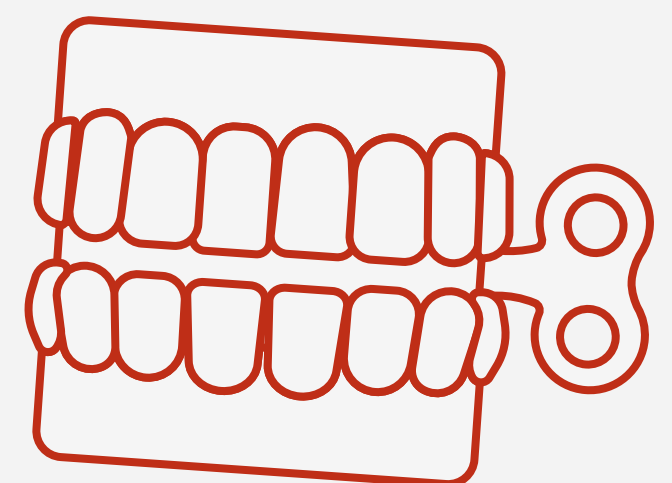


Your bitesize construction bulletin

November 2025



Colleges struggle with demand for construction courses

What is it?

A new survey has found that more than half of colleges in England have waiting lists for construction courses as they're unable to keep up with demand.

What should I know?

- Demand is rising fast, with 77% of colleges reporting an increase in enrolment among 16-18 year-olds.
- 60% of colleges had to cap or close construction courses due to limited physical or human resources, such as staffing shortages and a lack of teaching spaces.
- Apprenticeships have faced similar constraints.

**Market conditions
and challenges**



Nuclear power station construction will commence

What is it?

Sizewell C, a £38bn nuclear power station in Suffolk, has reached financial close and full-scale construction will start.

What should I know?

- Sizewell C is the first UK nuclear project funded through the regulated asset base (RAB) model, attracting both government and private investors.
- As well as the UK government, investors include Centrica (parent company of British Gas) and EDF.
- The project will deliver low-carbon power, tens of thousands of jobs, and a major boost to the economy.

**Innovation, technology
and trends**



Infrastructure project delivery needs overhaul

What is it?

A cross-party group of MPs has called for an overhaul of the way Whitehall plans and delivers major national projects.

What should I know?

- The inquiry found that too many schemes fall into a “valley of death”, stalling due to a difference between political ambition and delivery which causes delays, overspending, and a loss of momentum.
- Recommendations include: establishing a National Infrastructure Delivery Skills Roadmap, mandatory project management training, and earlier supplier involvement in policy-making.

**Market conditions
and challenges**



New Network Rail property development company

What is it?

Network Rail has launched Platform4, a company with a target to build 40,000 new homes and 10 million sq ft of commercial space in the next decade.

What should I know?

- It will develop brownfield rail land and has already identified four sites in Newcastle, Manchester, Cambridge, and Nottingham.
- The scheme aims to regenerate land, create jobs and new communities, and support the government's housing agenda.

**Housebuilding
and regulations**



Construction workforce hits record low

What is it?

Construction employment in the UK has fallen to its lowest level since 2000, with total site jobs set to drop below two million.

What should I know?

- The workforce has declined 15% since pre-Covid levels, with 367,000 jobs lost.
- Directly employed staff are decreasing faster than the self-employed, affecting skills retention and flexibility.
- Factors include housing slowdown, weak commercial work, and higher employer costs such as the increase in National Insurance Contributions.

**Market conditions
and challenges**



**You're all
caught up!**

