universal's first theme park destination in Europe. Government backing will fund road, rail and community infrastructure improvements needed to support an attraction expected to draw 8.5 million visitors a year and challenge for the title of Europe's busiest theme park.

PM MEETS MAYORS IN DRIVE TO GET BRITAIN BUILDING ([see story here](#))

Mayors from across England have met with the Prime Minister as the Government accelerates its drive to kickstart growth and deliver for working people. Bringing together mayors of all political stripes, the meeting was to focus on maximising the opportunities of devolution and the key issues that matter to local people, from building more homes and infrastructure, to taking control of local transport.

PLANS TO BUILD STEM CENTRE IN DARLINGTON MOVE FORWARD ([see story here](#))

Plans to bring a 'game changing' science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) centre to Darlington have been green lit. The town's Cabinet has given approval to secure the lease for the site on the Science Park where the centre is set to be located, and for the funding for professional services and planning to enable the project to progress. The centre is set to provide clear pathways from school so local people can access high-value careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.

£1BN CAMDEN STUDIO PLAN MOVES FORWARD ([see story here](#))

Camden Council has resolved to approve plans for Camden Film Quarter, a regeneration project that will include 11 sound stages, alongside 485 new homes, 50% of which will be affordable, through a partnership with Places for People. Camden Film Quarter, close to Kentish Town underground and Thameslink stations, will also include production and post production facilities, creative workspace, specialist education, public parks and community infrastructure in a single integrated masterplan. The project aims to create an 'education to employment pathway', with facilities for more than 500 learners through the **National Film and Television School** and **London Screen Academy**, and will directly employ 3,960 people.

MAJOR NUCLEAR PROJECT PLAN FOR FORMER COTTAM POWER STATION ([see story here](#))

US nuclear specialist **Holtec International** and **EDF** have submitted plans to the Government to build up to four small modular reactors at the former Cottam coal-fired power station site in Nottinghamshire. The partners have also signed heads of terms to establish a joint venture to develop the SMR scheme under the Government's Advanced Nuclear Framework, which is designed to accelerate advanced nuclear projects backed by private investment. The proposed development would see the former coal plant site repurposed for nuclear generation, with four of Holtec's SMR-300 reactors capable of producing around 1.3GW of electricity.

SCOTTISH MINISTERS HALT £2.1BN LAING O'ROURKE HOSPITAL JOB ([see story here](#))

Health chiefs have been sent back to the drawing board on plans for **Laing O'Rourke** to build a £2.1bn replacement for Monklands Hospital after ministers refused to sign off the scheme over affordability concerns. Scottish health secretary Angela Constance said the proposed new hospital at Wester Moffat, near Airdrie, failed to represent value for money and ordered a "comprehensive redesign" of the project.

OFGEM GIVES SUPPORT TO ENERGY STORAGE PROJECTS ([see story here](#))

OFGEM has released a list of energy storage projects it is minded to award cap and floor funding to, kicking off a round of public consultation. The 16 projects would offer long duration storage capacity of 7,465 MW.

The report gives support to three pumped hydro projects in Scotland, TeesCAES, a compressed air energy storage system storing 50 MW in the North East, Frontier Legacy and a vanadium flow/zinc battery system storing 65 MW of power in Wales. The rest of the list was made up of lithium ion battery storage, storing between 100 and 500MW of power, with most targeting around 400 MW

TRENDS

CITB PREDICTS CONSTRUCTION DEMANDS ([see story here](#))

The **Construction Industry Training Board** has published its *Construction Workforce Outlook 2026-30*. The annual forecast predicts growth picking up from this year's subdued conditions, and warns the sector is still losing personnel without replacements. It predicts output growth of -0.2% this year, rising to 1.8% in 2027 and 2.8% in 2028. The strongest growth over the period is expected in new public housing, followed by new private housing and infrastructure.

FRESH INFLATION STORM GATHERS OVER CONSTRUCTION ([see story here](#))

Construction firms are bracing for another bout of price inflation as high oil prices, steel tariffs and carbon taxes combine to push up project costs over the next two years. Consultant **Arcadis** has increased the upper end of its previously already high tender price inflation forecasts for 2026 and 2027 by one percentage point to reflect the risk of Gulf-driven inflation following the recent Iran conflict. The biggest pain is expected to hit infrastructure projects, where higher oil prices feed directly into the cost of plant, machinery, transport and energy-intensive materials such as steel.

BCIS: TENDER PRICES UP, BUT PROCESSES SLOWED ([see story here](#))

The **Building Cost Information Service's** civil engineering tender price index panel has estimated tender prices are up 2% from the first quarter of 2026, but warns that costs of tendering are making contractors more selective, as the process of moving projects forward slows.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST (AND SOMETIMES REGAINED)

HOUSING CIVILS FIRM AGETUR FILES FOR ADMINISTRATION ([see story here](#))

The Northamptonshire civil engineering and groundworks contractor has filed a notice of intention to appoint administrators leaving more than 100 staff facing redundancies. Latest accounts revealed a sharp deterioration in trading performance in the year to February 2025, when the firm suffered a loss of £660,000 compared with a pre-tax profit of £160,000 a year earlier. Revenue increased 8% to £23m from £21m, but profitability came under pressure as margins tightened and overheads increased.

CEILING SPECIALIST ZENTIA FALLS INTO ADMINISTRATION ([see story here](#))

The acoustic ceiling manufacturer has gone into administration with the loss of 170 jobs. Gateshead based **Zentia** and **Zentia Profiles** had a combined turnover of more than £50m. The firms were market leading manufacturers of complete acoustic ceiling solutions, including mineral ceiling tiles, suspension grids, and floating ceiling systems.

ARDMORE CONSTRUCTION GROUP COLLAPSES INTO ADMINISTRATION ([see story here](#))

It went into administration after mounting concerns over potential liabilities linked to legacy residential projects undermined its ability to secure new work triggered a cash flow crunch. Major London sites were shut down as the group moved to enter administration through the courts following missed payments to staff and subcontractors. Group businesses affected include **Ardmore Major Projects**, **Ardmore Hotels & Commercial**, **Ardmore Regeneration**, **Ardmore Fitout** and **Landmark Facades**. More than 500 staff are expected to be impacted. The collapse of the £350m turnover group leaves a string of high-profile London projects in limbo, with clients now scrambling to line up replacement contractors to complete schemes ([see here](#)). The bond market is also expected to take a hit ([see here](#)).

GROUNDWORKS FIRM MACKOY BOUGHT IN PRE-PACK DEAL ([see story here](#))

The company has been sold out of administration in a pre-pack deal to **Geocore Civils Limited**. The £23m turnover business was one of the biggest groundworks specialists in the South of England focused on infrastructure for housing and commercial schemes. The pre-pack sale protected 20 jobs and secured the future of the business which is based in Chandler's Ford, Hampshire. Geocore Civils was established by directors Benjamin Bousfield and Michael Mayock, both directors of Mackoy. The sale sees all staff transferred to Geocore Civils under TUPE regulations. Geocore will look to novate contracts in relation to several sites where work is ongoing to maintain provision of services for the majority of clients.