



Civil Engineering Contractors Association  
**Priorities for an incoming  
Government 2024/25**





The **Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA)** is the representative body for companies who work day-to-day to deliver, upgrade, and maintain the country's infrastructure.

With more than 300 members based across the devolved nations of Scotland and Wales and the six English regions, CECA represents firms who together carry out an estimated 70-80 per cent of all civil engineering activity in the UK, in the key sectors of transport, energy, communications, waste, and water.

CECA members directly employ more than 250,000 people across the UK, and support supply chains that provide employment for many thousands more, generating the economic growth that businesses and communities rely upon.



## Introduction

There is an acceptance across all political parties that the United Kingdom needs good and reliable infrastructure to thrive.

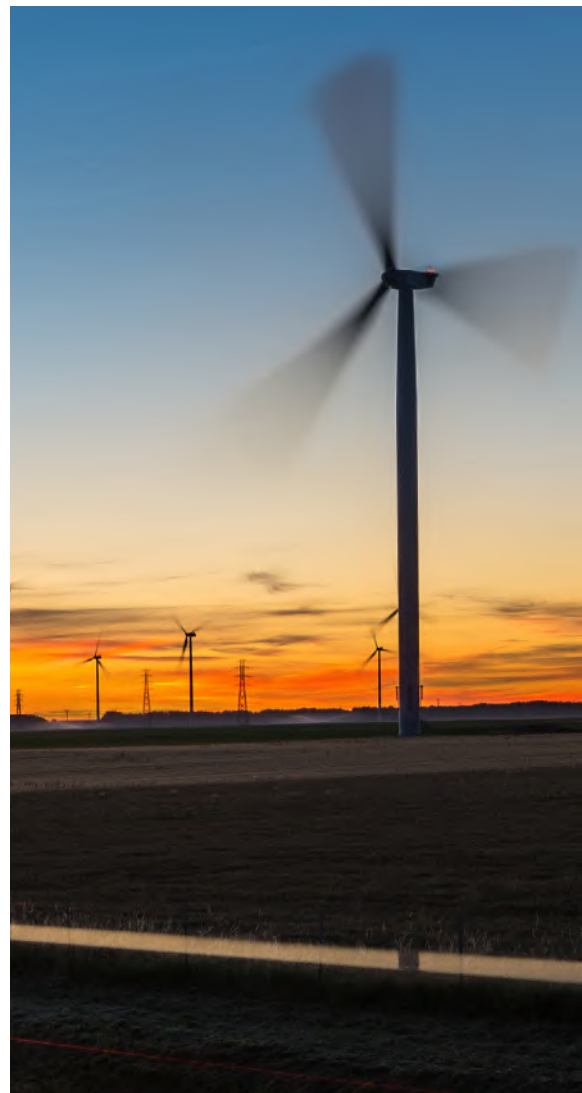
For each £1 billion increase in infrastructure investment, UK-wide GDP increases by a total of £1.299 billion and for every £1 billion of infrastructure construction increases overall economic activity by £2.842 billion. Combined with the social benefits infrastructure brings, its importance cannot be understated.

Yet, due to global economic factors, combined with political uncertainty, we are at serious risk that infrastructure investment will be substantially reduced over the next ten years, with existing projects already under threat.

This is a false economy. The impact of pauses and cancellations cannot be overstated and are casting a long shadow over the future of UK plc. There is real concern that the long fought for investment plan for the UK's public infrastructure is at serious risk of falling from favour, as it did so catastrophically in the Global Financial Crisis of 2008. Then, capital spending was cut too far and too fast, and economically viable projects were cancelled for short-termist reasons – often to the detriment of the taxpayer, as they had to be re-procured at greater cost at a later date.

This paper seeks to balance society's continued requirement for good infrastructure with the economic climate we find ourselves in. Combined with global uncertainty and our need to meet net zero goals in an affordable way, the next Infrastructure Decade will undoubtedly be one full of challenge, excitement and innovation.

Where specific monies are invested remains a matter for debate. Civil engineering contractors work across all infrastructure sectors, across the regions and nations of Great Britain. With cross-government support, we stand ready and primed to deliver the transportation and utilities we need for the next decade.



## Invest in the future

The UK's future depends on an incoming Westminster Government sticking to the plans outlined in the National Infrastructure Strategy (NIS).

These plans - based on independent assessment and produced by a body which has cross-party support – scope UK infrastructure needs and prioritise long-term cost reduction via best practice and innovation. If some projects are no longer viable, Government must offer alternatives, including reprofiling to ensure reliability of service.

CECA calls on an incoming Westminster Government to hold its nerve and:

- **Deliver existing project pipelines and maintain investment commitments.**
- **Accelerate full delivery of HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and the Transpennine route.**



## Maintain confidence

The maintenance and delivery of our future infrastructure is now at serious threat due to current instabilities.

Pausing projects with little reference to detail and future timescales for project delivery does little to bring the confidence of delivery through the supply chain, impacting on the UK's future prosperity. Our industry stands ready to adapt, but we need further clarification on what to adapt to.

At a time at when major infrastructure investments have been thrown into doubt by economic uncertainty, it is essential that an incoming Westminster Government and industry work together to avoid catastrophic infrastructure failure in the long-term.

In order to secure growth an incoming Westminster Government must:

- **Put construction at the heart of policy making, with the establishment of a Cabinet Committee for Infrastructure committed to the delivery of an Integrated Infrastructure Plan.**

*Every £1 billion of infrastructure construction increases overall economic activity by £2.842 billion.*



## Enabling our regions to thrive

The levelling up agenda has led to notable and welcome investment in our nations and regions. Yet recently, it has been somewhat short-termist, with critical projects subjected to last minute delay and cancellation.

A long-term infrastructure plan, as envisaged by the National Infrastructure Commission can thrive only if it is actively supported by its delivery partners working together to upgrade and maintain our networks.

An incoming Westminster Government must:

- Turbo-charge pipeline visibility at all levels of government. Combined with next level detail, action programmes and a consistent volume of work.
- Strengthen the National Infrastructure Commission by linking its plans to sub-national infrastructure bodies, which build on the work of the already established sub-national transport bodies.
- Establish industry-led local infrastructure and construction partnerships to support the evolution of Local Enterprise Partnerships. These could work with clients to coordinate funding for local training and development.
- Support industry to develop an independent and impartial advisory bank of expertise to offer local authorities advice on planning issues, unblocking projects and optimum procurements.

## World-class connectivity

The UK does not maintain a reliable and efficient transport network. While there is good connectivity in our cities, our towns and surrounding regions do not fare so well.

Some of our road and rail routes remain congested, with no viable overall plan for an integrated transport network for England which is essential for a resilient and sustainable economy seeking to achieve its carbon reduction obligations.

To ensure future mobility an incoming Westminster Government must:

- Publish a high-level English Transport Strategy which supports Sub-National Transport Bodies (including Transport for London), integrates with the devolved nations and delivers firm five-year capital settlements complemented by indicative five-year funding.

*For each £1 billion increase in infrastructure investment, UK-wide GDP increases by £1.299 billion.*

## Strengthening our resilience

UK infrastructure resilience has taken a hit over the last few years, especially in relation to waste water and water management, energy security and managing our flood defences. Our aging highway and rail infrastructure is already moving in this direction.

Without serious action - notably in our response to climate induced failure - the entirety of our infrastructure network will catastrophically fail. Yet, we remain in a period of fiscal restriction, with little appetite for additional spend. This approach will negatively impact our future society.

CECA calls on an incoming Westminster Government to:

- Publish cross-cutting National Water Strategy driving collaboration across sectors, government departments, regulators and industry.
- Drive improved ways of working in key areas such as upgrading wastewater network & reducing water demand.
- Work with industry to develop infrastructure financing opportunities that work for all.
- Maintain commitment to a balanced energy mix.

## Supporting our SMEs

SMEs are the lifeblood of our economy and are a vital part of construction supply chains. Yet, their viability can immediately change as a result of unfair business practices and burdensome procurement requirements. This puts the delivery of future infrastructure projects at risk.

To support SMEs an incoming Westminster Government must:

- Accelerate progress to abolish retentions.
- Publish payment value measurements alongside volume of transactions.
- Ensure social value requirements are reflective of SME needs and that they are properly measured and audited.

*The UK ranked a disappointing 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 64 countries for the quality of its infrastructure in the 2023 IMD World Competitiveness Rankings.*

## Maximise best practice & drive innovation

Construction innovation investment is currently at a record high. It is vital that this is maintained to ensure the UK construction industry delivers world-class schemes in line with public expectation.

Alongside this innovation drive is a firm commitment from industry to best practice and efficiency.

To secure future efficiencies and save taxpayers' money an incoming Westminster Government must:

- Encourage public and private sector clients to adopt and track progress against the utilisation of best practice models such as the Construction Sector Playbook, Project 13 and the recent Cabinet Office frameworks review.
- Link progress on meeting net zero goals to GDP, to drive innovation and long term economic growth.
- Drive consistency in carbon reduction via the procurement process.

## Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The construction industry has struggled to attract enough skills and talent for a long time. This is impacting on the maintenance and future delivery of our infrastructure. This issue was exacerbated by the Global Financial Crisis in 2008, when contractors were forced to shed staff after the pausing or cancellation of many projects. The impact of the UK's departure from the European Union also cannot be overstated, with many companies now struggling to find the right staff at home and abroad.

While great steps have been taken to drive productivity, innovation, and attract new entrants – in part as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic – the construction industry remains in a skills crisis.

To secure growth and jobs an incoming Westminster Government must:

- Sign a joint commitment with industry to recognise and map the skills needed.
- Develop an apprenticeship system for construction employers that is supported by public sector clients.
- Recognise the value of economic migration.
- Reward the social benefit of skills investment via procurement.

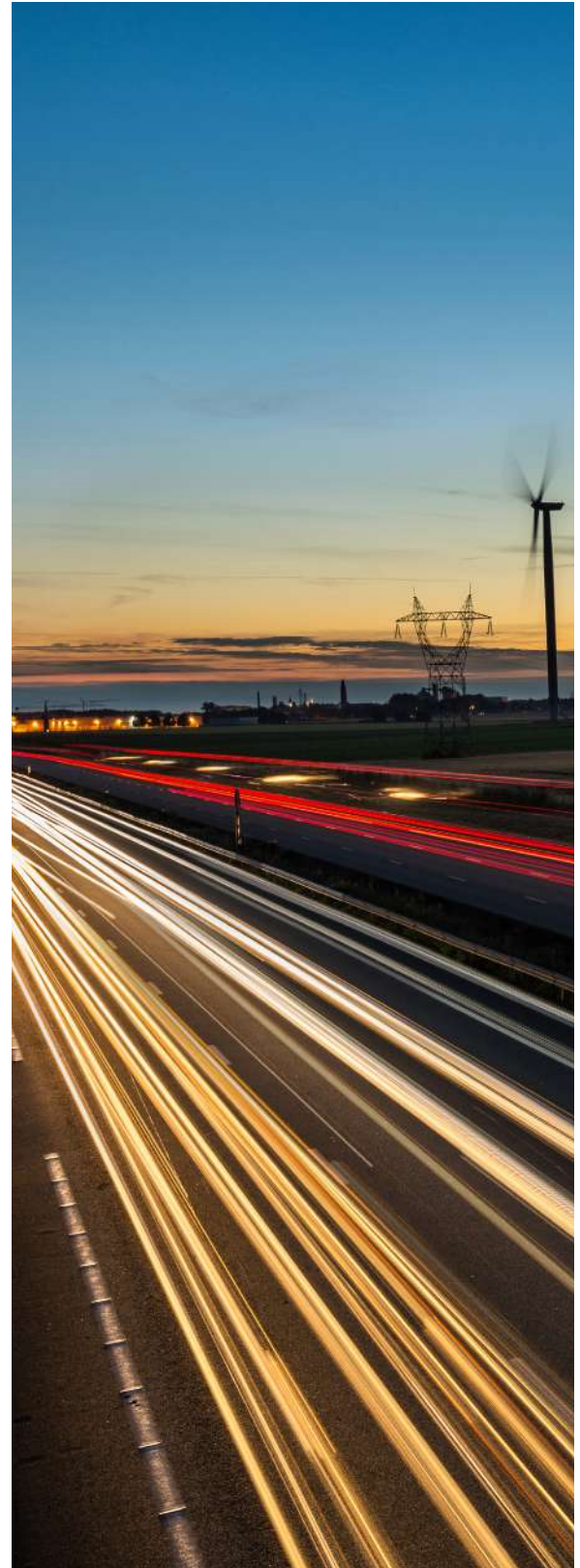
CECA members deliver work worth more than £15 billion per annum to the economy, undertake 75-80% of all civil engineering activity in the UK, and employ more than 250,000 people.

If you would like to contact CECA member companies in your constituency please e-mail enquiries@ceca.co.uk or telephone 020 7340 0450.

Absolute Civil Engineering  
ACS Construction Group  
Adenglow Ltd  
Adept Concrete Cutting Ltd  
AE Yates Ltd  
Aggregate Industries UK Ltd  
AH Nicholls  
Albion Drilling Group Ltd  
Alpha Construction Ltd  
Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd  
Amalgamated Construction Ltd  
Amco-Giffen  
AMD Contract Services  
Andrew Scott Ltd  
Anwen Construction  
APK  
Applebridge Construction Ltd  
Arthur Civil Engineering Ltd  
ATB Civil Engineering  
Avon Construction  
B Jeffrey Construction Ltd  
B & M McHugh Limited  
Balfour Beatty  
BAM Nuttall Limited  
BAH Ritchies  
Banks Group  
Barhale  
Barton Ltd  
BCE Northern Ltd  
BCM Construction  
BDB Special Projects  
BEAR Scotland Ltd  
Beaver Bridges Limited  
Bechtel Infrastructure UK  
Bethell Construction Ltd  
Big Cat Contracts  
Binnies UK  
blu-3 (UK) Ltd  
Bouygues Travaux Publics (UK) Ltd  
Breedon Hebrides  
Breedon Northern  
Breheny Civil Engineering  
Bridge Civil Engineering Ltd  
Brims Construction Ltd  
Britcon Ltd  
BT Jenkins Ltd  
CA Blackwell (Contracts)  
Cairn Cross Civil Engineering Ltd  
Cantidad Ltd  
Carnell  
Causeway Technologies  
Centregreat Ltd  
CG Godfrey Ltd  
CHAP Civil Engineering  
Cheetham Hill Construction Limited  
Chevron Traffic Management  
City Asphalt  
Civils & Remediation Ltd  
Clancy Group  
Cleantech Civils Ltd  
Cleshar Contract Services Ltd  
Colas Ltd  
Colas Rail  
Colin Briscoe Construction Ltd  
Concrete Repairs Limited  
Construction Marine Ltd  
Constructive Evaluation Ltd  
Corrie Construction Ltd  
Costain Ltd  
Coupe Construction Ltd  
Covanburn  
CPC Civils  
Crouch Waterfall  
Crown Highways Limited  
Crummock  
CT Construction Limited  
Cubby Construction Limited  
Currell Lewis & Martin (Construction) Ltd  
D&P Reinforcements Ltd  
D Morgan plc  
Danaher & Walsh (Civil Engineering) Ltd  
David Beecroft Ltd  
David Hardie Engineering Ltd  
Deans Civil Engineering Ltd  
Devon Maintennances  
DHG Civil Engineering Ltd  
Diamond Drilling & Cutting Ltd  
DSD Construction Ltd  
DXI Regeneration  
Dyer & Butler  
E & J W Glendinning Limited  
ESS (CE) Ltd  
Edward Mackay Contractor  
Eiffage Génie Civil UK  
Enable Infrastructure  
Englobe UK - Celtic Englobe  
ERH Communications Ltd

Eric Wright Civil Engineering Limited  
Erith Contractors Ltd  
ERS Remediation Ltd  
ESH Group  
Farrans (Construction)  
Ferrovial Construction (UK)  
FM Conway Ltd  
Forest Traffic Services Ltd  
Forkers Ltd  
Forkers Scotland Ltd  
Four-Tees Engineers Ltd  
Fox (Owmy) Ltd  
Fred Mence (Construction) Ltd  
Freyssinet UK  
G&B Civil Engineering Ltd  
Galliford Try  
Garvey Developments Ltd  
Gatwick Construction  
Gelli Civil Engineering Ltd  
George Cox  
George Leslie Ltd  
Gilpin Demolition Group  
Global Infrastructure Ltd  
GRAHAM Construction Ltd  
Greenfisher Contracting Ltd  
Groundwork Services (Durham) Ltd  
Gumite (Eastern) Ltd  
Hall Construction Services Ltd  
Hamon UK Ltd  
Hanson Contracting  
Hargreaves Services plc  
Henderson & Taylor  
Herbosch-Kiere Marine Contractors Ltd  
Highway Construction Services Ltd  
Highway Traffic Management Ltd  
Hillhouse Quarry Group+5:351  
Hochtief Construction UK  
Hogan Construction Ltd  
Horan Construction Limited  
Horizon Civil Engineering Ltd  
Hunter Construction (Aberdeen) Ltd  
I & H Brown Ltd  
Ian Thomas Construction Services Ltd  
InDepth Civil Engineering Ltd  
Ingenium Civil Engineering  
Insitu Technical Services Ltd  
Instarmac International  
Invennt Ltd  
J Browne Construction Co Ltd  
J Coffey Construction Ltd  
J McCann & Co Ltd  
J Murphy & Sons Ltd  
Jacks 1 Civil Engineering Ltd  
Jackson Civil Engineering  
James Strang Ltd  
JB Riney & Co Ltd  
Jennings Building & Civil Engineering Ltd  
Jim Hastings Ltd  
JN Bentley  
John F Hunt Regeneration Ltd  
John Gunn & Sons Ltd  
John Hellens (Contracts) Ltd  
John Mee Construction Ltd (t/a Vac-Ex)  
John Sisk & Son Ltd  
Jones Bros Ruthin (Civil Engineering) Ltd  
Jones Brothers (Henllan) Ltd  
JSS Rail Ltd t/a Sisk Rail  
JT Mackley & Co Ltd  
K M Construction  
Kaberry Construction  
Kelburne Construction Ltd  
Keltbray  
Kier plc  
Kilmac Ltd  
KKB Remediation  
Knights Brown  
Land & Water  
Landbuild Ltd  
Lawson Construction  
Leehill Construction Ltd  
Leiths Group  
Les Searle Plant Hire & Sales Ltd  
Lewis Civil Engineering  
LJN Ltd  
Luddon Construction Ltd  
Lumsden & Carroll Construction Ltd  
Malsby Hire  
MAC Surfacing  
Mackenzie Construction Ltd  
Malcolm Group  
Mapei  
Markon Ltd  
Mason Street Furniture Ltd  
MB Roche Civil Engineering Ltd  
McCoda Ltd  
McFadyen's Contractors (Campbeltown) Ltd  
McGowan Environment Engineering Ltd  
McInnes Bros Ltd  
McLaughlin & Harvey Construction Ltd  
McPhillips (Wellington) Limited  
MegaTech Projects Ltd  
Meldrum Construction Services Ltd  
Metrail Ltd  
Mildren Construction  
Milestone Infrastructure  
Miller Construction (UK) Ltd  
Morgan Sindall  
Morrison Construction  
MTM Construction Ltd  
MW Groundworks  
MWT Civil Engineering Ltd  
Noel Fitzpatrick Ltd  
Northumbrian Roads Ltd

NRS Group  
NTS  
Octavius  
Onwave UK Ltd  
Osprey Group  
Ovenden Allworks Ltd  
Palmer Construction Ltd  
Parker Plant Hire  
Pat Munro (Alness) Ltd  
PBS Construction (North East) Ltd  
PC Richardson & Co Ltd  
Peter Duffy Ltd  
Pinkney Construction  
PLPC Ltd  
Pod-Trak Ltd  
Pontoonworks  
PORR UK Ltd  
PP O'Connor  
Priority Construction Ltd  
Pro Direct Surfacing Ltd  
Pro Rail Services Ltd  
QTS Group Ltd  
Quantum Geotechnical Ltd  
R Lindsay & Co Contractors Ltd  
R&C Williams Ltd  
R&W Civil Engineering Ltd  
Rainton Construction Ltd  
Rainton Construction Scotland Ltd  
Raynesway Construction  
Renew Holdings Ltd  
Rhino Training Ltd  
RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd  
RJT Excavations Ltd  
Road Maintenance Services Ltd  
Robertson  
Ross-shire Engineering Ltd  
Roy Beech (Contractors) Ltd  
Ryseach Ltd  
Safelane Global  
SB Civil Engineering Ltd  
SB Utilities Ltd  
Schofield Contracting Ltd  
Scott Bros Ltd  
SCP Transport Design  
Select Castle Ltd  
Seymour Civil Engineering Contractors  
Sir Robert McAlpine  
Sirius Group  
Skanska  
Smart Drainage Ltd  
Southbay Civil Engineering Ltd  
Speedy Asset Services Ltd  
STEM Construction Ltd  
Stema Shipping (UK) Ltd  
Stepford Contracts Ltd  
Stobarts Ltd  
Storie (Argyll) Ltd  
Story Contracting Ltd  
STRABAG UK Ltd  
Suttle Projects  
SWH Group  
T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd  
Tag Construction Ltd  
Tangent Construction  
Tarmac  
Taylor Woodrow  
Taziker  
TCS Exhumation Services  
Tercon Ltd  
Tilbury Douglas  
TMS Maritime Ltd  
Tough Construction Ltf  
TPM McDonagh (Civil Engineering) Ltd  
Trackwork Ltd  
Traffic  
Triton Construction  
TSI Contractors  
TwoPlusTwo Commercial Services  
UB Civils Ltd  
V J Donegan & Co Ltd  
VHE  
VolkerFitzpatrick  
VolkerHighways  
VolkerLaser  
VolkerStevin  
VolkerWessels UK  
Walsh Construction  
Walsh Construction Ltd  
Walters UK Ltd  
Wessex Archaeology  
Westmoreland Civil Engineering Ltd  
Westwood Civil Engineering  
William Birch & Sons Ltd  
William Hughes (Civil Engineering) Ltd  
William Pye Ltd  
Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd  
Winvic Construction Ltd  
WJ UK  
Wright Civil Engineering Ltd  
Wyn Construction  
Young Bros Ltd



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