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Working for Infrastructure

CECA North East Annual Report 2024



www.ceca.co.uk/north-east

Chair's Foreword - Ross Markwell



It has been a tremendous privilege to serve as Chair of CECA North East throughout 2024. This past year has seen continued delivery of our strategic priorities, despite the challenging economic landscape and political shifts across the UK. We have strengthened our member support, grown our influence, and expanded engagement through a wide range of training, networking, and community-based initiatives.

In particular, I am proud of the collaborative work achieved under CECA's Core Pillars. Whether helping to reduce utility strikes through our "Safe Digging: Let's Make a Difference" event, supporting future talent through the College Bursary Scheme, or expanding our social value footprint with the rollout of defibrillators across the region—our members have demonstrated the very best of civil engineering's potential to improve lives.

This year also saw the appointment of new members to our Regional Management Board, bringing fresh perspectives and energy to CECA NE's leadership. Their involvement will be crucial as we look ahead to 2025 and beyond.

Thank you to every CECA North East member, partner, and stakeholder who has contributed to another impactful year. I look forward to continuing our work together in the months ahead.

Our "Safe Digging: Let's Make a Difference" event brought together 141 delegates from 48 companies to share knowledge, explore best practices, and improve safety around underground utility work. With zero negative feedback and wide praise for the session's relevance, CECA NE reaffirmed its role in promoting practical, life-saving guidance to our industry.

We also partnered with MISSEDABEAT and North East Hearts with Goals to install four publicly accessible defibrillators across the region, demonstrating a commitment to community wellbeing.

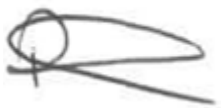
We delivered over 240 hours of NEC training in collaboration with NEPO and Bevan Brittan, engaging teams across all 12 Local Authorities. This bespoke programme supported procurement, legal, and technical staff in navigating NEC contracts more confidently and competently.

Our inaugural College Bursary Programme saw £2,500 awarded to deserving students at five local colleges. This initiative, driven by the CECA NE Foundations Group, directly supports the next generation of civil engineers, building a stronger talent pipeline for the region.

Beyond defibrillator installation, we maintained our proud partnership with local charity Heel & Toe. Our Foundations Group also delivered over 350 hours of volunteer outreach, including 43 school, college, and university presentations, interacting with more than 4,000 students.

With new leadership on our Board and a renewed commitment to collaborative growth, CECA North East is well-positioned to meet the challenges and opportunities of 2025. We will continue advocating for our region, developing practical training, and promoting safe, sustainable practices across the civil engineering sector.

Thank you for being part of our journey.



Ross Markwell
Chair, CECA North East

CECA North East Members 2023/24

CECA North East Members 2023/24

Absolute Civil Engineering Ltd
Adderstone Civil Engineering
Addison Plant Ltd
Adenglow Ltd
Anwen Construction
Applebridge Construction Ltd
Avon Construction
Balfour Beatty Construction Services UK
BAM Nuttall Ltd
Barhale Construction plc
Beaver Bridges
BCE Northern Ltd
BridgeCare
Brims Construction Ltd
Britcon
Caddick
Clancy Docwra Ltd
Colas Ltd
Concrete Repairs
Core Highways
Cubby
David Hardie Engineering
Englobe
Eric Wright
Esh Group
Jack Coupe & Sons t/a Coupe Civils
Farrans Construction
Fred Mence (Construction) Ltd
G & B Civil Engineering Ltd
Galliford Try Civil Engineering
Graham Construction
Groundwork Services (Durham) Ltd
Hall Construction Services Ltd
Hargreaves Group Services
Heidelberg
Hewitson Ltd
Holcim
I & H Brown
John F Hunt
John Sisk & Sons Ltd
Jim Hastings Ltd
Keltbray
Kier Infrastructure & Overseas Ltd
Land & Water
Meldrum Construction Services Ltd
Milestone Infrastructure
Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure Ltd
Mott Macdonald Bentley Ltd/JN Bentley Ltd
MSF
Murphy
Northumbrian Roads Ltd
Octavius Infrastructure
Pinkney Building Contractors Ltd
Pod Track
Pro Rail Service
Rainton Construction Ltd
Robertson
Scott Bros Ltd
Seymour (Civil Engineering Contrs) Ltd
Skanska Civil Engineering
Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd
Southbay Civil Engineering Ltd
Story Contracting
Strabag
Tangent Construction Limited
Tarmac Trading Ltd
Tilbury Douglas
TP McDonagh (Civil Engineering) Ltd
VolkerWessels
Wyn Construction Ltd

CECA North East Associate Members 2023/24

Adderstone Civils
TWO PLUS TWO

CECA's Core Pillars

CECA's work on behalf of our membership is structured under our 'core pillars' model, which identified five key sectors of work we undertake in making the case for infrastructure, delivering services to members, and ensuring that civil engineering contractors in the UK are best placed to win work, create jobs, and drive economic growth. Our core pillars are:



SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE & SOCIAL VALUE

'Creating a Better Environment for All'

CECA's work in the sustainability and social value space ensures that our members are positioned to implement sustainable practices across the sector, decarbonising operations, and increasing the social value of the schemes that they deliver. In particular, this involves aligning with the Construction Leadership Council's CO_2nstructZero programme, which is working to ensure industry moves towards a net zero future, eliminating diesel use on sites, adopting new technologies and solutions, and engaging in co-ordinated collective action to meet the climate crisis.



CLIENTS, POLICY & WORKLOAD

'Creating Work Opportunities'

Clients, Policy & Workload focuses on ensuring a sustainable pipeline of infrastructure projects by fostering strong relationships with clients and engaging with policymakers. Through proactive advocacy and strategic collaboration, CECA represents members' interests on procurement, fair payment, and regulatory frameworks. This pillar also monitors market conditions and supports visibility of future workloads, helping civil engineering contractors plan effectively. By aligning industry needs with government strategy, CECA drives a stable and productive environment for delivering national infrastructure.



HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

'Creating a Safer Workplace'

CECA's core pillar Health, Safety & Wellbeing underscores the industry's commitment to protecting its workforce and promoting a culture of care. CECA supports members in maintaining the highest safety standards through guidance, best practice sharing, and proactive engagement on emerging risks. Wellbeing is increasingly integral, with initiatives focusing on mental health, fatigue, and resilience. By championing a safe and supportive working environment, CECA helps ensure civil engineering remains a sustainable and attractive sector for current and future generations.



CAREERS & RECRUITMENT

'Creating a Talent Pipeline'

Careers and Recruitment focuses on attracting, developing, and retaining the next generation of talent in the civil engineering sector. Through engagement with schools, colleges, and industry partners, CECA promotes rewarding career pathways and diverse opportunities. The organisation supports members with resources and campaigns to address skills shortages and increase workforce diversity. By championing inclusive recruitment and skills development, CECA ensures the sector is equipped to deliver future infrastructure and remain competitive in a changing world.



SKILLS & TRAINING

'Creating a Skilled Workforce'

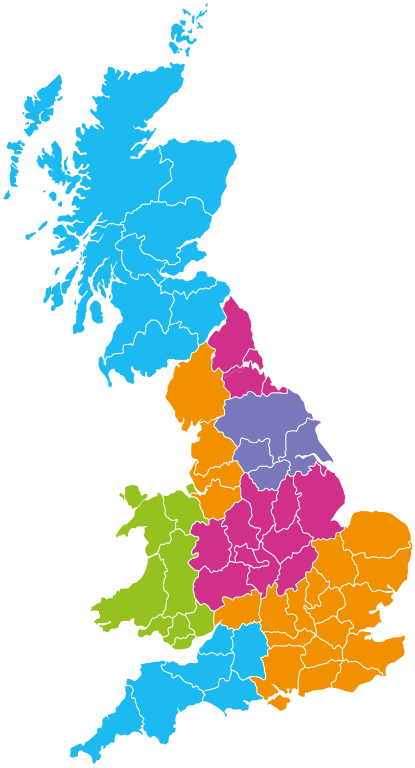
CECA's core pillar Skills & Training focuses on ensuring the civil engineering sector has a highly skilled and future-ready workforce. CECA supports members by promoting lifelong learning, upskilling opportunities, and access to quality training programmes. Through collaboration with industry and education partners, CECA helps shape a training landscape that meets evolving needs. This pillar plays a vital role in closing skills gaps, supporting apprenticeships, and fostering innovation - ensuring the workforce is equipped to deliver the UK's infrastructure ambitions effectively and safely.

CECA REGIONS & DEVOLVED NATIONS

CECA members are supported by a network of six regional offices across England, a national office in Westminster, and offices in the devolved nations of Scotland and Wales.

CECA's regions and devolved nations are:

- CECA **Scotland** - click here.
- CECA **North West** - click here.
- CECA **North East** - click here.
- CECA **Yorkshire & The Humber** - click here.
- CECA **Wales** - click here.
- CECA **Midlands** - click here.
- CECA **Southern** - click here.
- CECA **South West** - click here.



CECA NORTH EAST

About CECA North East

CECA North East's regional office services over 80 members located throughout the wider North East region. We bring a range of benefits and support to our valued membership at local level.

CECA North East delivers activities and events which provide business and social opportunities to enable members to network at a national and local level. We support your business every step of the way and deliver a vast array of services designed to give you the very best from your membership of CECA.



CECA North East Management Board

CECA North East Management Board

CECA North East was delighted to add four new members to our Executive Management Board this year. Lyndsey Boagey, Ian Glazinski, Mark Atkinson and Stephen Grimes join existing board members in bringing a diverse mix of experience and ideas to the table.

The CECA North East Management Board 2024 consists of:

Ross Markwell (Chair) - ESH Group

Dan Hutton (Vice Chair)- Rainton Construction Ltd

Ian Glazinski - Meldrum Structural & Civil Engineerirng Ltd

Mark Atkinson Jnr - Mason Street Furniture

Lyndsey Boagey - Mott Macdonald Bentley (MMB)

Adam Harker - Seymour Civil Engineering

Paul Stephenson - Southbay Civil Engineering

Stuart Miller (Secretary) - CECA NE

Chris Wright- Tarmac Trading Ltd

Stephen Grimes - Northumbrian Roads

Chris Brown - Applebridge Construction

Tom Storrar - BAM Nuttall

Kevin Fenley - Absolute Civil Engineering

Mark Horner - Wyn Construction

Eddie Tattersall - VolkerWessels UK

Core Pillar: Skills & Training

CECA North East continues to invest in practical training that supports professional development and operational excellence.

In partnership with NEPO and Bevan Brittan, we hosted introductory NEC contract training for public sector teams, delivering more than 240 hours of instruction across 12 Local Authorities. This has strengthened public-private collaboration and ensured a deeper understanding of procurement frameworks and contract administration.

CECA North East has also successfully rolled out a series of training and development seminars over the past twelve months which have provided a comprehensive training opportunity for members looking to deepen their understanding of key legal and contractual issues in construction. Delivered in partnership with Bevan Brittan LLP, the series covered critical topics including NEC3 and NEC4 contracts, compensation events, collateral warranties, and dispute resolution. Each topic was delivered through both in-person seminars and convenient online webinars, ensuring accessibility across the region.

Designed to support CECA's core pillars of 'Skills & Training' and 'Clients, Policy & Workload,' the programme has included sessions such as 'NEC 3 & 4 Overview,' 'JCT vs NEC,' and 'Delay and Programming.' These seminars aim to demystify contract clauses, improve risk management, and equip contractors with the knowledge to navigate complex project requirements effectively. Practical guidance is offered on issues like limitation of liability, parent company guarantees, pain/gain shares, and programming obligations.

By participating, CECA NE members gain essential insights into contract administration, dispute avoidance, and compliance with both standard and bespoke contract clauses. This programme is an invaluable resource for both emerging professionals and experienced practitioners seeking to stay informed of contractual developments and best practices in construction law.



Above: North East Local Authorities attending an NEC training seminar.

CECA North East's NEC and legal seminars in 2024 were delivered in partnership with law firm Bevan Brittan. The CECA North East Mock Investigation webinar in 2024 was delivered by DAC Beachcroft.



Core Pillar: Health, Safety & Wellbeing

2024 marked another strong year for CECA North East's work in the health, safety and wellbeing sphere on behalf of our members and the wider industry.

A particular highlight of the last twelve months was the successful- *Safe Digging: Let's Make a Difference* event in October, attended by 141 delegates from 48 companies. This comprehensive session addressed the risks associated with underground utilities, shared practical strategies for reducing utility strikes, and encouraged collaboration among contractors. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of attendees rating the event as 'excellent' or 'good.'

CECA NE members reported that the 'mock investigation' event that we ran in June with DAC Beechcroft was 'informative' and 'eye-opening', with over 40 delegates in attendance.

These events provide members with expert advice on what to do in certain situations - and as importantly, what not to do - and contribute to CECA NE members implementing best practice across their businesses for the good of everyone who works in our industry.

CECA NE's Health, Safety & Sustainability Group continued its excellent work this year with regular in-person meetings that allowed discussion of HSE priorities, stress & mental health, behavioural safety, H&S Training, utility avoidance, plant/people interface, and other topics, and we look forward to maintaining this valuable forum throughout 2025 and beyond.

The slides and videos from CECA NE's *Safe Digging* event are available to download by clicking this link.



CECA North East has published case studies of our health, safety and wellbeing initiatives over the course of the year, demonstrating our continual commitment to creating a healthier, happier, workforce - and a safer industry for all.

Core Pillar: Careers & Recruitment

A major achievement this year was the successful continuation of our College Bursary Programme. With support from the CECA NE Management Board, we awarded £500 bursaries to five outstanding students from Hartlepool College, Middlesbrough College, New College Durham, Newcastle College, and Derwentside College. This initiative helps recognise talent and remove barriers to participation in our sector and is open to any student enrolled in a full-time civil engineering (or related) course, such as those training to become groundworkers, quantity surveyors, and civil engineers.

Alongside this, our CECA NE Foundations Group continued its excellent outreach work. Co-chaired by Ben Adcock (Costain) and Matthew Tetley (Absolute Civil Engineering), ably supported by Vice-Chair Lauren Parsons (Mason Street Furniture), the CECA NE Foundations Group's mission is to promote the civil engineering and construction industry as a career choice and to boost the sector's profile amongst the next generation.

With over 350 hours volunteered, over the course of 2024 the team delivered 30 school presentations, 10 college sessions, and three university engagements. In total, they interacted with over 4,000 students, offering insight into careers in civil engineering and highlighting the diverse pathways into the industry.

CECA North East is also a board member of the North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT), a Government backed collaboration between business and education designed to spearhead the delivery and growth of higher technical education in STEM subjects.



The CECA North East Management Board was delighted to award our bursary programme to outstanding candidates at each of five of the region's leading training providers .

Core Pillar: Sustainability, Climate Change & Social Value

As part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability, skills development, and community engagement, CECA North East delivered a series of impactful events in 2024 under the banner of 'demystifying' webinars and seminars. These sessions aimed to clarify and promote best practices around social value and carbon reduction in civil engineering projects.

The "Demystifying Social Value" sessions, held both online and in-person, attracted over 70 delegates combined. They offered practical guidance on defining social value, aligning it with client needs, and embedding meaningful activities into project delivery. Topics included the Social Value Return on Investment, common challenges, and storytelling techniques to enhance engagement. High-level discussions were enriched by speakers from Esh Group, MGL Group, and Durham County Council, with feedback overwhelmingly positive—99% of seminar attendees rated the session as 'excellent.'

Similarly, the "Demystifying Carbon Reduction" seminar brought together 30 delegates, including representatives from three local authorities and several regional contractors. Presentations from experts at Esh Construction, Bellway, and Gateshead Council focused on carbon measurement, reduction strategies, life cycle assessments, and integrating sustainability into procurement. The session explored the challenges and opportunities of reducing embodied carbon, showcasing innovative materials and construction methods.

Together, these events highlighted CECA NE's leadership in promoting environmental responsibility and social impact. By facilitating collaboration between contractors, public sector clients, and industry experts, CECA NE continues to equip its members with the tools and insights needed to meet evolving expectations around sustainability and social value.

We also partnered with local charity MISSEDABEAT and North East Hearts with Goals to fund and install four public access defibrillators across Gateshead, Northumberland, County Durham, and the Tees Valley. Each defibrillator is registered with the national circuit and accessible 24/7, delivering real social value to local communities and construction teams.

We have maintained our partnership with **Heel & Toe**, supporting the charity through fundraising and awareness activities. Heel & Toe was set up in 2008 and provides a range of therapies to children with disabilities across the North East. In 2024 CECA NE was delighted to raise **more than £6,000** for the charity and has raised **over £23,000** to date. Scan the QR code to donate to this incredibly worthy cause.





Above: CECA NE Director Stuart Miller chairs the discussion at a 'Demystifying Carbon Reduction' seminar



Core Pillar: Clients, Policy & Workload

CECA NE has continued to build strong links with clients across the public and private sectors. Through our policy and workload pillar, we provided regular updates on policy developments, the 2023 Procurement Act, and changes to regional investment pipelines.

We've also hosted forums and briefings to ensure members remain informed and ready to adapt to new frameworks, legislative shifts, and funding cycles.

2024 was a General Election year and CECA North East worked closely with our national team in Westminster in rolling out CECA's *Recommendations for an Incoming Government* document in January 2024. Many of CECA's policy recommendations were taken up by the main political parties, and CECA North East has been working closely with our members during the transition to the new Labour Government since the July 2024 election results.

CECA NE Communications & Reach In 2024

In 2024 CECA received **more than 110 press mentions** across the construction, national, and regional media.

We have developed a **CECA NE LinkedIn** page with over 10,000 followers and have created a dedicated CECA NE Foundations page.

Members can access our database of NEC Legal Webinars via the **CECA North East YouTube Channel**.

We issued **30 Weekly Updates** and **12 bespoke member briefings** in 2024.

CECA in numbers

CECA: established in **1919** as FCEC

311 member companies in 2024

Over **250,000 people** employed by members

Representing c. **80% of civil engineering activity** in the UK

Member activity equates to over **£30 billion** per annum

Stop. Make a Change 2024

CECA's flagship safety campaign *Stop. Make a Change* ran between 7-18 October 2024. This year's theme was encouraging those working in the built environment to 're-engage with your own Health, Safety & Wellbeing' with a particular focus this year on diabetes safety in construction.

To this end, we partnered with the **Diabetes Safety Organisation** to highlight the risks posed by undiagnosed or mismanaged diabetes on site, promoting awareness and proactive management to ensure safer working environments for all those employed by CECA members and others in the sector. The campaign also once again utilised a "Conversation Starter" initiative, providing structured discussion packs on topics such as respiratory health, working at height, mental health, slips and trips, and more. Teams are encouraged to pause work, disconnect from distractions, and engage in open dialogue to identify improvements and implement meaningful changes. Since its inception in 2017, SMAC has reached over 500,000 people across UK construction. The 2024 campaign continued this legacy, fostering a culture of openness, accountability, and continuous improvement in health and safety practices.

The Diabetes Safety Organisation

Stop. Make a Change.





CECA North East Annual Dinner & Awards 2024

The 2024 **CECA North East Awards** celebrated the outstanding achievements of civil engineering contractors across the region, recognising excellence, innovation, and dedication within the industry. Held at a prestigious ceremony, the event brought together leading companies, emerging talent, and industry veterans to honour those making a lasting impact on infrastructure and communities.

Accolades spanned categories such as Project of the Year, Collaborative Partnership, and Training Excellence. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Stephen Marshall, recognising decades of service and leadership. The awards also spotlighted rising stars, with Zara Hussain and Richard Stelling honoured for their exceptional early-career contributions. The event not only showcased technical excellence but also reinforced CECA's commitment to driving quality, sustainability, and opportunity across the civil engineering sector in the North East.



Trainee Quantity Surveyor of the Year Winner - ***Megan Waring*** *of* ***Applebridge***



Going the Extra Mile Winners - ***Esh Construction****, Building My Skills*



Trainee Civil Engineer of the Year Winner - ***Zara Hussain*** *of* ***Applebridge***



Lifetime Achievement *Winner -* ***Stephen Marshall***



Above: The CECA NE Training Company of the Year 2024 award went to ***Applebridge Construction***



Above: Health & Safety Company of the Year 2024 ***Hewitson Ltd*** *collecting their deserved award*

Below: ***BAM Nuttall*** *carried off the award for Project of the Year 2024 (Under £1m) for the* ***Ormesby Beck Restoration Project***



Below: CECA NE Director Stuart Miller congratulates the team at ***Esh Construction****, Environmental Company of the Year*





BAM Nuttall *picked up the Project of the Year Awards (£1m-£5m) for the Hexham Flood Alleviation Scheme*



Above: ***Richard Stelling*** *of Sir Robert McAlpine carried off the prestigious* ***Trainee Apprentice of the Year*** *award*



Above: the team at ***Balfour Beatty*** *took home the gong for* ***Project of the Year (Over £5m)*** *for the A66 Elton Interchange*



Above: ***Subcontractor of the Year 2024*** *was awarded to Concrete Repairs Ltd for the Tees Viaduct Substructure Refurbishment (TVSR) Project*



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CECA North East In Action

















CECA North East In Action









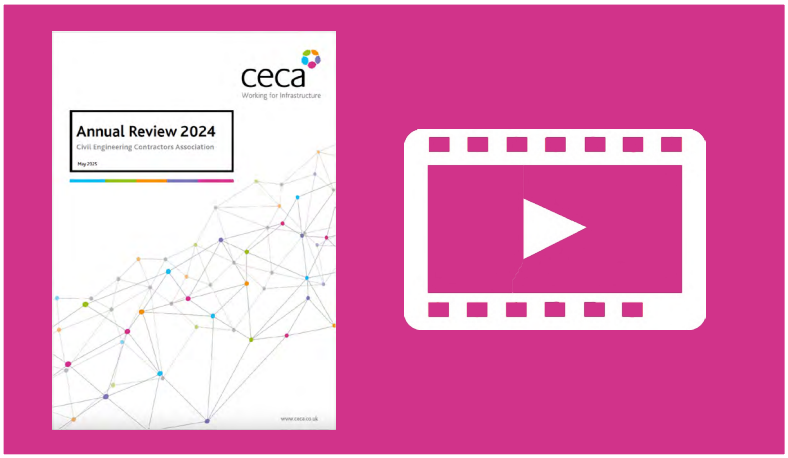


CECA National Annual Review 2024

CECA national rounded off a busy year that not only saw a General Election and a change of government but after twelve months of campaigning saw many of CECA's policy recommendations adopted by the main political parties.

This year has also seen extensive preparations for the Government's forthcoming ten year infrastructure strategy, and the announcement of a major new funding streams for construction training.

CECA was also delighted to host two major policy conferences - on Aging Assets and Artificial Intelligence in UK construction - in 2024.



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Clancy
Colas United Kingdom
CRL Concrete Repairs Limited multi-disciplined structural renovation
core highways
Crummock Surfacing ltd
Cubby Construction
hardie
Englobe
Eric Wright Civil Engineering
ESH Group
Coupe
Farrans
G&B
GallifordTry
Graham
Groundwork Services Durham Ltd
Hall construction
Hargreaves
Jim Hastings Ltd Building and Civil Engineering
Heidelberg Materials
Hewitson
Holcim
John F Hunt
I & H Brown Limited
keltbray
Kier
Land & Water
Sir Robert McAlpine
TPM McDonagh (Civil Engineering) Ltd
M Group
Meldrum
Fred Mence (Construction) Ltd
Morgan Sindall
MMB Mott MacDonald Bentley
MSF
Murphy World-Class Infrastructure
NR
octavius
Pinkney Construction
Pod-Trak
Pro Rail Services
Rainton Construction Part of MGL Group
Robertson
Scott Bros. Ltd. Haulage and Plant Hire
seymour civil engineering
Skanska
Builders Sisk Contractors Established 1859
Southbay
Story
Strabag
Tangent Construction Ltd
Tarmac A CRH Company
Tilbury Douglas
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WYN Construction Limited

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