Arcavia Consulting

ARCAVIA MONTHLY · CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

August:
News Summary

What August and early September told us about the year ahead.

£33.1bn
AWARDED IN THREE MONTHS TO JULY

44.3
AUGUST CONSTRUCTION PMI READING

31,000
VACANCIES, A TWO-YEAR HIGH

SEPTEMBER 2026

NCE · CONSTRUCTION NEWS · BUILDING · CONSTRUCTION ENQUIRER · GROUND ENGINEERING

The month in two numbers

Awards are running well in front of activity.

Two sets of numbers came out of August pointing in different directions, and the distance between them is the most useful thing in the month.

Glenigan put £33.1bn of work into contractors' hands in the three months to the end of July, up 169% on the same period a year earlier (Construction News, 18 August). August itself brought £3.12bn to the top 50 contractors across 126 projects, close to July's £3.21bn and spread across more schemes (Construction Enquirer, 7 September). Kier led the month on around £530m from ten projects, headed by the £260m Thames Water Maple Lodge sewage treatment upgrade and the £100m Holden House scheme on Oxford Street, with Multiplex second on £250m for the 54-storey tower at 99 Bishopsgate. On the twelve-month view Kier holds first place, with Balfour Beatty and Willmott Dixon close behind.

The S&P Global Construction PMI meanwhile read 44.3 for August against 44.7 in July, a twentieth month below the neutral 50 mark. New orders slipped only modestly, the gentlest contraction since September 2025, and 38% of firms expect output to grow over the coming year against 20% expecting a fall. Starts were 20% down year on year (Construction News, 8 September), while ONS put second-quarter output slightly ahead of the first.

S&P GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION PMI, AUGUST 2026

SUB-SECTOR	READING	WHERE THAT SITS
Commercial	47.8	Most resilient sub-sector; slowest rate of decline since January
Civil engineering	40.5	Least marked fall since March
Housing	37.6	The drag on the headline figure
All construction	44.3	From 44.7 in July; twentieth month below 50

169%

RISE IN CONTRACT AWARDS, THREE MONTHS TO END JULY

£3.12bn

WON BY THE TOP 50 CONTRACTORS IN AUGUST

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- There is a **significant pipeline of awarded work** ahead. The contracts are signed and the money is committed, so the delivery is coming whatever the activity indices say about today.
- What follows is a **fight for talent**. Mobilising that pipeline successfully depends on securing the delivery and commercial leadership to run it, and every firm holding these awards is going to the same market at the same time.
- The firms that mobilise well will be the ones that started hiring at award rather than at handover.

Where the money went

The largest individual awards of the period, by value.

The £33.1bn Glenigan recorded in the three months to the end of July is the scale of the commitment. These are the projects carrying it.

Listed here and overleaf are the largest individual awards reported across the five titles between 1 August and 8 September. Water and energy dominate the top of the list, education and custodial work runs through the middle of it, and London commercial is back with a 54-storey tower and three office schemes. Kier appears five times across the two pages, which is what took it to the top of both the August and the twelve-month contract leagues.

THE TEN LARGEST AWARDS

CONTRACTOR	VALUE	PROJECT
Hill	£1.5bn	Lewisham housing regeneration partnership
Laing O'Rourke, HMJV	£1bn	National Grid North West London Upgrade packages
Laing O'Rourke	£400m	HMP Garth 2, Lancashire; £236m enabling works signed
Graham	£332m	Didcot to Culham roads upgrade, final package
Kier	£260m	Thames Water Maple Lodge sewage treatment upgrade
Multiplex	£250m	99 Bishopsgate, 54 storeys
Robertson, Caddick, Esh	£208m	Karbon Homes extra care framework
Costain	£150m	Thames Water, 15 Thames Valley treatment sites
Galliford Try	£110m	Severn Trent 23km foul water transfer, Leicestershire
Galliford Try	£110m	River Mease improvement project

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Water and energy are where the **largest single awards** sit, and both are programme work rather than one-off jobs — the hiring that follows is long-dated.
- Education and custodial work is the steadiest volume across the period. It rewards firms with framework positions and the pre-construction teams to convert them.
- London commercial is back at scale. Three towers and two major office schemes in five weeks means **senior site and commercial leadership** in the capital gets scarce quickly.
- Five awards to one contractor in five weeks is a mobilisation problem as much as a win. Watch for the delivery hires behind it.

Where the money went

Awards from £110m down to £40m.

FURTHER MAJOR AWARDS, 1 AUGUST TO 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

CONTRACTOR	VALUE	PROJECT
M Group	**£110m**	ScottishPower transmission line upgrade
Kier, Tilbury Douglas	**£108m**	Two DfE school rebuilds
Kier, Breheny	**£100m**	Sizewell C roads packages, replacing an earlier appointment
Kier	**£100m**	Holden House, Oxford Street
Graham	**£100m**	Sky campus, Livingston
Kier	**£99m**	Derwent London office scheme, its second of the period
McLaughlin & Harvey	**£70m**	Holborn Circus office scheme
Eric Wright	**£65m**	M56 services
Bouygues	**£64m**	Crawley school rebuild
Graham	**£50m**	Basingstoke school rebuild
McAleer & Rushe	**£50m**	Edinburgh hotel
Jones Bros	**£46.5m**	Welsh wind farm civils package
Gilbert-Ash	**£40m**	RIBA Portland Place headquarters
Willmott Dixon	**£40m**	Leeds rail office overhaul

CONSULTANCY, NOT CONSTRUCTION

Mace Consult and Arcadis took the lead delivery and commercial management role on the £2.5bn Luton Airport expansion, and Hawkins Brown won the £2.6m Oxford station masterplan. Both sit outside the contractor table but both commit programme-scale teams.

£5.36bn

COMBINED VALUE OF THE AWARDS LISTED ACROSS THESE TWO PAGES

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- The middle of the table is where **framework positions convert**. Schools, custodial and water packages at £40m to £110m are the steady volume behind the headline wins.
- One contractor replaced another on the Sizewell C roads packages. Contract turnover on live programmes makes **experienced people available at short notice**.
- Regional contractors took a real share of this list. Strong regional delivery leadership is what wins the next one.

The hiring signal turned

Vacancies at a two-year high, and the workforce is coming in-house.

31,000
VACANCIES, THREE MONTHS TO JULY

269
ENGINEERS HIRED IN @ONE'S AMP8 YEAR ONE

33%
SELF-EMPLOYED, FROM 42% IN 2022

This was the most useful month for workforce data in a while. ONS figures published on 18 August showed construction vacancies up 5.7% in the three months to the end of July, at a rounded 31,000 openings and the highest level in two years (Construction News).

Anglian Water's @one Alliance then put a number on what delivery-side recruitment looks like at scale: 269 engineers hired in the first year of AMP8 and more than 500 people in total, described as its most ambitious recruitment programme to date (NCE, 8 September). Yorkshire Water was in the market for engineers and project managers through August, Costain doubled its apprentice intake as its pipeline expanded and went on to report a record intake, and Sizewell C appointed Rullion to lead its early careers recruitment.

Two CITB findings sit underneath all of that. Its workforce mobility research found self-employment down to 33% of the industry in 2025 from 42% in 2022, a pronounced shift back towards direct employment (Construction News, 20 August). The same work found the number of people willing to work more than 100 miles from home has halved in a decade, with lifestyle now outweighing a willingness to stay in digs (Building, 13 August).

Policy is moving the same way. Government will publish a construction jobs plan later this year, described by housing minister Matthew Pennycook as a comprehensive package of measures on workforce shortages, developed with industry (Construction News, 2 September). Procurement has already shifted: public work bidders face a 20% jobs and skills hurdle, and the refreshed social value model swaps a net zero weighting for a skills one. Construction A-level and T-level results improved over the summer, with almost a third of entries at top grades.

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- **Vacancies at a two-year high.** Up 5.7% in the three months to July, at a rounded 31,000 openings.
- **Programme-scale hiring is real.** 269 engineers and more than 500 people into the @one Alliance in one year of AMP8.
- **Self-employment is down to 33%** from 42% in 2022, so direct employment is now the default assumption in offer design.
- **The travel radius has halved** in a decade. Either widen the geography you will consider or accept a regional premium.
- **Brief earlier than feels necessary.** All three of the above lengthen a search.
- **Read the jobs plan when it lands.** Any shift in skills weighting changes what a competitive bid team looks like.

Routes to market opened at once

An unusually busy month for framework procurement.

The chancellor confirmed on 7 September that changes to the judicial review process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects will be brought forward, framed by the Treasury as taking an axe to the delays holding back growth (NCE and Construction News, 8 September). Alongside it the National Wealth Fund signed regional partnership agreements with South Yorkshire, Liverpool City Region, the North East and Cardiff Capital Region under its Regional Project Accelerator.

Devolution kept moving. Metro mayors are to be given call-in powers over planning decisions and the ability to override councils on major schemes, with a suggestion that they could also levy developers to fund a wider range of infrastructure. The revised NPPF introduced a default yes for homes near well-connected stations (Building and NCE, 17 August), and the final new town locations will be chosen by the end of the year, supported by bespoke planning policy and site-specific delivery vehicles.

FRAMEWORKS AND PROGRAMMES BROUGHT TO MARKET, AUGUST TO EARLY SEPTEMBER

CLIENT	VALUE	SCOPE AND STATUS
Scape	**£8bn**	National construction and housing framework, five lots, winners due next summer
Scape	**£8.5bn**	Inaugural defence and complex environments framework, award slated for next October
National Highways	**£8bn**	Roads upkeep deal opened to bidders
Government	**£120bn**	Facilities management framework line-up named
Anglian Water	**£1.5bn**	Major projects framework to Ferrovial, MWH and Volker joint ventures
Yorkshire Water	**£3.3bn**	AMP9 and AMP10 market engagement under way
Wirral Council	**£1.2bn**	North West contractor framework; Bam, Kier and Wates among the winners
Welsh councils	**£800m**	Five-council civil engineering framework planned
EEM	**£800m**	Fire safety and remediation framework launched
NHS	**£750m**	Construction framework tender pushed back by two months

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Frameworks are **won on bid teams** and held on delivery leadership, and the two markets do not tighten at the same time.
- The **bid and work-winning** market moves six to nine months ahead of delivery. That window opened in August.
- Bid manager, bid writer and estimator hires behind a Scape or National Highways submission want to be in place now, not at shortlist.
- If you are chasing several, decide which you are genuinely resourced to win. A thin submission on four lots costs more than a strong one on two.

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FRAMEWORKS OR PROGRAMMES OPENED IN FIVE WEEKS

Teams before ground

Health, nuclear and grid work is being resourced years ahead.

Following the eleven Hospital 2.0 alliance agreements signed at the end of July, the New Hospital Programme moved to supply chain engagement. Five East of England schemes were confirmed with their main contractors — Kier at Hinchingbrooke, Skanska at both James Paget and Queen Elizabeth King's Lynn, Morgan Sindall at Milton Keynes, and **Dragados** at West Suffolk — with a regional supply chain event set for 17 September in Norwich (Construction Enquirer and Construction News, 14 August). NHP's chief operating officer framed the event as giving suppliers early sight of the programme and the confidence to engage with it, which is a materially different posture from project-by-project procurement.

Elsewhere in health, Arcadis was appointed lead designer on the rebuild of RAAC-hit Frimley Park Hospital, and Willmott Dixon was cleared to rebuild a RAAC-affected school in Stockport.

On energy, Great British Energy – Nuclear published a commercial pipeline valued at up to £4.6bn, outlined a £730m to £1.1bn early works package, and then confirmed plans for an early works contract worth up to £1.1bn at Wylfa covering civils, infrastructure, buildings, mechanical and electrical work and earthworks (Construction News and NCE, 7 September). Sizewell C awarded G4S a ten-year facilities management contract with most roles based in Suffolk, and progressed both the Port of Ipswich logistics hub and the Saxmundham junction upgrade ahead of freight services.

On the grid, Laing O'Rourke and a Hochtief–Murphy joint venture took major packages on the £1bn North West London Upgrade. Data centres are the other side of the same coin: Barbour ABI analysis for *Construction News* put more than £100bn of data centre construction in the UK pipeline, with over a third holding planning permission but not yet on site.

ALSO IN THE PERIOD

- A **£202m** government guarantee secured two Scottish data centres, and the sector called for a single minister to streamline planning and construction.
- **Costain** took a £150m Thames Water package across 15 Thames Valley treatment sites.

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FIRST-WAVE NHP SCHEMES NAMED IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Contractor appointed, supply chain engaged, ground not yet broken. That is **exactly when delivery and commercial leadership has to be in place**, and it arrives earlier than most talent functions are set up for.
- These are **decade-long partnerships**, not jobs. **Dragados** carries West Suffolk among the five first-wave schemes, and is resourcing it on that basis.
- Nuclear and grid are buying capability **ahead of the workload**. GBE-N alone has a pipeline of up to £4.6bn and an early works package above £1bn.
- If you are in the supply chain, the Norwich event on **17 September** is the cheapest route to early sight of the work.

Delivery found its rhythm

Visible progress on HS2, and the levy lands in October.

HS2's reset produced a run of visible progress. Two main works contracts were successfully renegotiated, the programme sought market views on ten-year partnering arrangements, six 450m platforms were completed at Old Oak Common, a viaduct was launched on the Curzon Street approach and the first 55m Saltley Viaduct section went in. Severfield and Perega were then appointed to complete the Old Oak Common station roof steelwork (Construction Enquirer, 8 September), and HS2 Ltd appointed former Transpennine Route Upgrade director Neil Holm as chief programme officer to see the construction contracts through.

In aviation, Gatwick's second runway was cleared after the Court of Appeal rejected a challenge to the High Court ruling, and Mace Consult and Arcadis landed the lead delivery and commercial management role on the £2.5bn Luton Airport expansion.

The Building Safety Levy lands in October and August was spent preparing for it. Gateway 2 applications climbed sharply, taking the regulator's live caseload above 100 cases, while the BSR's innovation unit halved approval times in its first year of operation (Building, 7 September). An HBF survey found nine in ten SMEs expect the levy to affect site viability, prompting calls to pause its introduction, and industry bodies formally asked for a delay in early September. More than 2,000 unsafe cladding blocks are still waiting for work to start, and government opened its search for a permanent BSR chair.

HS2 THROUGH THE PERIOD

- **4 Aug** Two main works contracts renegotiated under the reset.
- **13 Aug** Market views sought on ten-year partnering.
- **14 Aug** Six 450m platforms complete at Old Oak Common.
- **24 Aug** Viaduct launched on the Curzon Street approach.
- **2 Sep** First 55m Saltley Viaduct section installed.
- **7 Sep** Neil Holm appointed chief programme officer.

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Building safety competence has stopped being a compliance box and become a **delivery constraint**. The hiring has followed it out of health and safety.
- Demand now sits in **technical, commercial and pre-construction** roles — people who can carry a Gateway 2 submission and hold the golden thread through change.
- Briefs written for a compliance manager are not finding those people.
- HS2 is mobilising again, and a reset programme rebuilding its senior layer is where experienced major-project people become available.

Where capacity is moving

Distress easing, and strong results at the top of the market.

7,458

FIRMS IN CRITICAL FINANCIAL DISTRESS IN Q2, FROM 9,466 IN Q1

2

CONSECUTIVE MONTHS OF FALLING ADMINISTRATIONS

51%

PROFIT RISE AT VINCI'S UK CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Two encouraging trend lines. Construction administrations fell for a second consecutive month, and the number of firms in critical financial distress in the second quarter came in at 7,458, down from 9,466 in the first quarter, though 6.6% above the same quarter last year (Construction News, 4 September).

Results were strong at the top of the market. Vinci's UK construction group lifted profit 51% with turnover at £3bn following its restructure, Balfour Beatty raised its 2026 profit forecast on the back of UK power and US data centre work, Sisk grew profit 20%, Structure Tone's turnover reached £449m, Costain set out a margin plan it described as an inflection point, Winvic held turnover above £1bn and Network Plus doubled profit on water and energy work with margin at 9.4%.

Ardmore's creditors approved seven CVAs on 4 September, with Wates and others picking up schemes including the £200m Britannia towers, and the Kensington job restarted after its developer stepped in. Durkan confirmed it is leaving contracting to concentrate elsewhere.

Acquisitions stayed brisk. Applebridge bought £35m-turnover groundworks specialist Hughes Bros, Cardo took over compliance contractor CCS, Equans acquired highways technology firm Mway Communications, Cadeler added Menck to expand its offshore wind foundation capability, a US private equity house took a majority stake in M&E specialist Phoenix and Stantec bought Australian environmental consultancy Niche.

ALSO IN THE RESULTS

- **Balfour Beatty** reported a 17% rise in UK construction profit at the half year.
- **Knights Brown** income rose 17% on energy and coastal work, **Mount Anvil** grew profit on 662 completions and **Oktra** lifted pre-tax profit 36%.

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Capacity is moving towards **water, energy, defence and data**, and away from residential. That reallocation is the best source of candidates in the market right now.
- People come available in the weeks around a restructure or an acquisition, and rarely stay available for long. Being **early to the conversation** beats the size of the offer.
- Six acquisitions in five weeks. If you are buying, the retention question is the integration question — decide who you need to keep **before** completion.
- Distress falling for a second month means fewer people shaken loose involuntarily, so the pipeline hires have to be won on the approach.

The design market kept moving

Masterplans, retrofits and a subsidence surge year.

Reading's station-side masterplan took a step forward when the council approved **Gensler's** revised plans for the third phase, bringing around 600 homes across residential towers (Building, 18 August). Hawkins Brown won a £2.6m commission to design the Oxford station masterplan, integrating offices, life sciences and housing, and Gilbert-Ash secured the £40m overhaul of RIBA's Portland Place headquarters, due to complete in autumn 2027.

Retrofit dominated the London pipeline. KPF submitted a dramatic refurbishment of the HSBC tower at Canary Wharf, Orms lodged plans to convert the BT Tower into a hotel and open the building to the public for the first time in nearly five decades, HB Reavis brought in PLP to rethink its stalled Waterloo scheme as a mixed-use refurbishment, and the Charing Cross station building earmarked for a Hopkins refurbishment was given grade II listing. A contractor search opened for the £84m refurbishment of Foster's Sainsbury Centre. On the consultancy side AKT II rebranded as Tyréns AKT to align with its parent group, and Turner & Townsend made a raft of senior hires across defence and energy.

Ground Engineering used **Geobear's** internal benchmarks alongside Met Office MORECS data to identify 2026 as a subsidence surge year, with a mature tree soil moisture deficit of 332.4mm recorded across Greater London and the South East (12 August). The rest of the month bore that out: ground engineers stabilised a £1.5m London townhouse where clay had dried and shrunk to 5m below basement level, a subsiding station platform in Hertfordshire was restored, Kier completed a complex sinkhole repair in Somerset and remediation neared completion in Kincardine after mine subsidence.

On the technical side the Federation of Piling Specialists established an industry-first embodied carbon baseline for specialist foundations. Keller reported strong first-half growth with a trading outlook boosted by infrastructure and data centre contracts, McLaughlin & Harvey completed the £53m Dover Western Docks Revival project and the power tunnel below the Thames passed its halfway point.

332.4mm

MATURE TREE SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT, LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- A surge year in subsidence is a **demand signal for ground engineering**, and the **Geobear** benchmarks the trade press is now quoting are the clearest read on it available.
- Design and consultancy hiring is concentrating in **retrofit and masterplanning** rather than new build, which changes the brief.
- The people who can carry a listed building or a station masterplan through planning are a narrower pool than the job title suggests, and they are being approached.
- Piling and specialist foundations now have a carbon baseline to bid against, which pulls technical and sustainability capability into the pre-construction team.

Building the layer above delivery

Most of these hires carry sector P&L rather than a backfilled seat.

Emma Loxton joins **Balfour Beatty** as chief strategy officer, from McKinsey.

Mike King becomes **Bam** regional director for Scotland on 17 September, from Robertson Construction Group.

Neil Holm is **HS2 Ltd**'s new chief programme officer, from the Transpennine Route Upgrade.

Wates appointed a Willmott Dixon executive as UK operations director for its construction business.

Morgan Sindall named a new London construction chief and reshaped its London and Home Counties leadership.

Caddick took a second Bowmer + Kirkland leader for its East Midlands push.

Nigel Cole, **Mace Construct**'s infrastructure boss, will step down next year after three decades.

Turner & Townsend made five senior appointments across infrastructure, programme management, defence and energy.

AtkinsRéalis appointed a global power market lead and a UK and Ireland private finance director.

Currie & Brown named a new head of infrastructure for England and Wales, from Midlands Connect.

Arup added a water business growth director and a water policy and regulation lead for UKIMEA.

Mott MacDonald appointed a major events and venues lead for the UK and Europe.

Hill hired the former Telford Homes chief executive, and **British Land** named a new development delivery head.

High Speed Rail Group added Kier's Mandy Duncan and Arcadis' Jonathan Sharrock to its board.

THE PATTERN

The hires cluster in defence, power, water and strategy, and most of them carry sector profit and loss rather than backfilling a seat. Firms are building the leadership layer for programmes that have been signed but not started, which is a different brief from replacing a leaver and it moves earlier than most talent functions expect.

WHERE THIS LEAVES US

The through-line across five weeks and five titles is a market that is winning work faster than it is resourcing it. Awards up 169%, a £120bn framework, eleven hospital alliances, £100bn of data centres and a nuclear pipeline at £4.6bn all have to be delivered by people who have not been hired yet.

That is a good problem, and it is a solvable one if the hiring starts at award rather than at mobilisation.

If any of this is useful against a role you are holding, tell us and we will give you the market read on it.

FULL MOVERS & SHAKERS

The complete verified list for the month, grouped by company, is published separately as *Arcavia — Movers and Shakers*.

Everything here is sourced

Five titles, 1 August to 8 September 2026.

UK Construction PMI, August 2026
Construction Enquirer, NCE and Building, 4 September

Glenigan contract award data
Construction News, 18 August

August contracts league
Construction Enquirer, 7 September

Major project awards
Construction Enquirer, Construction News and Building, daily reporting 1 August to 8 September

Construction starts down 20% year on year
Construction News, 8 September

ONS construction vacancies
Construction News, 18 August

CITB workforce mobility research
Construction News, 20 August; Building, 13 August

@one Alliance AMP8 recruitment
NCE, 8 September

Costain apprentice intake
NCE, 1 September; Ground Engineering, 8 September

Construction jobs plan
Construction News, 2 September

NSIP judicial review reform
NCE and Construction News, 8 September

National Wealth Fund regional partnerships
NCE, 8 September

Metro mayor call-in powers
Construction Enquirer, Building and Construction News, 24 August

Revised NPPF
Building and NCE, 17 August

New town locations
Building, 3 September

Scape national and defence frameworks
NCE, Construction News and Building, 18 and 25 August

National Highways roads upkeep
Construction Enquirer, 24 August

Anglian Water major projects framework
Construction News, 18 August

Yorkshire Water AMP9 and AMP10 engagement
Construction News, 5 August

New Hospital Programme supply chain engagement
Construction Enquirer and Construction News, 14 August

Frimley Park lead designer
Building, 24 August

GBE-N pipeline and Wylfa early works
NCE, 7 and 21 August; Construction News, 7 September

Sizewell C facilities management and early careers
NCE, 21 August and 8 September

National Grid North West London Upgrade
Construction News and Building, 14 August; NCE, 27 August

Data centre pipeline, Barbour ABI for CN
Construction News, 27 August

HS2 reset, milestones and appointments
NCE, 4, 13, 14 and 24 August, 2 and 7 September; Ground Engineering, 4 August

Gatwick second runway appeal
NCE, 4 and 7 August

Luton Airport expansion role
Construction Enquirer, 3 September; Building and NCE, 4 September

Building Safety Levy and Gateway 2
Construction Enquirer and Construction News, 7 September; Building, 18 August and 7 September

Financial distress and administrations
Construction News, 4 September

Ardmore CVAs and scheme handovers
Construction Enquirer and Building, 4 September; Construction News, 26 August

Results season
Construction News, Building and Construction Enquirer, 11 to 28 August

Gensler Reading approval
Building, 18 August

Hawkins Brown Oxford station masterplan
Building, 7 September

Subsidence surge year, Geobear and Met Office MORECS
Ground Engineering, 12 August

FPS embodied carbon baseline
Ground Engineering, 19 August

Movers and shakers, August 2026
NCE, 1 September

METHOD

Every article the five titles published between 1 August and 8 September 2026 was indexed with its date, and the stories carried here were read for the figures quoted. Where two titles reported the same story, both are credited. Figures are as published, not adjusted or deflated.