

Business &
IP Centre
Network

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INDUSTRY GUIDE
CONSTRUCTION
& PROPERTY

Construction & Property Industry Guide

This guide is designed for anyone starting or running a business related to the Construction and Property Industries, including architecture and interior design.

We have highlighted some of the key resources about the Construction and Property Industries that you can find at the Business & IP Centre such as general research (statistics, trends and developments), key companies, trade magazines and newsletters.

All you need is a free Reader Pass.

About the Business & IP Centre (BIPC)

The Business & IP Centre is here to help you start and grow your business. We offer one-to-ones, specialist workshops, inspiring events and access to premium market data and intelligence - all for free. We are home to the UK's largest collection of business and intellectual property (IP) information, as well as a thriving community of entrepreneurs. Based in the British Library and over 70 libraries across the UK.

Here to help

If you have any questions, our information specialists at the Business & IP Centre will be happy to help. You can pop into the BIPC reading room on the first floor in the British Library, or email one of the team at bipc@bl.uk

Updated January 2025
Christian Necsulescu

bl.uk/bipc

 [linkedin](#)

 [Instagram](#)

Start-Up Information



The Cobra database contains practical fact-sheets on all aspects of starting, running and managing a small business – including information on writing business plans, marketing, company structures etc.

It also covers the practical aspects of how to start and run particular types of businesses – outlining necessary skills, regulations, licences and legislation etc. and highlights other sources of information and advice available.

Accessible via electronic resources.

Business Opportunity Profiles (BOP)

Architect	BOP319
Carpenter/Joiner	BOP056
Chartered Buildings Surveyor	BOP133
Commercial Property Agent	BOP515
Estate Agent	BOP253
General Builder	BOP069
Handyman	BOP429
Decorator	BOP027
Plasterer	BOP307
Property Maintenance	BOP423
Residential Letting Agent	BOP291

Business Information Factsheets (BIF)

A Guide to the Building Regulations	BIF005
Construction Industry Scheme	BIF456

Market Research and Statistics

If you are planning on starting a business you will need to be aware of the latest trends, developments and opportunities within your industry which can all be found from market research.



COBRA

- Construction Sector Update (SEC015) 2024
 - Construction Industry Scheme (BIF 456) 2024
 - Construction and Building Trades (SYN004) 2024
-



EMIS

EMIS is a research database covering markets research, data and news for international markets, companies, and industries.

- Residential Construction in the United Kingdom 2024 (Marketline)
- Non-Residential Construction in the United Kingdom (Marketline)
- Construction (Oxford Econometrics)
- Monthly Industry Forecasts (Oxford Econometrics)
- United Kingdom Real Estate (Marketline)
- Various Property Price Indexes (Knight Frank)
- United Kingdom Construction Materials 2024
- Europe Residential Construction 2024

- Europe Construction Materials 2024

Reports on the UK & Europe shown above, EMIS will have reports covering other regions aswell.



IBISWorld

Market research also covers market size and forecasts, consumer demographics and attitudes, the key players and products and will often include SWOT and PEST analysis showing areas of strength, weakness, opportunities etc. IBIS World provides trusted industry research on thousands of industries worldwide. Their analysts leverage economic, demographic and market data, then add analytical and forward-looking insight, to help organizations of all types make better decisions.

- Building Project Development in the UK (F41.100)
- Commercial Building Construction in the UK (F41.201)
- Building Construction in the UK (UK-F41)
- Test Drilling & Boring in the UK (F43.130)
- Demolition in the UK (F43.110)
- Healthcare Construction in the UK (SP0.047)
- Painting in the UK (F43.341)
- Residential Building Construction in the UK (F41.202)
- Road & Motorway Construction in the UK (F42.110)
- Bridge & Tunnel Construction in the UK (F42.130)

There are quite a few reports covering specialist aspects of construction and civil engineering on IBISWorld. From home page click on "UK Industry Reports (UK SIC)" and look under Construction heading. There will also be similar reports for Ireland, the US, Canada & a few other countries.



Mintel

Mintel provides market research and consumer intelligence solutions to consumer-focused businesses with a combination of syndicated tools and custom insight solutions.

- Civil Engineering (MBD Report) 2023
 - Commercial Mortgages (MBD Reports) 2022
 - Commercial Property (MBD Report) 2022
 - Holiday Rental Property 2024
 - Construction UK 2023
 - Ceramic Tiles 2023
 - House Building UK 2023
-



Statista

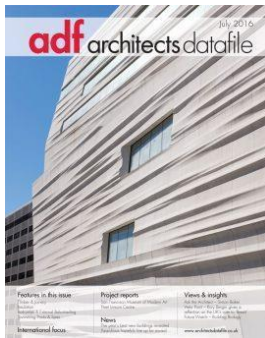
Statista is a global data and business intelligence platform with an extensive collection of statistics, reports, and insights on over 80,000 topics from 22,500 sources in 170 industries.

- Commercial Real Estate in the United Kingdom 2024
- Construction Industry in the United Kingdom 2024
- Home Purchasing in the United Kingdom 2024
- Industrial & Logistic Real Estate in the United Kingdom 2024
- Office Real Estate in London 2024
- Real Estate in the United Kingdom 2024
- Residential Property Market in London 2024
- Residential Rental Market in the United Kingdom 2024

There are usually similar titles for other countries on Statista along with stand-alone statistics and surveys

Trade Magazines and Newsletters

Useful for gaining inside knowledge, recent trends, industry news, company profiles, reviews of new products and services. Some contain annual reviews and company contact lists. Mostly available on open shelves in the Business & IP Centre reading room; older issues may be ordered via Explore the British Library (please ask for help).



ADF Architects Datafile (netMAGmedia, monthly)

(P) WH 00 -E(21) (Social Sciences)

Coverage of recent major projects, news and recent product details. Current issue and archive also available here:

architectsdatafile.co.uk



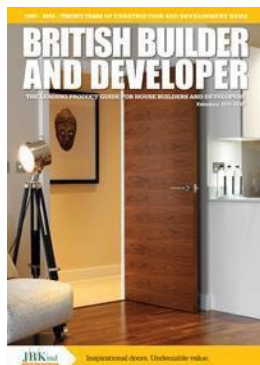
The Architects Journal (AJ) (Emap, weekly)

[(P) WH 20 -E(6)] (Social Sciences).

Main journal for professional architects. Includes reviews of major projects, political and legislative issues, regional issues and competitions.

Online version here:

architectsjournal.co.uk



British Builder & Developer (Media One, monthly)

[(P) WM 142 -E(25)] (Social Sciences)

Surveys and news of new products for architects, builders, and designers.



The Builder
(McDermott Publishing, monthly)

[(P) VY 30 –E(77)] (Social Sciences)

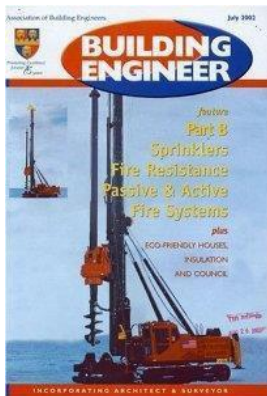
Mostly new product news and company profiles.



Builders Merchants Journal (Faversham House, Monthly)

[(P) WN 86 –E(1)] (Social Sciences)

News of the trade, product news, league tables. Covers materials handling, sustainability etc.



Building Engineer
(Association of Building Engineers, Monthly)

[(P) WH 00 –E(37)] (Social Sciences)

News and developments in building engineering. Includes safety, maintenance, case studies, events, product showcase etc.



Building News
(McDermott Publishing, monthly)

[(P) WN 86 –E(8)] (Social Sciences)

'National trade paper for today's building trade'. New products, company news, case studies etc.



Building Services & Environmental Engineer (Datateam)

[(P) WQ 00 –E(32)] (Social Sciences)

Covers air conditioning, lighting, lifts, fire and safety systems, building controls etc. Digital issues available here:

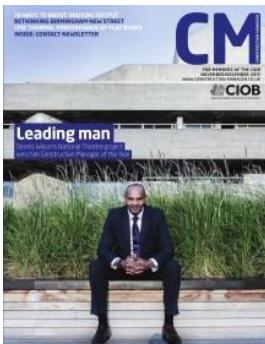
bsee.co.uk



Construction Industry Focus (Exprian, Monthly)

[(P) VW 132 –E(8)] (Social Sciences)

Newsletter with reports on construction activity, orders, tenders and regional information.



Construction Management (Atom Publishing, monthly)

[(P) VY 30 –E(86)] (Social Sciences)

Magazine of the Chartered Institute of Building. News, comments, profiles and market trends.

constructionmanagemagazine.com



Construction News (Emap, weekly)

[(P) VX 00 –E(27)] (Social Sciences)

Main weekly newspaper for the construction industry. Includes company and product news, reports on building projects and list of contract leads for the UK. Online version:

constructionnews.co.uk

(mostly subscription but small amount of free content plus sample issue).



**DABS: Design, Architecture & Building Specifications
(McDermott Publishing, Monthly)**

[(P) WH 00 –E(44)] (Social Sciences)



HA: Housing Association Magazine

[(P) WJ 07 –E(3)] (Social Sciences) Construction projects, detailed product news and policy issues.

Digital issue here:

hamag.co.uk



**Installer
(Lyrical Communications, monthly)**

[(P) 696.094105 –E(1) BUS] 2021 Magazine for the heating, plumbing and renewables profession.

installeronline.co.uk



**New Steel Construction
(British Constructional Steelwork Association,
bi-monthly)**

[(P) VY 87 –E(20)] (Social Sciences)

Major projects, safety a technical issue, contract information.

newsteelconstruction.com



**Professional Builders Merchant
(Hamerville Magazines, monthly)**

[(P) WN 86 – E(7)] (Social Sciences)

News magazine for builders', plumbers' and timber merchants. Website for magazine (some free product information):

professionalbuildersmerchant.co.uk



**Professional Housebuilder and Property Developer
(Hamerville Magazines, monthly)**

[(P) 338.4769080941 –E(1)] (Business & IP Centre)

News of new products, company profiles, developments.



**Property Investor News
(Farscape Ltd., monthly)**

[(P) AL 935 –E(53)]

News on the property market including overseas news and upcoming auction dates.

property-investor-news.com (article summaries free)



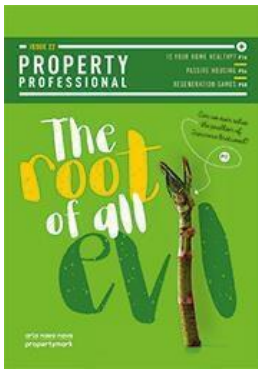
**Property Journal
(RICS, bi-monthly)**

[(P) 333.33094105 – E(4) (Business & IP Centre)]

Magazine of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors – includes property development, letting, commercial property, management etc.

Current and back issues available on website:

rics.org/uk/news/journals/property-journal



Property Professional
(National Federation of Property Professionals, bi-monthly)

[(P) 333.33094105 – E(3) (Business & IP Centre)]

Covers most aspects of property including management, renting, development projects etc.

Can be read online here (with back issues):

arla.co.uk/magazines



Property Week
(UBM Information, weekly)

[Enquire in Newsroom]

Magazine covering the latest news, features and comment on the international commercial property markets. Paper copy only via Newsroom. Articles available on Factiva (from 1995, onsite via database)

propertyweek.com (subscriber access to most information)



Property Week International
(UMI Information, twice yearly) 2022

[(P) 333.33 – E(1)] (Business & IP Centre)

Twice yearly international supplement of the above magazine covering global topics.



Public Sector Building
(Koru Media, monthly)

[(P) WM 00 –E(84)] (Social Sciences)

Mostly news of new building projects in the public sector and product news.



**Refurb and Renew
(Waverley Communications, monthly) 2019**

[(P) 620.24 –E1] BUS] (Business & IP Centre)

Specialist magazine for the building refurbishment industry including products, interiors, safety etc.



**UK Landlord
(National Landlord's Association, bi-monthly)**

[(P) 346.410434 –E(1)]

Ceased publication in 2019 but back issues available.

Business News and Journals



Factiva

In order to find the latest news on your topic it is always worth searching Factiva, Business Source Complete and EMIS.

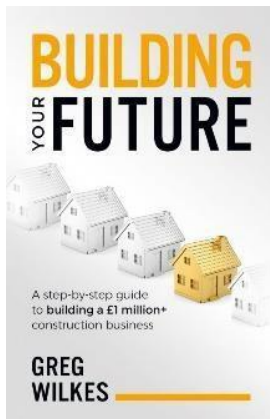
Business Source Complete

You will find articles from specialist business and academic journals, as well as newspapers and magazines. You may also find market research reports and case studies. As well as profiles of leading industry figures.

EMIS

You will also find articles covering recent developments and predicting future trends in your industry.

Small Business Help Books



Building Your Future: a step-by-step guide to building a £1 Million+ Construction Business by Greg Wilkes (Rethink Press, 2019)

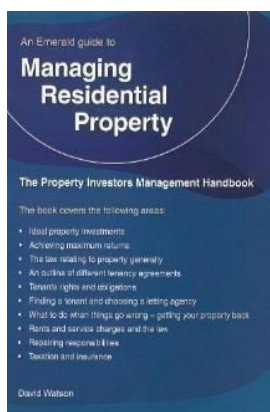
[SBH BT.197 – Small Business Help]

Guide to setting up a building and construction business



Earn Money from Your Home with Short Lets Through Airbnb, OneFineStay, TripAdvisor, Misterbnb and Other Sites by Stewart Whyte (Robinson, 2017)

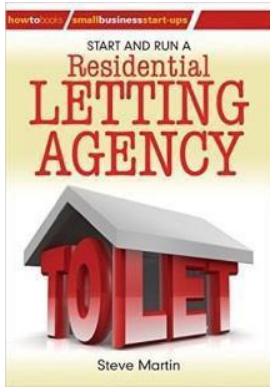
[SBH BT.24 – Small Business Help]. Guide to making money through Airbnb and other sites.



The Property Investor's Management Handbook: Managing Residential Property by David Watson (Emerald Guides, 2020)

[YKL.2021.a.10406 – previous edition on shelves at SBH BT.145 – Small Business Help]

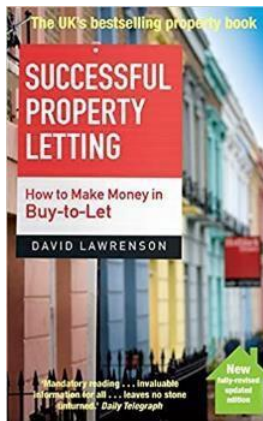
A handbook for property managers and investors. Covers law, tenants' rights, using letting agents, repair responsibilities etc.



**Start and Run a Residential Letting Agency
by Steve Martin
(How to Books, 2010)**

[SBH BT.105 – Small Business Help]

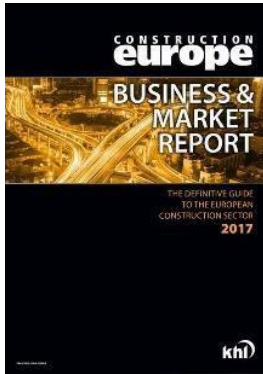
Covers marketing, finance, staffing, regulations and the letting process. This is a little bit old now but much still useful.



**Successful Property Letting: How to Make Money in
Buy to Let by David Lawrenson (Robinson, 2020)**

[SBH BT.208 – Small Business Help]

Printer Market Trade and Research Reports



Construction Europe: Business & Market Report (KHL)

[(B) MKT 338.47624094]

Annual survey of the European market.



Construction Forecasts (Experian Business Strategies Ltd)

[(B) MKT 338.47624 BUS]

Analysis and statistics of current state of construction industry and forecasts. Includes housing, repairs, new infrastructure and non-residential construction.



Construction Industry Forecasts (Construction Products Association)

[(B) MKT 338.47624 BUS]

Brief report of all sectors of the construction industry.



Getting the Deal Through: Construction in 32 Jurisdictions Worldwide (Law Business Research Ltd)

[(B) MKT 343.078624 BUS]

Summary of the legal situation concerning construction projects for companies doing business in 32 countries.



Getting the Deal Through: Real Estate in 31 Jurisdictions Worldwide (Law Business Research Ltd)

[(B) MKT 346.0405 BUS]

Summary of legal situation concerning real estate deals for companies doing business in 31 countries.



Housing Market Intelligence Report 2022

Open Access area BIPC

[(B) MKT 363.5094105 BUS]



Industry Insights: Construction Skills Network Forecasts 2019-2021

(Construction Industry Training Board / Experian)

[(B) MKT 331.1239094101 BUS]



State of Trade Survey (Federation of Master Builders, quarterly)

Free on their website:

fmb.org.uk/about-the-fmb/publications/state-of-trade-survey

Covers workload, expected workload, prices, costs, labour etc.

Directories



Building Conservation Directory (Ten Alps Publishing Ltd, annual)

[(B) DIR 720.28802541 BUS]

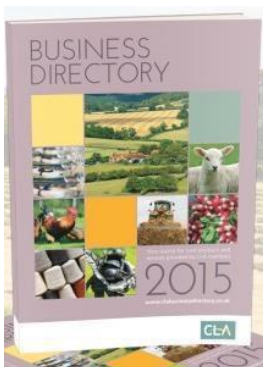
Specialist suppliers of products and services, consultants, craftspeople in traditional building, refurbishment and design. Also has technical articles, industry information etc.



CECA Infrastructure Directory (Ten Alps Publishing, annual)

[(B) DIR 624 BUS]

Lists members of the Civil Engineering Contractors Association. Regional breakdown of civil engineering firms etc.

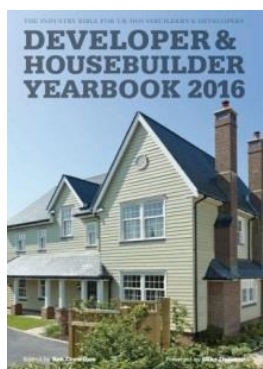


CLA Business Directory (Country Land & Business Association, annual)

[(B) 338.7029441 BUS]

Directory of services for landowners in agriculture and rural areas including surveyors, property, construction, solicitors and farming.

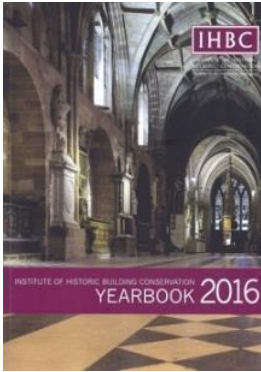
cla.org.uk/businessdirectory



Developer & Housebuilder Yearbook (Media One Communications, annual)

[(B) 690.802941 BUS]

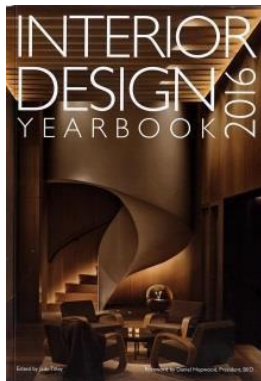
Comprehensive buyers guide for housebuilding industry. Includes product surveys, case studies and market trends.



**Institute of Historic Building Conservation Yearbook
(Cathedral Communications, annual)**

[(B) DIR 720.288 BUS]

News and analysis of historic building conservation and list of members.



**Interior Design Yearbook
(Media One Communications, annual)**

[(B) DIR 729.014797 BUS]

Comprehensive and nicely illustrated directory of suppliers for interior designers. Covers furnishing, fittings, lighting, art, soft furnishings, wallcoverings etc. Also, extensive analysis on trends and company profiles.



**LABC National Directory of Services
(Ten Alps Publishing, annual)**

[(B) DUIR 354.6402941 BUS]

LABC represents local authority building control teams. Directory for professionals including architects, builders, engineers etc.



**Laxton's Building Price Book
(Laxton's Publishing, annual)**

[(B) DIR 692.5 BUS]

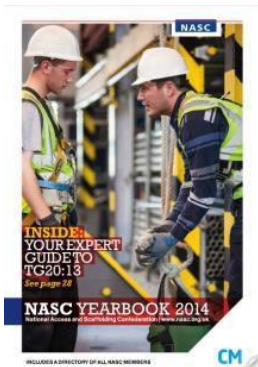
Detailed price guide for builders, surveyors, managers etc. Includes estimates for materials and labour.



The List: The Royal Institute of British Architects Directory of Chartered Practices (Excel Publishing for RIBA, annual)

[(B) 338.7617202541 BUS]

Lists RIBA chartered practices across the country by town and indicates which specific sector they specialise in. There are other directories for RIBA nearby on the shelves covering different sectors e.g. Leisure plus other regional directories.



National Access & Scaffolding Confederation Yearbook (Contract Journal)

[(B) DIR 690.028 BUS]

Industry guide and listing of companies in the industry that are members of the Confederation: listing arranged by region and alphabetically.

Membership listing also available here:

nasc.org.uk/membership/find-a-member



National Federation of Demolition Contractors Yearbook (NFDC, annual)

Industry listings by region. You can also search on their website:

demolition-nfdc.com



Natural Stone Directory (QMJ Publishing, annual)

[(B) DIR 691.20294 BUS]

Directory of stone suppliers, stone masons, quarries etc.



Real Estate Investment Managers (IPE International, annual)

[(B) 332.632405 BUS]

Global directory with profiles of the major investment management companies with interests in property. Searchable database available on the website:

hub.ipe.com/find-managers

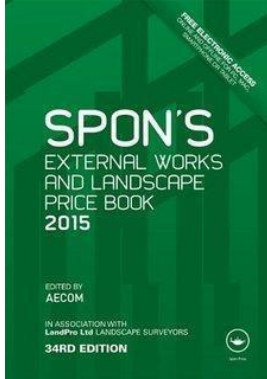


**Scottish
Decorators
Federation**

**Scottish Decorators Federation Yearbook
(SDF, annual)**

[(B) 338.47698109411 BUS]

List of members and useful information.



**Spon's External Works and Landscape Price Book
(Taylor & Francis, annual)**

[(B) DIR 338.437120941 BUS]

Product sourcing Guide. Covers labour and materials costs for landscape work, drainage, fencing, paving and street work.

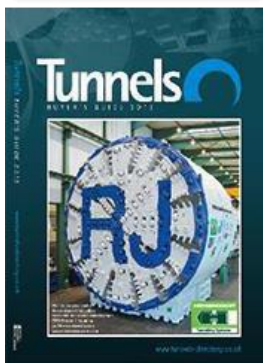


**The Tile Association Directory
(Kick Start Publishing, annual)**

[(B) 338.76914 BUS]

Lists manufacturers, suppliers, contractors and retailers of all kinds of tiles. Also searchable on their website:

tiles.org.uk/directory



**Tunnels Buyers Guide
(Progressive Media Markets, annual)**

[(B) DIR 624.193025 BUS]

Global guide to people and companies in the tunnel industry with buyers guide section.

Internet Sources

Websites containing free sources of policy, industry statistics, information and contacts.

Barbour ABI: Economic & Construction Market Review

A monthly report examining construction industry trends and the impact of economic developments.

barbour-abi.com/knowledge-hub/economic-construction-market-review

Build UK: market reports

Regular reports and news on issues affecting the construction sector in the UK.

builduk.org/information

Building: trade publication

A digital and print journal for the building and construction industry providing news and information, market analysis, and product and equipment reviews.

building.co.uk

Construction Employers Federation (CEF): news and reports

Regular news and reports covering issues affecting construction firms in Northern Ireland.

cefni.co.uk/news

Construction Industry Training Board (CITB): construction industry research reports

Reports covering the skills and training needs of the construction sector.

citb.co.uk/about-citb/construction-industry-research-reports

Construction News: trade publication

A weekly journal for the building and construction industry providing news and information, special features for small construction businesses and details of contracting opportunities.

constructionnews.co.uk

Construction Products Association (CPA): market reports

Reports, surveys and forecasts covering trends and developments in the construction industry.

[constructionproducts.org.uk/publications/economics](https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/publications/economics)

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: new build dwellings statistics

Quarterly reports providing information on housebuilding starts and completions in England.

[gov.uk/government/collections/house-building-statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/house-building-statistics)

Federation of Master Builders: State of Trade Survey

Quarterly survey providing information on workloads, staff, costs and developments in the construction industry.

[fmb.org.uk/news-and-campaigns/reports-and-publications.html](https://www.fmb.org.uk/news-and-campaigns/reports-and-publications.html)

Glenigan: market analysis

Analysis of industry forecasts and trends in the construction industry.

[glenigan.com/market-analysis](https://www.glenigan.com/market-analysis)

Housebuilder: trade publication

An online and print magazine including news about the major housebuilders in the UK, details of events, product reviews and information about award schemes.

[house-builder.co.uk](https://www.house-builder.co.uk)

NHBC Foundation: news and reports

Regular reports and news on issues affecting the construction sector in the UK.

[nhbc.co.uk/foundation](https://www.nhbc.co.uk/foundation)

Professional Builder: online resource

An online resource including product and equipment reviews, best practice building tips, and news and information.

[probuildermag.co.uk](https://www.probuildermag.co.uk)

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS): surveys and reports

Regular surveys and reports covering the construction industry, the UK residential housing market and the UK commercial property market.

[rics.org/uk/news-insight/research](https://www.rics.org/uk/news-insight/research)

Trade and professional associations Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)

CIOB is a professional body representing construction managers, specialists and building consultancies in the UK.

ciob.org

Construction Employers Federation (CEF)

CEF is the certified representative body for the construction industry in Northern Ireland.

cefni.co.uk

Construction Industry Trade Alliance (CITA)

CITA is a building trade association that offers members access to industry information, discounts and promotional services.

cita.co.uk

Construction Products Association (CPA)

The CPA is a trade body representing manufacturers and distributors of construction products and materials in the UK.

constructionproducts.org.uk

FairTrades

FairTrades is a trade body representing builders, roofers, glaziers and other tradespeople in the UK home improvements sector.

fairtrades.co.uk

Federation of Master Builders (FMB)

The FMB is a trade body representing builders and contractors in the UK construction industry.

fmb.org.uk

Guild of Master Craftsmen

The Guild is a trade body representing skilled and rated tradespeople in the UK who strive to provide excellent workmanship.

guildmc.com

National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers (NAPIT)

NAPIT is a trade body representing installers in the building services and fabric sector.

napit.org.uk

National Federation of Builders (NFB)

The NFB is a trade association representing the building and construction industry in England and Wales.

builders.org.uk/home

Scottish Building Federation (SBF)

The SBF is a membership body representing employers in the Scottish building industry.

scottish-building.co.uk

Disclaimer

Please note that every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this document, however some recently acquired items may since have been added to the collection. Please ask for help at the enquiry desk or check the online catalogue “Explore the British Library” explore.bl.uk for more details.

The Business & IP Centre is here to help you start and grow your business. We offer one-to-ones, specialist workshops, inspiring events and access to premium market data and intelligence - all for free. We are home to the UK's largest collection of business and intellectual property (IP) information, as well as a thriving community of entrepreneurs. Based in the British Library and over 70 libraries across the UK. Visit the Business & IP Centre or bl.uk/bipc to find out more.