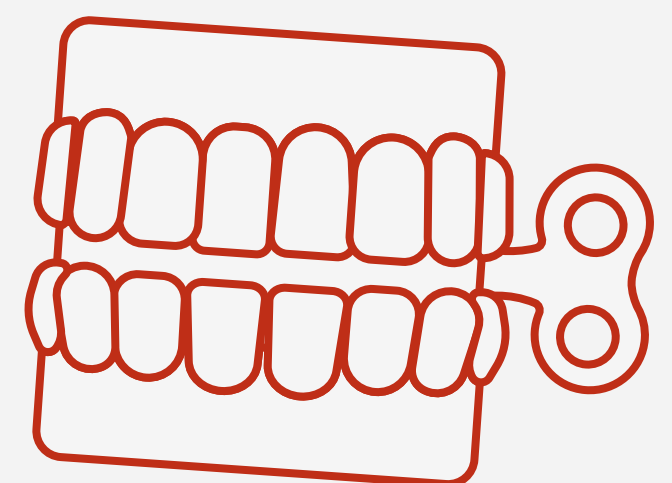


Your bitesize construction bulletin

January 2026



Railway improvement for the North

What is it?

£45bn of upgrades have been pledged for the Northern Powerhouse Rail scheme, which will deliver the biggest travel upgrades for the North in a generation.

What should I know?

- The scheme promises faster and more frequent rail services to better connect cities and deliver shorter commutes.
- The first phase is likely to include the construction of a new station in Bradford, followed by upgrades to Leeds, York and Sheffield stations, as well as a new station at Rotherham.

**Innovation, technology
and trends**



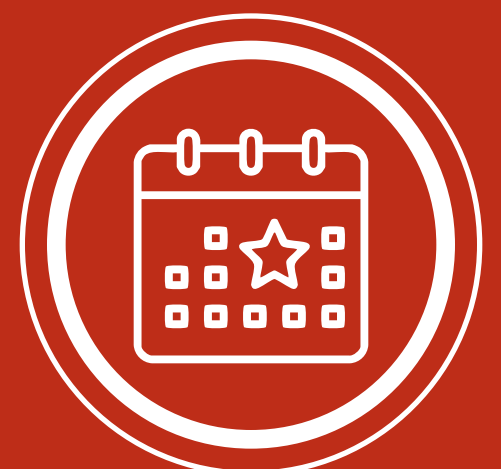
National site standard for women officially launches

What is it?

The National Site Standard for Female Operatives has been launched at the House of Lords, setting minimum requirements to better support and protect women working on construction sites.

What should I know?

- The standard sets out 11 minimum requirements to ensure women are supported and protected on sites, covering welfare, PPE, behaviour, safeguarding, reporting and leadership accountability.
- It was created by Construction for Women founder Renee Preston and adopted by the Considerate Constructors Scheme.



Construction output falls after Budget

What is it?

UK construction output fell sharply in late 2025 as construction firms delayed decisions ahead of the Autumn Budget.

What should I know?

- Output fell 1.1% in the three months to November, the steepest drop since March 2023 when output dropped 1.4%.
- Private housing repair and maintenance showed the largest decrease, down 3.7%.
- The figures highlight how fragile some sectors are, particularly housing-led work, when confidence is questioned.

**Market conditions
and challenges**



Tower crane drivers plan strike action over pay

What is it?

Tower crane drivers employed by Wolffkran are planning a series of strikes over pay, with action expected to disrupt major construction sites, particularly in London.

What should I know?

- Unite members voted for 24-hour strikes starting 27 January, repeating fortnightly.
- Around 90 drivers are involved and stoppages could halt sites.
- The strike is a result of no pay rises for more than three years and concerns over worsening terms.

**Market conditions
and challenges**



**You're all
caught up!**

