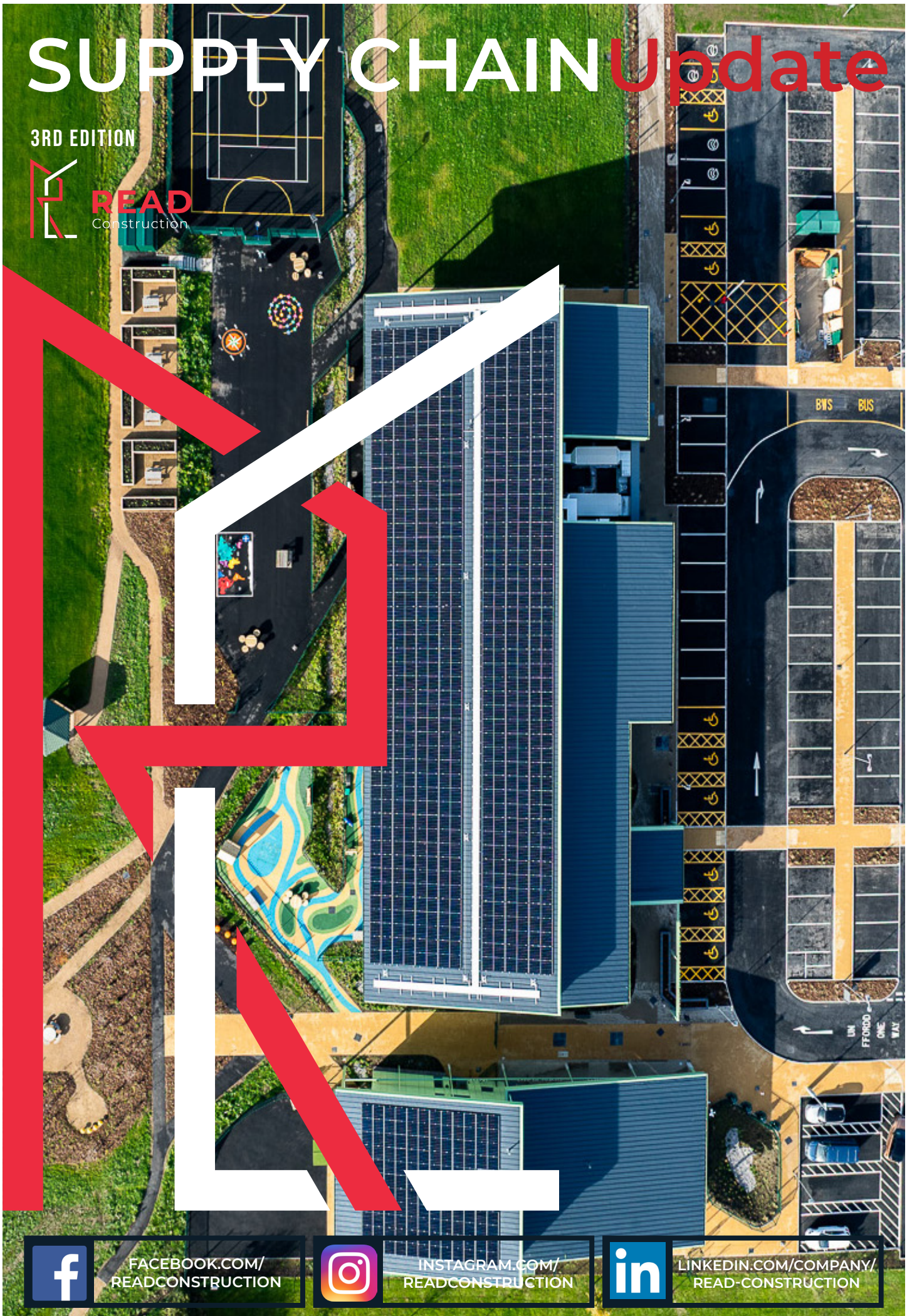


SUPPLY CHAIN Update

3RD EDITION



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Photograph shows Ysgol Croes Atti, new primary school, Flint

SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

Welcome & Hot Topic

As valued subcontractors and suppliers, we want to express our sincere appreciation for the critical role you play in the success of Read. Your expertise, commitment, and collaboration are fundamental to delivering high quality outcomes across all our projects. The aim of this newsletter is to keep you informed and connected. In each edition, we'll share insights on key industry topics, highlight any changes or developments taking place within Read, and offer you the opportunity to contribute - whether that's sharing your thoughts, raising questions, or celebrating good news stories from across our sites. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to building an even stronger supply chain community together.



Start of Works Celebration at Dawley Leisure Centre, Telford

ESG: BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

You've probably heard the term ESG - but what does it really mean? ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance, three key pillars that guide responsible and sustainable business practices. From reducing environmental impact to fostering social responsibility and ensuring strong governance, ESG isn't just a trend - it's shaping the future of how business operates.

Environmental: Reducing Impact at Every Stage

From lowering carbon emissions to improving resource efficiency, the environmental pillar focuses on how businesses minimise their ecological footprint. In supply chains, this means everything from greener logistics and reduced waste to choosing sustainable materials and partners.

Social: Putting People and Communities First

Social responsibility covers how businesses treat employees, suppliers, and the communities they operate in. Ethical sourcing, safe working conditions, diversity, inclusion, and positive community impact all fall under this category. A socially responsible supply chain builds trust—and strengthens brand reputation.

Governance: Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

Governance is all about robust leadership, ethical decision making, data transparency, and compliance. Strong governance ensures that sustainability commitments are not just statements—but measurable actions backed by clear reporting and accountability.

In short: ESG isn't a trend—it's the new standard. And the more deeply it is woven into supply chain practices, the more future ready and resilient organisations will be.



Health and Safety

BUILDING SAFETY ACT

A team from Read recently completed training on the Building Safety Act and the updated requirements of the Building Regulations. This included the new roles, responsibilities and procedures needed to progress projects through new regulatory gateways. Further training will soon be delivered to the wider company.

The Act has been in place in England since 2022 and will shortly be adopted in Wales with slight amendments. Depending on the scheme, subcontractors will need to show increased levels of competency, needing proof of skills and experience to carry out their work and Building Regulation compliance, not just CDM safety. Digital record-keeping of designs, materials and installations will also need to be very thorough if the new "Golden Thread" procedure applies.

Please visit www.ciobacademy.org/courses/building-safety-act-awareness/ for more information.

Building Safety Act
2022

HSE TARGETS

Noise protection equipment is an ongoing focus area by the HSE – this was recently seen again during another routine inspection at our project in Llysfasi. We have already shared information with sites about the correct use of ear buds and defenders – please make sure your own teams are correctly trained. We have noise monitoring equipment on our sites to help set up exclusion zones and PPE areas around key works such as piling and demolition. Across our sites we are now trialing new handheld meters with our Site Managers so they can spot check site activities.

The inspector took time to speak directly with all subcontractors on site about topics such as asbestos management and competency during demolition works, vibration monitoring, scaffolders' pre-use inspections of their harnesses, podium/tower inspections and manual handling. The inspector was very happy with everything on site and will not be issuing any enforcement. Please make sure your procedures are understood and followed by your teams so we can all achieve this outcome every time.

A new calculator for the vibration impact of nail guns and staplers has recently been published and was referenced during the visit. If your operatives use these tools, please visit this link for more information: <https://www.bohs.org/vibration-exposure-from-nail-guns/>

SERVICES ON SITE

The main accident trend over the last year has been different forms of strikes with underground and temporary services. These types of incidents are very high risk, causing severe injuries and disruption to the site and surrounding public.

A lot of effort is put into making sure services are available throughout the site and installing new distribution throughout buildings. Please take the time to understand the hazards on site and respect the work of others. If you need information on where services are, if they're live, or to move them out of your way, please speak with the Site Manager.



Creative Hub, Old Library, Wrexham

Sustainable Skills

CARBON REDUCTION PLANS

In the previous newsletter we wrote about the efforts being made to reduce our carbon footprint. The growth of the business and project sizes has naturally seen our overall footprint increase, however the amount per £m of work and per person has reduced. This shows that we haven't lost focus on working sustainably despite growing workload.

A path is now in place for Read to reduce what we can control directly, but the largest challenge we face is getting information from you! We're encouraged to see several of our partners starting to work with various support organisations to develop their own carbon reduction plans, and we're looking forward to working with them given their shared commitment to ESG and sustainability.

Business Wales is the Welsh Government's **FREE** support service for Welsh SMEs. They have a team of advisers to support businesses in completing The Green Growth Pledge, which is a simple and effective tool for businesses to showcase their sustainability commitments, and calculating carbon emissions to produce Carbon Reduction Plans in line with the Welsh Procurement Policy.

Since the introduction of new Procurement Acts in 2023/24, local authorities and health boards are increasingly asking for carbon reduction plans when appointing contractors. If part of your business includes working directly for these clients, are you prepared for what they need?



Seren Lodge, Courtesy of Chester Hospital

NET ZERO SKILLS WORKSHOP

Most of our emissions originate in our supply chain, making your engagement essential for Read to achieve its climate strategy. With rising regulatory pressure and growing expectations from customers and investors, transitioning to a net zero supply chain isn't just environmentally responsible—it's a strategic advantage.

Join us on the journey - review your climate impact, explore low carbon solutions, and work with us to build a more resilient, future ready supply chain. In conjunction with CITB, CIST and the Supply Chain Sustainability School, Read are supporting a Net Zero workshop for SME's on the 20th of May 2026 in Llangefni. The workshop will cover:

- Key skills and capabilities for Net Zero and low-carbon delivery.
- Insights from clients and contractors on supply chain expectations.
- Practical guidance on upskilling and accessing training.
- Networking with industry and education partners.
- Lessons from local sustainable projects and case studies

To attend you can register online - <https://learn.supplychainschool.co.uk/local/resourcelib/catalogitem.php?id=10952>



Additional Support

CITB

Over the past six months, CITB has rolled out some of the most substantial funding changes in recent years, transforming the way employers can access grants and training support. Are you up to speed with these updates and making the most of the funding and assistance available?



Instead of the previous Flexible Skills Fund and short course grants, CITB funding for SMEs is now primarily delivered through the Employer Network. This funding generally operates on a 50% match-funding basis, with annual allowances determined by employer size. To access this support, all training bookings must be arranged through your local CITB Engagement Officer.

Are you aware who your local CITB customer engagement officers are?

- Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd & Conwy - Emma Folksman - 07901 896059 emma.folksman@citb.co.uk
- Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire and North Powys - Emrys Roberts - 07881 514865 Emrys.Roberts@citb.co.uk
- Cheshire, Warrington and the Wirral – David Rowlands - 07887 984 897 david.rowlands@citb.co.uk
- Liverpool City Region – Tony Billington - 07776 163152 tony.billington@citb.co.uk
- Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin – Trevor Oakley - 07827 358406 trevor.oakley@citb.co.uk

You can still access apprenticeship grants, qualification grants, travel 2 train funding or short course grants (plant and scaffolding only) – this process remains as previous.

If you haven't yet connected with your local CITB Customer Engagement Officer, now is the ideal time to ensure you're fully aware of what support is still available and how to access it efficiently.



Ysgol Croes Atti, new primary school, Flint