



EVENT

24 June 2026

SUMMARY

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Highlight films, recording from the on-stage sessions and photos are all available on the website.

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All videos are available on Circular Steel Youtube channel, within the UK 2026 playlist.

Attendees

The following 78 companies attended Circular Steel UK 2026

7Steel UK	Engenuiti	National Grid Electricity Transmission
Adelie Sustainable Ltd	Erith	Plastometrex
AKTII	ESB	Portal Power
Alpha Whitby Wood	Galliford Try	R Vint Engineering
Arcadia Consulting	Getjar	Red Construction
ASBP	Gleeds	Reuse Notion
ASD Westok	GPE	Reusefully
Balfour Beatty	Hilson Moran	SEGRO
BCLP	Hines	Severfield
BCSA	HTS	Skanska
Bourne Group Limited	Imperial Thermal Engineering	SLR Consulting
British Steel	J Coffey	Tata Steel UK
Buro Happold	John F Hunt	tERC
Canary Wharf Group	Keltbray	DESNZ
Caunton Engineering	Lazari	University College London
Circular Steel	Lindapter International	Useful Simple Trust
City of London	London Structures Lab	Vibe QS
Civic Engineers	Loughborough University	Viridipath
Cleveland Steel & Tubes	Maconda	Visibuild
Davies Maguire	Material Index	WAP Sustainability
Eco Wise	McLaren	Wates
Efestos Hub	Metro Deconstruction Services	Whitby Wood
Eigen Ventures	Meyer Borgman Johnson (MBJ)	William Hare
Elliott Wood	Mott MacDonald	WMG, University of Warwick
Emerald Steel	Multiplex	Woolgar Hunter
EMR	Nathan Harmer Associates	WSP

The Event at a Glance

Over 125 people braved a red hot London day for the biggest and best Circular Steel UK yet - the fifth UK edition and sixth event overall. Attendees came from right across the steel supply chain: developers, contractors, engineers, fabricators, steel producers, stockholders, demolition specialists, policymakers and researchers.

The day combined two keynotes, ten burst presentations on the state of steel reuse, three expert panels, five roundtables, drop-in clinics with steel reuse specialists, case study displays and plenty of networking, closing with drinks on the roof terrace.

The mood of the day was unmistakable: steel reuse has moved from concept to mainstream practice. The conversation is no longer about whether reuse works, but about how to scale it - commercially, contractually and across the whole supply chain.

Key threads across the day

- Steel reuse is maturing fast, but supply remains the constraint. Reused steel currently meets only around 0.3% of UK demand for typical open sections, while client demand is rising.
- Early engagement was the single most repeated message of the day. Reuse succeeds when it is embedded in briefs, design and procurement from the outset, and struggles when bolted on late.
- Economics are nuanced, not prohibitive. Reuse can cost broadly the same as business as usual when planned early, and carbon savings of up to 97% against new steel justify modest premiums where they arise.
- Policy momentum is real. The UK steel strategy, CBAM from January 2027, the City of London's circular economy framework and the forthcoming Circular Economy Growth Plan all featured heavily.
- The ecosystem matters. Reuse, recycling and new EAF production are complementary parts of a circular steel ecosystem, not competitors - a theme set in the opening and echoed all day.

Opening – Steve Gilchrist

Steve opened the fifth UK Circular Steel event by framing the day around practical climate action through steel: materials, projects and supply chains rather than grand declarations.

He set out just how complex the steel landscape has become: a new UK steel strategy, net zero building standards, CBAM tariffs, a new UK Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) pipeline, rising steel prices and competing supply chain priorities. His core message was that organisations need a clear steel strategy of their own - with defined priorities across carbon, UK production, circularity, cost, resilience and social value - rather than letting others make those critical decisions for them.

Steel reuse was positioned as part of a broader circular steel ecosystem alongside recycling and high recycled content EAF production: reuse should be applied where it delivers value, not at any cost.



Keynote – Shravan Joshi MBE, City of London Corporation

Shravan Joshi, City of London, delivered a keynote on how decision-making steers the industry towards circularity.

- The City of London aims to be a circular city by 2040, under a Circular Economy Framework running 2024-2040, with a reuse standard expected by 2030-2035.
- Construction is the City's largest consumer of raw materials, producing 193,000 tonnes of inert waste in 2022.
- The retrofit-first approach is working: 56% of major applications in 2025 were retrofit projects, driven by a carbon options process that promotes material retention.
- UK steel strategy update: new trade measures, a target of 40-50% UK steel production, and UK CBAM measures arriving from January 2027.
- Real project proof: 1,500 tonnes of steel salvaged at City Place, and a project that increased floor space by 40% without adding structural mass, reusing 240 tonnes on site.



His four calls to action: have a clear steel strategy linked to carbon, cost and supply chain; reuse efficiently; make decisions early; and leverage the collective expertise in the room. The technical questions are largely solved - the challenge now is scaling reuse economically and practically through supply chains.

Bursts – The State of Steel Reuse

Ten rapid-fire presentations captured where steel reuse stands today, and together they told a consistent story: a market growing fast and led by the UK, with the tools, data, standards and networks now arriving to take reuse from pioneering projects to routine practice. Testing innovation is stripping programme risk out of reuse, digital platforms and AI are making reclaimed stock visible and matchable, momentum is building in the USA, and new guidance is extending reuse from landmark commercial schemes to everyday domestic projects.

- The State of the Steel Reuse Market - Asselia Katenbayeva, ASBP
- Non-Destructive Steel Testing On Site - Sally Walsh, WSP (with Plastometrex)
- Systemic Change for Steel Reuse - Andy Yates, The Engineers Reuse Collective
- The REACT Project: Digital Tools for Reuse Decisions - Raffaele Cucuzza, UCL
- AI-Assisted Assessment of Reclaimed Steel - Konstantinos Tsavdaridis, Efestos Hub
- Steel Reuse in the USA - Jason Pederson, Meyer Borgman Johnson
- Standards and the Fabricator View - Jonathan Davis, William Hare / BCSA
- Portfolio Potential: Steel Reuse Across the SEGRO Pipeline - Megan Greig, Elliott Wood
- The Steel Reuse Network - Tom Howarth, Maconda
- The Domestic Reuse Guide - Roy Fishwick, Cleveland Steel & Tubes



Panel – From Strategy to Decisions

This panel brought together steel producers, recyclers, fabricators, engineers and client representatives to unpack how strategy translates into project decisions.

The production picture

- Primary (blast furnace) steel dominates global production at ~70%, with a carbon factor of roughly 2.5 tCO₂ per tonne. EAF secondary steel is ~25% of production at around a fifth of the emissions. Reclaimed steel is negligible globally, at 50-150 kg CO₂ per tonne.
- The UK exports 75-80% of its scrap, using only ~25% domestically (France 56%, Italy and Spain over 140%), which constrains EAF growth. The US, by contrast, consumes all its scrap domestically.
- Tata's £1.5bn EAF investment marks a major shift, but UK demand of ~1.2 million tonnes of fabricated steelwork a year sits against a 450,000-tonne EAF demand that UK capacity cannot yet meet.



What actually drives decisions

- Cost and programme still dominate project decisions, with carbon and circularity secondary. Sourcing is often reactive and price-driven if no clear steel strategy exists.
- Early engagement is improving but has a timing paradox: too early is abstract, too late misses the opportunity. Demolition contractor conversations tend to start about a month before tender; steel procurement 6-12 months ahead.
- Refurbishment shows the prize: schemes retaining 80-95% of structural steel in situ capture huge embodied carbon savings.

Scaling the circular ecosystem

- Reuse and recycling are complementary: roughly a third of material must be recycled, a third is hard to reuse economically, and a third could be reused optimally.
- New models are emerging: steel-as-a-service, producer take-back schemes linked to scrap processing, and US-style recycling-as-a-service contracts.
- High UK electricity costs remain a competitiveness challenge for EAF steel, with decoupling power prices from gas a live policy question.
- A hybrid sourcing strategy (BOF and EAF) is realistic during the transition; UK EAF sections will come from complementary producers focused on flat and long products.
- Clients must embed circularity and reuse targets in briefs from the outset, and deconstruction needs to get easier - including quick mechanical removal of shear studs to avoid damaging sections.

Panel – Reusing Steel in Practice

A practical session tracing reused steel through the supply chain: demolition, stockholding, testing, fabrication, engineering and standards.

How reuse actually works

- A 15-stage process takes steel from verification and inspection through grading, with an internal economic viability metric capped at around 4 hours per tonne.
- Lab testing validates reused steel against new steel properties (tensile strength, yield, elongation, elasticity, carbon values), effectively recreating the mill test certificate.
- Fabricators need steel in near-new condition with clear documentation; pre-fabrication verification improves cost certainty.
- Demolition contractors carry responsibility for initial quality: skilled dismantling to SCI guidelines produces straight, undamaged steel and reduces everyone's risk downstream.

Lessons learned

- Engineers cannot drive reuse alone - early, meaningful fabricator involvement uncovers practical issues before they become expensive.
- Early engagement has to be commercially real: advice without contractual or financial commitment leads to unfulfilled reuse ambitions.
- Pre-demolition audits need a reuse focus. Audits designed around waste disposal set the wrong tone; reuse-focused audits, informed by a desk study, can be done early and largely without structural engineers.
- Transparency accelerates the industry: sharing lessons, including mistakes, through case studies keeps everyone improving.



The bigger picture

- Reuse costs are broadly comparable to traditional demolition, dependent on negotiations and steel price movements - and a ~97% carbon saving justifies a modest premium where one exists.
- Reuse extends well beyond structural frames: industrial buildings, warehouses, temporary works and even domestic projects such as house extensions.
- UK guidance (P427 with the new EN 1090 route to CE/UKCA marking) is pioneering and now influencing practice in Australia and the US.



Panel – Economics of Steel Reuse

One of the most anticipated sessions of the day put real numbers on steel reuse, from market prices to dismantling premiums and design cost impacts.

The market context

- New steel is currently £900-1,000 per tonne, up £300-400 since January 2026 on the back of geopolitical events, tariffs and energy costs - a reminder of chronic volatility (Covid, Ukraine, energy crises).
- Material is only ~25% of installed steelwork cost; fabrication, labour and overheads make up the rest.
- Stockists buy reclaimed steel at roughly £50 per tonne above scrap value, with the resale margin covering transport, cleaning, testing and certification.

Where the costs sit

- Dismantling for reuse adds cost: selective recovery adds roughly £150-300 per tonne to demolition, shear stud removal can run £500-700 per tonne, and one example project saw a 15% premium on the demolition package.
- Fabrication of reused steel runs 10-20% higher due to additional engineering, orientation and modification work.
- Design integration is the biggest lever: embedding reuse early keeps uplifts to low single digits, while late integration multiplies complexity, redesign and abortive cost.
- Rising new steel prices narrow the premium on stockist reuse and increase savings on donor site reuse - and reused steel reduces exposure to price volatility.

The developer experience

- A landmark central London donor-recipient project pairing (2 Aldermanbury Square and 30 Duke Street) added only ~1% to build cost for donor site deconstruction, with intangible benefits including stronger planning relationships and tenant appeal.
- Industrial and commercial portfolios face a procurement timing challenge: fast site starts and pre-let pressures compress the window for reuse decisions, so design and procurement processes need restructuring to decide earlier.
- Some demolition and enabling works contractors are starting to absorb reuse risk themselves, betting on future demand for reclaimed sections - and repeatability is expected to bring costs down.

The panel's conclusion: reuse is bespoke, so project-specific analysis is essential - but with early planning and supply chain collaboration, the economics work, and the carbon case is overwhelming.

Click [here](#) for the slide deck.



Keynote – UK Government Perspective (DESNZ)

In a recorded presentation, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero set out how government sees steel reuse within the circular economy.

- The Circular Economy Growth Plan is close to publication, covering sectors including construction and transport, building on two years of Task Force work.
- Steel is treated as foundational - to advanced manufacturing, clean energy, defence, construction and infrastructure - with circularity central to supply chain resilience in the Steel Strategy.
- Government research found structural steel reuse can cut embodied emissions by up to 97%, and that cost is not the main barrier. The real blockers: demand-supply mismatch, low visibility of available stock, and limited designer awareness.
- Public bodies could be major demand drivers for reused steel.
- Support mechanisms include the UK ETS, the CBAM, Innovate UK contracts for innovation, voluntary embodied emissions reporting guidance, and the Metals Circularity Group uniting government, industry and academia across steel, aluminium and critical minerals.

Closing Keynote – Will Arnold

Will Arnold closed the day by charting how far steel reuse has come in three years: from small tonnages and big questions to formal guidance, government interest and serious economic discussion. Reuse is now mainstream.

- A sharp insight on recycling: increasing UK scrap recycling does not necessarily cut global emissions, because primary steelmaking accounts for ~90% of the sector's footprint. Reuse displaces the recycling market - which is exactly why it matters.
- Progress is non-linear: some businesses have struggled to make reuse models stick, and good ideas alone are not enough.
- The next frontier is taking steel's lessons to the rest of the built environment: concrete, bricks and facades all lag behind, and steel reuse cannot thrive alone inside a linear economy.

His call to action: save 4 November 2026 for the Cross Industry Reuse Summit at the British Library, London - bringing the reuse conversation to every construction material.





Roundtable Discussions

Five roundtables ran across the breaks, three in the morning and two over lunch, giving attendees the chance to dig into specific challenges in smaller, franker settings. The discussions were held on a confidential basis, so they are not

reported in detail here, but common threads included commercial models and risk, growing the supply of reclaimed steel, and turning better information into better reuse outcomes. The five roundtables and their hosts were:

- Making Steel Reuse Work: Cost, Risk and Commercial Models - hosted by Elliott Wood and SEGRO
- Overcoming Supply Side Constraints: What Can the Industry Do to Increase Supply? - hosted by The Engineers Reuse Collective
- Blue Sky Thinking: Drivers of the Circular Economy at The Lazari Building - hosted by the Circular Do Tank
- Building an Ecosystem to Marry Up Supply and Demand - hosted by Maconda
- The Audit is the Asset: Turning Pre-Demolition Data into Bankable Reuse - hosted by Alpha Whitby Wood and ReuseNotion



Thank you to all of the roundtable hosts for leading such engaged conversations, and to everyone who contributed around the tables.

Case Study Boards

Eleven case study boards were on display around the venue. These can be found on the website, by clicking [here](#).

Thank You and What Comes Next

Circular Steel UK 2026 was made possible by our sponsors: Platinum sponsors Maconda and Elliott Wood; Gold sponsors Cleveland Steel & Tubes, Buro Happold, HTS and Severfield; Silver sponsors Red Construction, EMR, WSP, 7 Steel UK and Multiplex; networking drinks sponsors Tata Steel UK and Emerald Steel; and our lanyard sponsor Visibuild.

Films, session recordings and photography from the day are now available on circularsteel.com and the Circular Steel LinkedIn page over the coming weeks. Sign up to the Circular Steel newsletter at circularsteel.substack.com to catch everything.

Dates for the diary: the Cross Industry Reuse Summit, 4 November 2026, British Library, London - and Circular Steel UK returns on 23rd June in 2027.

CIRCULAR STEEL UK 2026

Watch the highlight film



circularsteel.com/uk