

Newsletter

March 2026

Programme

- Introduction
- Mark Groombridge – Balfour Beatty VINCI
- Peter Walker – Canal and River Trust
- Member Information
- Partner Updates and News
- Future Events

Welcome...

..... to the March 2026 newsletter. This month's focus was Construction and we welcomed Mark Groombridge and his team from Balfour Beatty VINCI. Mark, Natalie, Charlotte and Connie presented an overview of the HS2 route in the Midlands – known as IPT Area North, demonstrating the health and safety challenges and their work in bringing on new health and safety talent.

Peter Walker, Head of Strategic Infrastructure Projects at BHSEA Member Canal and River Trust talked about the Trust's role and challenges working alongside the likes of Balfour Beatty VINCI on the HS2 project, in addition to giving an insight into the new Grand Union Canal Transfer Project.

Clark Hunter
BHSEA Construction Committee Chair



March Member of the Month

Airband Community Internet

We're excited to announce our Member of the Month for March 2026, Pete Sutton of Airband Community Internet.

Established 15 years ago, Airband Community Internet provide fibre and industry leading wireless internet access to rural and remote locations in the West of England and Wales.

Pete has been a member for 4 years and was attracted to BHSEA because of the opportunities to network, and transfer knowledge, as well as access to industry leading professionals, training and meetings.



BHSEA
Birmingham Health, Safety & Environment Association

MEMBER OF THE MONTH
AIRBAND COMMUNITY INTERNET

Established 15 years ago, Airband Community Internet provide fibre and industry leading wireless internet access to rural and remote locations in the West of England and Wales.

 www.bhsea.org.uk





HS2 - Inspiring The Future

Mark Groombridge

PRESENTATION

Balfour Beatty VINCI  Working in partnership with HS2

Members Corner

High Speed 2, Grand Union Canal Transfer & AINA

Peter Walker

PRESENTATION



Member updates



New Members

- Six new Student Members
- Ryan Brittain – Cardinus Management
- Jeremy Warman – Miller Knight
- Samantha Tomkins - Accura



Member Commentary

Contractor Management where the margin for error is zero

BHSEA Member Hugh Maxwell shares how you can maximise contractor management when the margin of error is zero in safety-critical scenarios.

Read [here](#)



Safety & Health Expo BHSEA Stand 3/J91

BHSEA is exhibiting at the Safety and Health Expo at the NEC Birmingham between the 28th to 30th April.

Can you spare an hour to help out on the stand.?

Email secretary@bhsea.org.uk



Croner Webinar

18th March at 1pm

Ian Cooke

**Managing business disruption:
Strategies for organisations and people**

Click [here](#) to register

HSE Updates



Vehicle and transport safety at work

Being struck by a vehicle is still one of the main causes of fatal and major injuries in the workplace.

The figures for [2024 to 2025](#) show that 14 workers were killed that year when struck by a moving vehicle.

The [workplace transport section of the website](#) has a range of guidance, advice and other resources to help reduce the risks and keep workers safe. This includes:

- vehicle safety
- site safety
- lift trucks

You can also download relevant publications from the HSE website, including:

[workplace transport safety - an employer's guide](#)

[workplace transport safety - an overview](#)

Help shape the future of building safety

HSE is carrying out research to measure the new regime's impact on industry standards and building quality.

Your professional experiences can help inform future policy, statutory reviews and operational planning. Current research opportunities are:

- [regulation of the building control profession](#) -share how BSR regulations are affecting professional practice, competence and service delivery
- [building control "gateways" and HRB design and construction](#) - provide feedback on how the "gateway" system impacts high-rise residential projects and building quality
- HRB design and construction longitudinal case studies - participate in online sessions throughout 2026/27 to offer in-depth perspectives on the gateway process. [Email to register an interest](#)

Building Safety Updates

Construction Products Safety

Alongside the annual report, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has published a [Construction Products Reform White Paper](#), setting out system-wide reforms to strengthen the regulatory framework for construction products. These include a new licensing regime for testing and certification bodies, new requirements for product information and transparency, and greater enforcement powers for the national construction products regulator.

In addition, the BSI has developed [PAS 2000 - Bringing Safe Products to Market](#), which sets out a framework for manufacturers to demonstrate that they have taken all reasonable steps to ensure their products are safe for their intended uses. Members can [book a place](#) at the launch event in London next Tuesday 10 March from 9:30am - 11:30am.



Annual Report on Grenfell Tower Inquiry Published

The Government has published its first [annual report](#) following the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, which details the progress that has been made on implementing the 58 recommendations in the Inquiry's [final report](#) and sets out milestones and plans for the year ahead. It confirms that 12 recommendations have been completed, including two from the Phase 1 report, with 70% expected to be closed by the end of 2026.



CITB – Funding Update

CITB has [announced](#) how in-scope employers can access funding for training from **1 April 2026**, which will be dependent on the size of organisation. This follows CITB's [decision](#) last month to stop taking new bookings through its Employers Networks for training to be delivered before 1 April as this year's budget has already been fully committed.

Micro to medium sized employers will be able to book training through Employer Networks at 50% match funding or a fixed contribution for health and safety courses. The funding available will be capped based on employer size: micro - £1,500, small - £2,000, and medium - £4,500. Large employers will no longer be able to access funding through Employer Networks and will instead be eligible for a new Large Employer Fund. For the financial year 2026/27, this will provide £18,000 to spend on any in-scope training, paid on a training plan or receipt of evidence of training.

All employers, regardless of size, will also still be able to access [apprenticeship grants](#), [Travel to Train](#), [qualification grants](#), [short course grants](#) for certain specialist courses, and the [Industry Impact Fund](#). Members of the CITB Executive Management Team are meeting with Contractor members on **Thursday 26 March** to provide further information on how funding will be managed going forward, and your nominated Skills representative should have received the details directly.

March Updates

Download your Free Driver Resources
drivingforbetterbusiness.com/fleet-safety-focus-monthly-updates



Drivers and Employers are liable

Make sure your drivers have the knowledge they need.

Driving is for most people the most dangerous activity they can do. It should go without saying that any load on your vehicle must be both legal – in other words, not overloaded – and secure.

And remember, 'load' refers to anything being carried, including any tools or materials for use by the driver as part of their role – such as an engineer, for example.

Download resources [here](#)

Fleet Safety Focus – Your Monthly Update

Safe Loading

Your monthly Driving for Better Business Fleet Update in collaboration with the National Highways Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention Team

Partner Update



Updated "It's in your hands" campaign relaunches to tackle preventable work-related skin disease across the UK

The British Safety Industry Federation (BSiF), announces the 2026 relaunch of the It's in your hands campaign-an expanded, updated initiative aimed at reducing the incidence of work related skin disease and improving workplace health standards nationwide. Developed through the BSiF's Special Interest Group the campaign has been designed to provide information on how to keep safe whilst at work.

Work related skin disease (WRSD) remains one of the most common yet preventable occupational health issues in the UK. Dermatitis alone accounts for more than 70% of WRSD cases and continues to impact thousands of workers every year-often causing long term pain, lost income, career changes, and significant employer costs in sickness absence, retraining and compensation. Despite this, most cases can be avoided through simple, practical control measures.

The updated campaign highlights three major areas of preventable harm:

- Work related dermatitis, often caused by chemical exposure, repeated wet work, friction or contaminated surfaces.
- Skin exposure to hazardous substances, including irritants, sensitisers, carcinogens and corrosives.
- UV related skin cancer risks, particularly for outdoor workers and professional drivers.

Central to the campaign is the principle of Safe Working Distance (SWD)-a structured approach to reducing direct skin contact with hazardous agents through elimination, substitution, engineering controls, improved work practices and, where necessary, appropriate personal protective equipment.

You can download the It's in your hands campaign here:

[It's in your hands Campaign](#)



2026 Programme of Events



Monthly meetings take place on the second Monday of each month starting at 1:30.

2026 Dates for your Diary

- 12 Jan: Driver Safety- Driving for Better Business and D4Drivers
- 9 Feb: Free Training Session – CDM Refresher
- 9 Feb: Environment – Social Value – Baynel Consultancy and Waste Management – Biffa
- 25 Feb WWT – Mental Health and Wellbeing
- 9 March: Construction Matters – HS2
- 13 April: **AGM and Hugh Maxwell - Lessons learned on Baltic Sea Project and Chair Q&A**
- 11 May: Behavioral Safety – Craig Jackson and Steve Warwood - UCB
- 8 Jun: Thorlux Factory Visit
- 14 Sep: Legal Update
- 12 Oct: Construction Matters – Panel Discussion
- 9 Nov: Health
- 14 Dec: 2025 BHSEA Awards

Thorlux Lighting Factory Visit

8th June 2026 | 09.30 – 15.00

Redditch

We're delighted to invite members to join us on 8th June 2026 for an exclusive behind-the-scenes visit to Thorlux Lighting.

This will be a highly interactive and engaging day, with attendees rotating through five informative sessions. Each session is designed to educate, inform and surprise, giving us a real insight into innovation, sustainability and manufacturing excellence.

We are limited to 42 spaces, so early booking is essential. A waiting list will be set up.



NEXT EVENT

REGISTER NOW

AGM and Hugh Maxwell - Lessons learned on Baltic Sea Project

13 April 2026 | 13.30 – 16.00

Programme

- Introduction
- AGM
- Hugh Maxwell
- Chair Q&A

SHARING  LEARNING  IMPROVING

AGM and
Lessons learned on
Baltic Sea Project

Hugh Maxwell - Maxwell
Safety

13th April 2026
13.30 - 16.00
Walsol FC WSA 15A
Lunch served from 12.45

