

NASC

# Scaffolding Insider

THE VOICE OF SCAFFOLDING AND ACCESS

JUNE 2026

## SAFER THAN EVER

Safety Report shows NASC  
members leading the way

**TG30 EXPANDS  
BEYOND THE  
MANUALS**

Birdcage configurations  
now included

**FROM MERSEYSIDE  
DEPOT TO GLOBAL  
POWERHOUSE**

George Roberts profile

**SCAFFE X26**

MANCHESTER 10-11 SEPT

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## FROM THE EDITOR

There's an unashamedly NASC focus to this issue of Scaffolding Insider. We take a deeper dive into the recently-released Safety Report, which covers NASC member statistics from 2025. I'm pleased to say that NASC members recorded zero operative fatalities in 2025, and accident rates remain among the lowest in recorded history. The Safety Report is based on RIDDOR data submitted by all NASC contractor members.

Although things have changed dramatically over the decades in terms of injuries and fatalities in the broader construction industry, even today, according to data from the No Falls Foundation and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), falls from height in Great Britain in 2025 recorded 35 lives lost across the construction industry, accounting for 28% of all workplace fatalities nationwide, so there's no room for complacency. Read more on pages 9-10.

A really significant development on TG30 is explained on pages 13-14. NASC's TG30 system scaffolding platform has been updated with a new release, expanding its coverage to include a comprehensive range of birdcage configurations for cup, wedge and rosette systems.

It is highly significant that several of these configurations have never previously been available in any form; not in TG30, and – crucially – not in manufacturer user manuals.

There is also a great deal happening within NASC and CISRS around training and education. NASC continues to turn ideas into plans and plans into action around creating the pipeline of talent the industry so desperately needs. On pages 18-19, you can read more about the Work Experience Pledge and the brand new Teacher Tours, ensuring both educators and students are targeted with positive messages about the scaffolding sector and the opportunities it provides.

Speaking of opportunities, it's great to see last year's Scaffolding Excellence Awards Apprentice of the Year, Rhys Bennett, on the judging panel for this year's Awards – a great idea to get a young scaffolder's perspective. Award entries are now closed and there have been record entries. More information on pages 4-6, where there is also news on an excellent Safety Day and an update to guidance TG4 Anchorage Systems for Scaffolding and much more.

Finally, I'd urge you to read our Industry View this month, where we get a highly knowledgeable expert view on the housing market and the effect it's having on scaffolders.

I hope you enjoy the issue.



**Nick Campion**  
Editor

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# SUCCESS FOR BUSY SAFETY DAY

NASC is reflecting on a highly successful members-only Safety Day at the Construction College Midlands (Birmingham), featuring live demonstrations and interactive workshops. It was also an important opportunity to encourage members to share feedback with members of the H&S Committee.

NASC safety and technical standards are built on member input, and the organisation wanted to give members the opportunity to shape the next round of key NASC guidance, in particular SG4 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations and SG19 A Guide to Formulating a Rescue Plan.

There were several interlinked themes running throughout the day, including embedding system scaffolding into NASC guidance: SG4, SG19, SG30, TG4, TG27, and highlighting key hazards and risks to a business including falls from



The five H&S Committee members, who acted as guides on the day



height, collapsed scaffolding, and transport. Attendees were also given copies of the 2026 Safety Report bulletin, and the new TG4 Poster and User Guide (A6 pocket sized booklet).

It was good to see NASC's own scaffolders heavily involved in organising the event, staffing stands, erecting and dismantling system scaffolding, including Mark Collinson, Steve Kearney, Lloyd McKenzie, Adam Wells and Jordan Elder.

## TOP FIVE: PG8 PURCHASING GUIDELINES FOR ANCILLARY SCAFFOLDING COMPONENTS

NASC produce nine excellent Purchasing Guidelines for the access and scaffolding industry. For example, below are the five key messages from PG8 Purchasing Guidelines for Ancillary Scaffolding Components, for managers, buyers, designers, scaffolders and interested parties:

**1. Most ancillary components will be required to withstand appropriate loading**

Most ancillary components (e.g. board clamps, roofing couplers, shear plates) will carry load in service - often wind or incidental loads - so they must be tested, assessed and specified with Safe Working Loads (SWLs) appropriate to their intended use.

**2. Purchasing decisions must be driven by verified test data, not label or assumption**

Buyers should only procure ancillary components where SWLs, test methods, and factors of safety are clearly defined and supported by certificates or data sheets, enabling customers, scaffold designers and contractors to confirm fitness for purpose.

**3. Materials, manufacture, and corrosion protection must meet recognised standards**

All metal components should be made from materials specified within appropriate BS/EN standards or from materials with equivalent chemical and mechanical

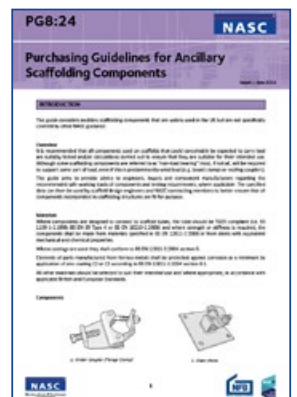
properties. Where components are designed to connect to scaffold tube, the tube must be TG20 compliant. Parts manufactured from ferrous metals should be protected as a minimum by application of zinc coating to classes C2 or C3.

**4. Ancillary components have defined minimum performance requirements**

The guidance sets out minimum SWLs, bending moments, uplift resistance, compressive strength and slip resistance for a wide range of components including couplers, scaffold boards, base jacks, sole plates and roofing accessories, which provide a consistent benchmark for procurement and design.

**5. Clear user information is essential for safe use on site**

Every ancillary component should be supplied with a user guide or data sheet covering SWLs in relevant directions, intended use, limitations, assembly instructions, photographs/diagrams and copies of test certificates.



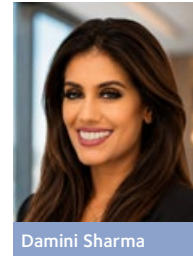
# RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES INTO SCAFFOLDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Entries to the Scaffolding Excellence Awards are now closed, with a record number of entries having been recorded across the nine categories. A new online entry system, complete with new criteria, has encouraged a 45% increase in entries from 2025, leaving the judges with plenty of work to do to whittle down the entries into a shortlist.

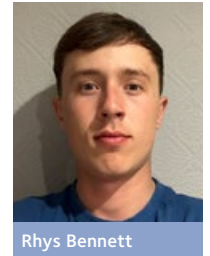
It has been announced that the judging panel this year welcomes two new faces, including the winner of last year's Apprentice of the Year Award, Rhys Bennett from JMAC, who will provide a fresh and grounded perspective. The full list of judges is:

- Dr James MacFadden (Chair), Senior Responsible Engineer at Sellafield
- Ken Johnson, No Falls Foundation
- Damini Sharma, CEO of OM Group
- Rhys Bennett, Scaffolder, JMAC and 2025 Apprentice of the Year

- Andrew Stotesbury, former Head of Temporary Works, Lendlease



Damini Sharma



Rhys Bennett

- Tony Shaw, Operations Director, Forge CM; formerly MD, Henry Boot Construction
- Colin Marrs, Editor, Construction News

Shortlists will be announced in July in advance of the Gala Awards Dinner on Friday 11 September at Manchester Central, hosted by Dara O' Briain. To book tickets, go to <https://nasc.org.uk/ems-event-calendar/scaffolding-excellence-awards-2026.html>

## CISRS MAKES WAVES IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Scaffolders based in Jersey can now access nationally recognised CISRS qualifications on their doorstep, following the approval of Scaffold Training Academy Ltd as an official CISRS Training Centre for the Channel Islands.

The approval is also a landmark moment for CISRS more broadly as the centre becomes the first approved CISRS Training Centre in the Channel Islands, reinforcing CISRS's position as the recognised standard for scaffolding competence.

The approval has been nearly two years in the making, developed in close collaboration with CISRS, NASC and the Government of Jersey. It marks a significant milestone for the Channel Island's scaffolding and access sector, which previously had no local route to structured, nationally recognised training.

Kelly Keating, Director of Scaffold Training Academy Ltd, said: "This has been a long time in the making and we are incredibly proud to have reached this point."

"Scaffolders in Jersey have always had to travel to the mainland to access nationally recognised training, and that has been a barrier for many. Having an approved CISRS



PICTURE CREDIT: Richard Lumborg-Unsplash

centre here changes that. We are committed to raising the standard of scaffolding training across the Channel Islands and this is just the beginning."

The new centre opens as the Health and Safety Inspectorate (HSI) mandates CISRS cards as the only acceptable test of competency for scaffolders on the islands.

The new centre launched its first courses in March and April 2026, with two programmes available: the CISRS Operative Training Scheme (COTS) and the CISRS Basic Scaffold Inspection course.

Funding support is available for eligible candidates through Skills Jersey, making the training accessible to a wider range of individuals and employers across the island.

The establishment of a CISRS centre in Jersey is about more than making training more convenient. It is about raising competence, professionalism and safety standards across the entire industry in the Channel Islands, ensuring that scaffolders working there are held to the same high standards as their counterparts across the rest of the UK.

For more information about upcoming courses contact A&A Scaffolding Solutions at [scaffoldtrainingacademy@gmail.com](mailto:scaffoldtrainingacademy@gmail.com) or call 01534 722711.

### MEMBER DIRECTORY NOW ONLINE

The highly valued Member Directory, much valued by those searching for high quality NASC-member scaffolding contractors, is now back online after a brief pause. It will provide up to date member information and it will also be connected to the ScaffPal app to give access to member information on the go.

## NASC LAUNCHES TG4 UPDATE

The latest version of TG4 Anchorage Systems for Scaffolding was issued in 2025, and NASC has now built on this with a TG4 User Guide and TG4 Poster, launched this month to create a complete suite of guidance for the industry.

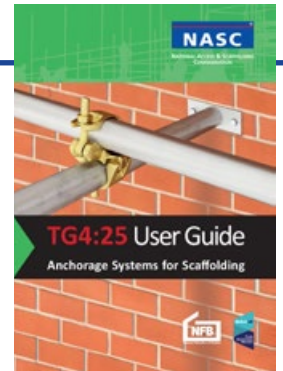
Understanding the importance of ties is fundamental to scaffolding safety, as James Attridge, former Chair of the NASC Technical Committee, explains: *“Ties play a critical role in ensuring the stability of scaffolding structures. Façade access and other scaffolding configurations are typically tall and narrow and therefore rely on secure attachment to a ‘permanent’ building or structure to maintain stability. To achieve this, anchors are often installed into existing masonry or concrete structures to provide an effective means of tying.”*

The new TG4 suite has been designed for everyone across an organisation, from directors, managers and supervisors at scaffolding contractors through to scaffolders on site and the client’s project team.

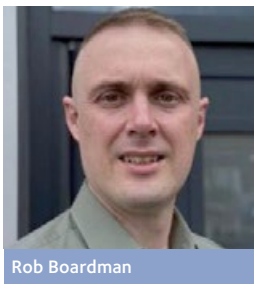
The main guidance note, TG4:25 Anchorage Systems for Scaffolding, provides detailed technical guidance on tie loads, anchor selection, proof testing and related considerations. Sitting alongside it, the TG4 User Guide is an A6 pocket booklet aimed specifically at scaffolders, highlighting the key information needed for the effective fixing of anchors, along with the factors and precautions required to ensure their integrity. It has been developed as a practical, easy to use pocket reference for anyone responsible for installing and testing drilled and cast in anchors.

The TG4 A2 Poster has been created to raise awareness at site level of just how important anchor ties really are. A QR code on the poster links directly to further information on the NASC website.

To access the new documentation, [click here](#).



## NASC WELCOMES NEW HEAD OF TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Rob Boardman

NASC has announced the appointment of Rob Boardman as Head of Training and Education; he began on 8 June 2026.

Rob joins NASC with nine years of experience at 3B Training, a CISRS-recognised training centre, where he most recently held the position of Operations Director. His background gives him a deep understanding of the scaffolding training landscape and the standards that underpin workforce development across the sector.

Clive Dickin, Group CEO of NASC and CISRS, said: *“We are delighted to welcome Rob to the team. He brings a wealth of relevant experience and expertise and joins us at an important time for training and education across the scaffolding and access industry. I look forward to working with him.”*

## SECOND JOINT AGM SETS OUT AMBITIOUS FUTURE

NASC and CISRS have marked another important milestone after holding their joint Annual General Meeting for 2026.

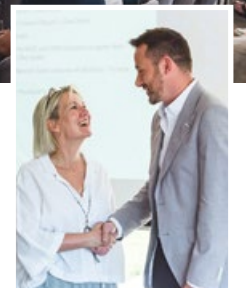
The event, on 24 June, brought together 63 delegates from 48 member companies to reflect on the achievements of both organisations over the past year, while setting out a clear vision for the future.

A key moment was the official handover to incoming NASC President, Sarah Klieve from High Peak Scaffolding, who takes over the role from IBN Scaffolding’s David Brown at an important time for NASC and CISRS.

Attendees heard about the significant progress made by both NASC and CISRS throughout 2025, and also heard about ambitious plans for the remainder of 2026, with a strong focus on member engagement, industry leadership and workforce development.

The AGM also welcomed new governance arrangements, including the appointment of Lee Rowswell, Group Director at GKR Scaffolding, and Malvern Scaffolding’s Managing Director, Steve Fellows to the Board. Their experience and expertise will help guide the organisation as it continues to evolve.

Members also recognised the contribution of two departing Council members, Mike Lloyd and James Attridge, who have been valued supporters of the NASC Council for many years.



The AGM also saw the official launch of NASC’s new regional structure of 10 locally focused regions, designed to strengthen engagement with members, create more opportunities for collaboration and ensure regional priorities are represented effectively across the organisation.

Group CEO Clive Dickin said: *“Today’s AGM demonstrated the strength and momentum of NASC and CISRS. NASC continues to grow its membership and UK commercial presence, with innovations such as ScaffEx and TG30. This helps to ensure reduced subscription rates to an open and transparent membership. And we are also working to ensure that CISRS is properly invested in so that it continues to meet the needs of employers and trainees.”*

# BSR DATA SHOWS IMPROVEMENTS

The latest Building Safety Regulator (BSR) figures for Gateway Two applications point to a marked improvement in approval rates, although the number of invalid and withdrawn submissions remains significant. The latest data shows 358 decisions were made between 9 March and 29 May 2026 across new build, refurbishment and remediation projects, with an overall approval rate of 75%.

That compares with the first published management data for October 2023 to March 2025, when only 31% of decided applications were approved and 69% were invalid, rejected or withdrawn. New build applications were particularly weak at that stage, with an approval rate of just 23%. The latest 75% figure also represents a rise from 71% in the previous 12-week update to 1 May 2026.

The BSR said 396 applications, or 53%, were deemed invalid or withdrawn during the latest period, underlining that submission quality is still a major issue. There are 1,445 applications in progress, while closed applications (754) broadly matched new submissions (750), suggesting the

regulator is beginning to keep pace with incoming work.

Remediation applications recorded 67 decisions, with 79% approved, exceeding the BSR's 65% target and improving on the previous update. The Innovation Unit, which handles new build applications, made 31 decisions with a 90% approval rate, up from 73% in the May update.

To support applicants, the CLC has issued new guidance on Building Regulations Compliance Statements and Fire and Emergency Files. The BSR also highlighted progress ahead of Planning Gateway One's fifth anniversary on 1 August 2026. Fire safety objections to planning applications have fallen from around 70% in the early period to 10%, while advice is now issued within 21 days in 98% of cases. The figures suggest a system that is improving, but still reliant on better-quality applications to reduce delays further.



## SLOW PROGRESS ON PAY GAP

Build UK's latest gender pay gap overview shows that women working for Build UK contractor members earned 77p for every £1 paid to men in median hourly pay in 2025/26. The figure marks gradual progress from 71p in 2017/18, when reporting became mandatory for larger employers. Women now make up 38.5% of the lowest pay quartile and 13.9% of the highest, up from 7.5% in 2017/18. Build UK said the sector's low female representation, at around 15%, means closing the gap will require sustained action, including flexible working, mentoring and menopause support.

## CAMDEN'S £1BN REGENERATION

London's Camden Council has granted planning permission for a £1bn regeneration scheme that will create hundreds of new homes in north London alongside one of the UK's biggest film and television production sites.

The Camden Film Quarter project in Kentish Town will deliver 11 purpose-built sound stages, more than 100,000ft<sup>2</sup> of creative workspace and 485 homes. Developers claim the project will support around 3,960 direct operational jobs and generate 5,155 net additional jobs overall.



## RETURN TO GROWTH

CITB's latest Construction Workforce Outlook predicts a return to growth from 2027, but warns the industry must recruit tens of thousands of extra workers each year.

It forecasts UK construction output growth of -0.2% in 2026, before rising to 1.8% in 2027 and 2.8% in 2028. Industry analyst Glenigan's regular data reports seem to align with this optimistic picture for 2027.

## SKYLIGHT FAILINGS

Two construction companies have been fined after a scaffolder fell through a roof skylight while installing temporary edge protection at a warehouse in Yorkshire.

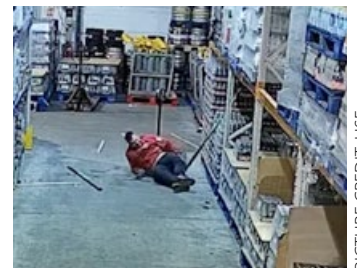
James Cranswick, 26, was installing temporary scaffolding edge protection for Clover Access Systems Limited at a warehouse in Keighley, West Yorkshire. CCTV footage shows Cranswick falling onto a pallet truck before landing on the warehouse floor. He broke his arm, leg and suffered head lacerations.

An HSE investigation found that both Clover Access Systems Limited and contractor STM360 Limited failed to plan, manage and monitor the work being undertaken by the scaffolders at the unit.

Clover Access Systems Limited was fined £26,000 and went into liquidation last month. STM360 Ltd was fined £53,300.

Meanwhile, Gary Saville, an uninsured business owner from Lancashire has been given a suspended prison sentence after an employee suffered life changing injuries falling through a roof. He had employed 31-year-old Jacob Black to replace skylights on a farm outbuilding in Pilling, Preston, on 17 June 2024, but he fell through a fragile roof to the floor below while carrying out the job. Mr Black required two lung operations and collarbone surgery, as well as sustaining multiple bone fractures.

NASC urges all contractors to have scaffolding in place with a safe system of work, and to refer to NASC Guidance: SG27 Guidance on Temporary Edge Protection on Open Steelwork, Roofs and Slab Edges (Class A and B Surfaces) and TG1 Temporary Edge Protection.



PICTURE CREDIT: HSE

The housing sector is crucial to many scaffolding contractors – and beyond that, it is an indicator of the health of the economy at large. This month, Head of Policy and Market Insight at the National Federation of Builders (NFB), Rico Wojtulewicz, gives a truly expert view on the market and the implications for scaffolding contractors.



In comparison to last year, 2026 new build sales have improved slightly, with many housebuilders escaping the 'one sale a month' doldrums. However, the war in the Middle East halted any interest rate slides, dissuaded lender competition and, worse still, pushed up the cost of construction materials to viability-challenging levels.

If the environment wasn't difficult enough for housebuilders, the Government is introducing a tax on all new build projects called the Building Safety Levy (BSL), mandating solar panels on most projects (without assessing the costs and plausibility of grid connections) and implementing a slew of policies to make new build homes more efficient (expensive to build).

It is tough out there, and this is before we factor in planning reform 'promises', Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), water company behaviour and local authority policies... to name a few concerns.

However, for scaffolders, I would not worry too much about new build – yet. Projects delivering under 150 homes will be built out, or businesses will fold. The mandating of solar panels (coming March 2027) creates a considerable opportunity pipeline, and the Government is already putting the wheels in motion to counter the decrease in new build market homes by enabling councils to build.

Supply will keep coming forward and things will improve. The only caveat is the longer the challenges go on, the more SME housebuilders we lose.

## **New build problems, new opportunities**

I said scaffolders should 'not worry too much about new build – yet', and the reason for this is because the Future Homes Standard (FHS) mandates solar panels in new build, which forces housebuilders to consider how they build, consequently pushing the biggest companies toward timber/steel frame and factory-built volumetric housing. This may see 71% of homes (the share built by the biggest builders) be less reliant on traditional scaffolding.

These PLC housebuilders typically exhaust existing investment first, which means there will be a gradual transition to offsite building. However, a considerable number of offsite housing manufacturers have been acquired by the likes of Vistry and Barratt and it may be

worth considering how the scaffolding industry supports assembly as well as build.

With a government target of 300,000 new homes a year, which cannot be delivered without conversions and SMEs (who view volumetric as a quality challenge), the role for traditional scaffolding has a lot of life left in it – but will still only offer a fraction of the pipeline opportunity in the next quarter of a century.

## **Renovate and retrofit**

Cladding remediation has barely begun, yet this is the tip of the iceberg, as when the Government increased the Defective Premises Act (DPA) from 10 to 30 years it created an industry for defective premises analysis, and through the Building Safety Act (BSA) placed contractors on high alert to identify other required works.

This means a £2m two-year job just became (literally) a £22m contract for seven plus years.

What's more, a commitment to retrofitting all buildings by 2050, in line with internationally agreed climate targets, means 12.5m traditionally built homes will require major fabric exploration before works begin (meaning that scaffolding will be up for longer), with decarbonising energy on individual buildings only being possible via solar panels and air source heat pumps (ASHP).

## **A note on air source heat pumps**

Many view ASHPs as hydronic systems, providing hot water to radiators and underfloor heating but the most popular ASHPs globally are air to air systems, which heat (or cool) buildings with air. These solutions are perfect for flats and as the UK has nine million of them, it means a lot of work for heating engineers and businesses providing safe platforms so said engineers can fit heat exchange units on the exteriors of properties.

In conclusion, new build is tough but will bounce back – but the longer it takes the more SMEs we will lose. The real prize is renovation and retrofit – and those giving the prizes are our politicians, so keep track of the policies they implement because these are the business opportunities of the future.

# ACCIDENT RATES LOW WITH ZERO FATALITIES

NASC members recorded zero operative fatalities in 2025, according to the 2026 NASC Safety Report, which also shows accident rates remain among the lowest in its recorded history.

The Safety Report is based on RIDDOR data submitted by all NASC contractor members and shows 82 recorded reportable accidents across a combined workforce that has hit new records in 2025. The statistics suggest that among NASC members there was one RIDDOR for every 470,000 hours worked by operatives.

The Accident Incident Rate (AIR) of 4.07 and Accident Frequency Rate (AFR) of 0.21 compare favourably with the 10-year averages of 5.2 and 0.26 respectively and stand in stark contrast to both historic scaffolding industry figures and the wider construction sector.

Today, with NASC member companies employing more operatives than at any point in NASC history, the data shows a major reduction in RIDDORS caused by falls from height.

That progress comes against a sobering backdrop. According to data from the No Falls Foundation and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), falls from height in Great Britain in 2025 recorded 35 lives lost across the construction industry, accounting for 28% of all workplace fatalities nationwide.



Mark Collinson

Mark Collinson, Head of Technical at NASC, said: *“Recording zero operative fatalities among NASC contractor members in 2025 is a significant and encouraging outcome, especially as our contractor member workforce has grown to record levels.*

*“These results reflect NASC members’ commitment to recognised best-practice guidance, investment in competence and high standards on site. But safety is never something we can take for granted. Every RIDDOR affects a person, a family and a workforce. The report gives us useful insight, but what matters most is how we act on it: identifying trends, improving guidance, sharing learning and supporting members to keep improving.”*



Clive Dickin

Clive Dickin, Group CEO of NASC and CISRS, said: *“The progress shown in this report is the result of decades of effort by NASC members, committees, clients, training partners and the wider industry. It demonstrates what can be achieved when high standards are placed at the centre of scaffolding operations.*

*“There is no room for complacency. Falls from height remain the leading cause of workplace fatalities in our country, and the sector must keep raising standards. NASC will continue to lead by refining guidance, strengthening*



*“Recording zero operative fatalities among NASC contractor members in 2025 is a significant and encouraging outcome, especially as our contractor member workforce has grown to record levels.”*

Mark Collinson

*standards and listening to members about the challenges they face on site every day.”*

## Causes of injury

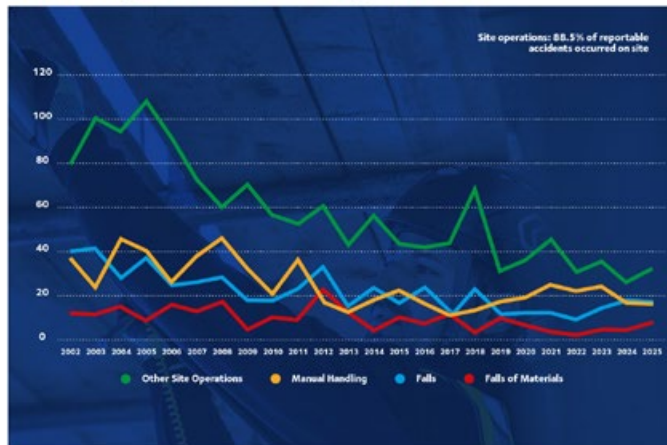
Of the 82 RIDDOR accidents suffered by NASC member operatives during 2025, 28 were recorded as specified injuries, with the remaining 54 recorded as over 7-day RIDDORs.

- Slips and trips on the same level were the most common cause of injury, with 25 accidents reported.
- Manual handling was the second most common cause of injury to operatives, with 20 injuries reported.
- Falls from height were the third most common cause of accidents with 17 injuries reported.

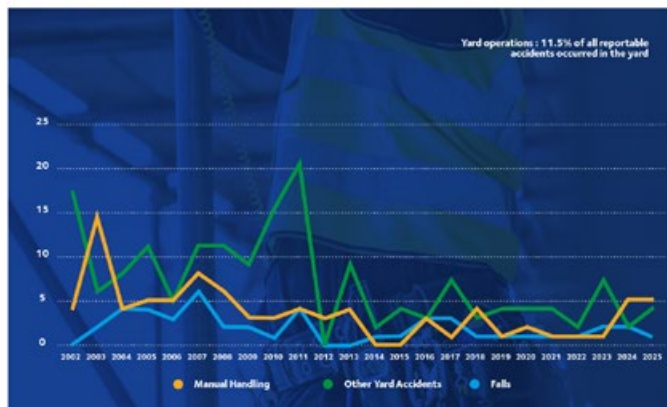
These three were also the most common causes of injury to scaffolding operatives in the previous year’s report.

Slips & trips overtaking manual handling as the most common cause of injury suggests that there are improvements to be made concerning site conditions and that more could be done regarding inspecting the environment prior to starting work. For example, 72% of slips & trips made mention of non-scaffolding materials or environmental hazards as the cause, while only 28% identified the scaffold or scaffolding materials as the cause of the injury.

NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Operatives on Sites



NASC Accident Figures – Causes of Accidents to Operatives in Yards

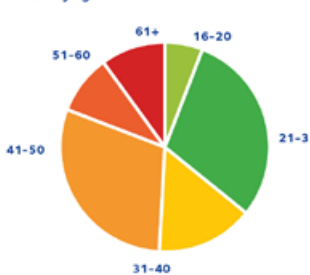


**Age, role and company size**

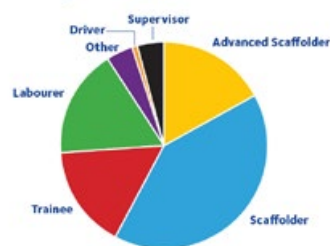
In 2025, both the 21 – 30 and 41 – 50 age groups experienced the most RIDDOR accidents, with 25 incidents each. This was followed by the 31 – 40 age group with 12 incidents, 61+ with 8, 51 – 60 with 7 and 16 – 20 with 5.

Accidents according to role appear to map on to existing CISRS data, with the exception of trainees trending slightly higher. CISRS stated that in 2025 the percentage of

Accidents by age



Accidents by role



Company size	Ratio of RIDDORS to workforce
1 - 20 (VERY SMALL)	1.60
21 - 50 (SMALL)	1.52
51 - 100 (SMALL - MEDIUM)	1.44
101 - 200 (MEDIUM)	1.63
201 - 1000 (MEDIUM - LARGE)	0.27
1001+ (LARGE)	0.21

CISRS cards in the UK scaffolding industry were as follows: Advanced 23%, Scaffolder 44%, Trainee 9%, and Labourer 24%.

The ratio of the number of RIDDORs according to company size is shown in table above.

The categories very small; small; small to medium; and medium contribute approximately 50% more RIDDOR accident reports than would be expected for the proportion of their workforce. In comparison, the categories medium; medium to large; and large contribute approximately 75% fewer than would be expected for the proportion of their workforce.

Differences in the organisational structure between the smaller and larger companies could be one reason behind this disparity. Larger companies are more likely to have dedicated safety teams, access to more resources, and greater levels of supervision and management over their workforce.

David Brown, President of NASC, commented: "Reaching more than 20,000 operatives within NASC membership is a major milestone and reflects the trust placed in NASC standards, guidance and training throughout the industry."

"The findings within this report reinforce the importance of maintaining focus on the key causes of injury within our industry, particularly slips and trips, manual handling and falls from height. These remain the areas where continued vigilance, training, supervision and adherence to guidance are essential."

"NASC's Technical and Health & Safety Committees continue to develop practical guidance, training resources and campaigns that help members reduce risk and improve performance on site."

"Over the past year, NASC has continued to evolve the way we support the industry. Our goal remains clear: to provide members with the tools, knowledge and leadership needed to deliver safe, professional scaffolding operations."

"What continues to set NASC apart is our commitment to standards and accountability. NASC remains the only UK scaffolding trade body to independently audit all contractor members against stringent membership and compliance criteria. The strong safety performance outlined here is a reflection of that commitment and highlights the professionalism demonstrated every day by our members and their operatives."

Read the full report here: <https://nasc.org.uk/insights/safety-reports.html>

# IF YOU WORK WITH SYSTEM SCAFFOLDING, TG30 WORKS FOR YOU.

**TG30 delivers the future of system scaffolding design  
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Developed by NASC with leading system scaffolding manufacturers to meet The Work at Height Regulations 2005, TG30 provides clear, concise, site-specific information for scaffolders and scaffold inspectors.

For everyone working with system scaffolding, TG30 provides industry-recognised benchmarks for compliance and cost control in a single platform.

**TG30 THE FUTURE OF  
SYSTEM SCAFFOLDING**



# GEORGE ROBERTS:

## FROM MERSEYSIDE DEPOT TO GLOBAL POWERHOUSE

Over the course of three decades, one North West entrepreneur has transformed a regional hire and sales operation with modest beginnings into the UK's largest independent scaffolding supplier, while earning a reputation as one of the sector's most respected figures.

The name George Roberts (North West) Ltd - now widely recognised through its GR+ branding - is synonymous with deep stockholding, technical reliability and a supply model built around speed. From its base in Netherton, Liverpool, the business has grown into one of the UK's leading independent scaffolding hire and sales specialists, serving contractors across housebuilding, infrastructure, rail, marine, industrial, defence, oil and gas, and export markets worldwide.

The business was incorporated in July 1992, at a time when independent supply could still give contractors a genuine competitive edge. George Roberts built the company around a simple proposition: hold comprehensive stocks, move fast, and make sure customers can get what they need when they need it. In a sector where programme slippage quickly turns into cost, that responsiveness became a major differentiator and helped the company establish long-standing customer relationships that have endured through multiple market cycles.

Operating in an industry where project delays eat directly into a contractor's bottom line, Roberts built his reputation on immediate availability.

That customer-first approach drove steady expansion. Over time, the company outgrew its earlier footprint and developed its Liverpool operation into what it now describes as a 'super depot', with around £27 million of traditional and system scaffolding stock ready for rapid dispatch and nationwide delivery within 48 hours. Alongside tube, fittings and boards, the range now extends across access and temporary works products including system scaffold, stair towers, temporary roofing, light access equipment and associated accessories, giving the company the ability to support both routine site demand and highly specialised project requirements.

### Combining scale and specialism

As the business matured, it sharpened its focus on technically demanding and logistically complex sectors. Today the company supplies projects across construction, rail, marine, industrial, nuclear, defence and energy, combining high stock availability with a strong in-house HSEQ culture. It has a long list of accreditations, including full non-contractor membership of NASC - credentials that matter in a market where quality assurance and compliance are central to supplier selection.

The rebrand to GR+ helped modernise the outward face of the company, but the underlying proposition remained consistent: total reliability of supply. That combination of stock depth, product breadth and technical support



has allowed the business to operate at scale. By 2024, the company was turning over more than £50 million, with the strength of the brand underpinned by long-term relationships and a disciplined approach to stockholding and service.

The company's reach now extends far beyond Merseyside. Its export operation serves customers around the world, while major UK projects have showcased the kind of specialist capability that sets it apart. At Tidworth and Bulford, for example, George Roberts supported major Ministry of Defence accommodation works, including the supply for a temporary roof installation measuring 52m x 42m with an unsupported span of 38.5m at the centre section - at the time described as the UK's largest temporary roof installation.

Elsewhere, its materials and systems have supported secure restoration work at HMNB Portsmouth and emergency stabilisation projects closer to home, reflecting a business that is as comfortable responding to urgent local requirements as it is servicing large, planned programmes for tier-one contractors.

# BIRDCAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR TG30

NASC's TG30 system scaffolding platform has been updated with a new release, expanding its coverage to include a comprehensive range of birdcage configurations for cup, wedge and rosette systems.

It is highly significant that several of these configurations have never previously been available in any form; not in TG30, and – crucially – not in manufacturer user manuals.

Until now, scaffolding contractors needing compliant solutions for these birdcage setups would have had no choice but to commission bespoke design every time. That process is costly, time-consuming and a barrier to efficient project delivery. This update removes that barrier entirely.

The update introduces TG30 compliant birdcage solutions across five distinct configurations, all available for cup, wedge and rosette systems. These cover freestanding birdcages, birdcages tied or butted in one direction, birdcages decked at the top two lifts, fully decked birdcages, and birdcages decked at the top lift with perimeter decking at all other lifts.

The operational guide has also been updated to support these new configurations, ensuring users have clear practical guidance alongside the new compliance sheets.



Mark Collinson

Mark Collinson, Head of Technical at NASC, said: *"This update will make a genuine difference to scaffolding contractors working with system scaffolding.*

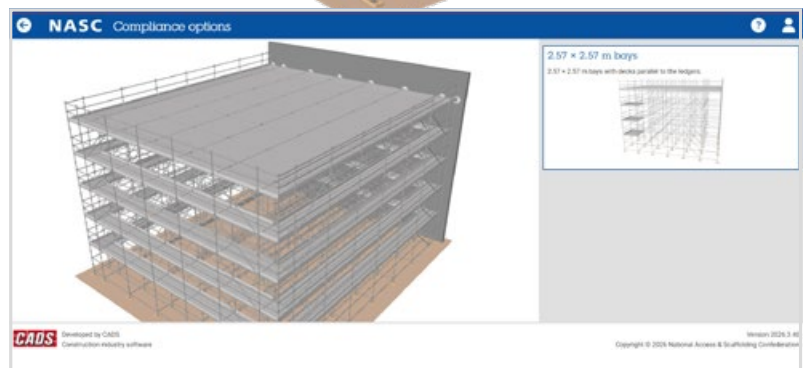
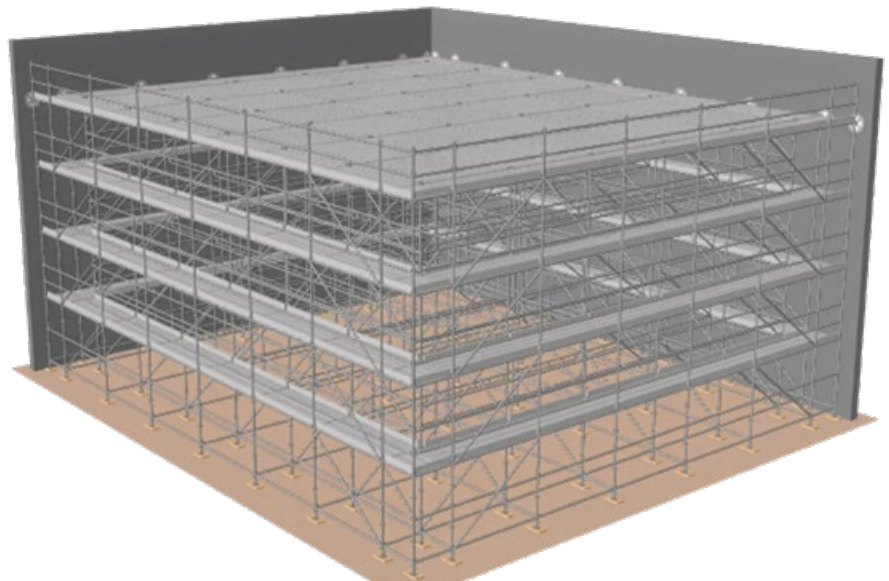
*"Many of these birdcage configurations were not previously covered anywhere, which meant bespoke design was the only option. Having them available as TG30 compliant solutions removes*

*that burden, saves time and cost, and ensures contractors can proceed with confidence that they are working to the recognised industry standard.*

*"The update was all about internal birdcage functionality; previously we only had fully tied or fully butted birdcage options with only the top lift boarded.*

*"The new features mean that the birdcage options are a lot more useful, particularly on internal works where access to perimeter walls and ceiling areas with one birdcage scaffold are commonplace.*

*"The new multi-decked level layouts feature checkerboard decking pattern (where required) to optimise the loading*

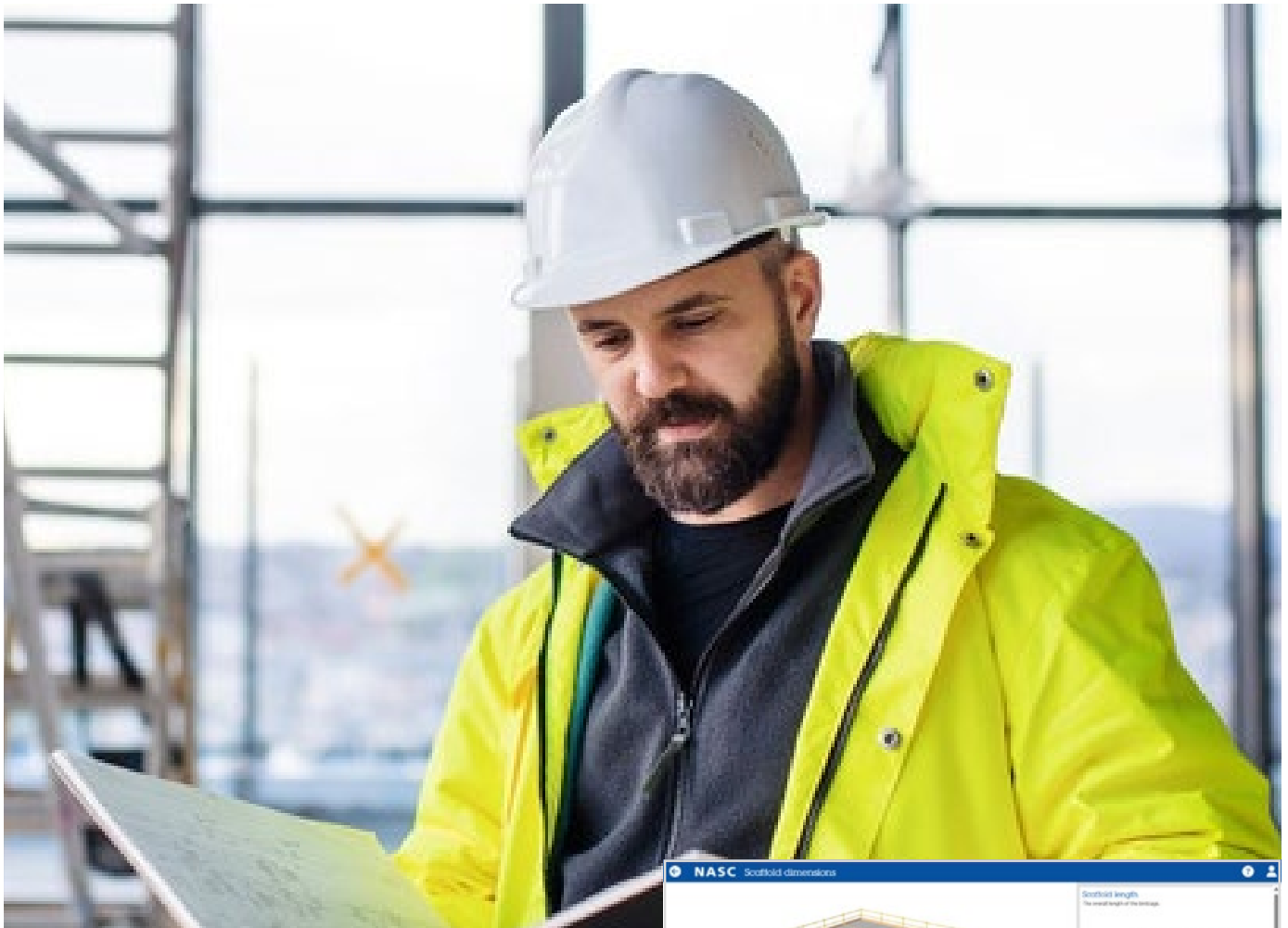


*capacity of the platform. They also feature the most engineering efficient brace pattern taking account of any ties and butting."*

## TG30: the bigger picture

TG30 is NASC's dedicated guidance suite for system scaffolding and has been developed to give system scaffold users the same level of structured, recognised support that TG20 has long provided for tube and fitting scaffolding. At its core, TG30 helps contractors, designers, principal contractors and clients establish when a system scaffold can be treated as a standard configuration, and when a bespoke design is still required.

The suite brings together an Operational Guide, a Design Guide and an eGuide. The Operational Guide sets out practical requirements for planning, erecting, altering, inspecting and dismantling system scaffolds. The Design Guide explains the engineering principles and limitations behind the standard configurations. The eGuide then allows users to generate TG30 compliance sheets for scaffolds that fall within the permitted parameters. Those sheets provide clear, project-specific information such as scaffold type, loading, tie requirements, bracing arrangements and other key details needed to demonstrate compliance.

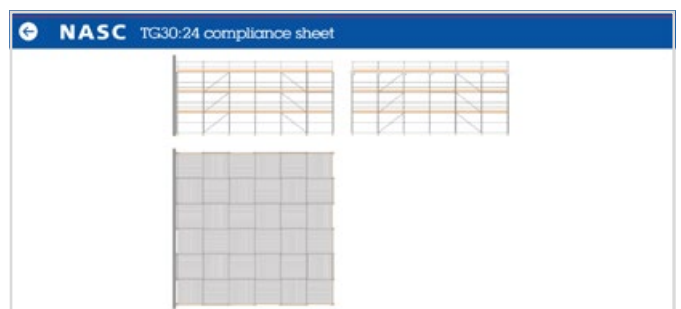
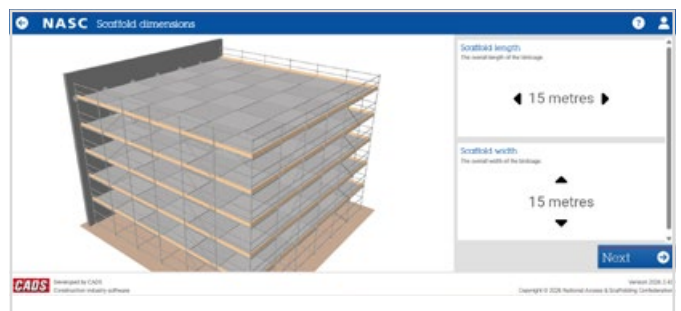
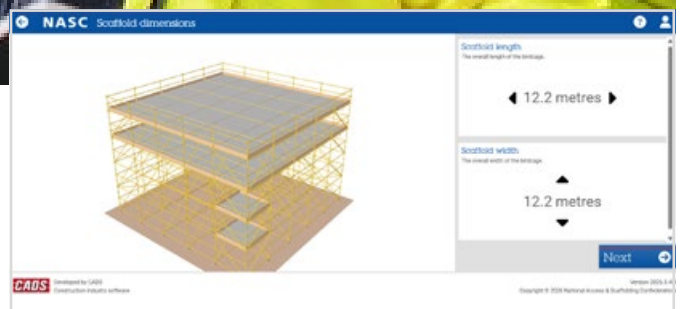


That matters because UK work at height rules require scaffolding to be erected to a design with calculations unless it conforms to a generally recognised standard configuration. In practical terms, TG30 gives the system scaffolding sector a recognised route for proving that many commonly used arrangements have already been checked and verified. Where a scaffold sits inside TG30's scope, contractors can avoid unnecessary bespoke design, while still giving clients and site teams the documentation they need before work starts and during inspection.

Different manufacturers, connection types and product families can make compliance checks more complex than with traditional tube and fitting scaffolding but TG30 helps bring consistency to that process. It gives contractors a common framework, helps principal contractors check proposals more quickly, and supports better conversations between scaffolders, temporary works teams and clients. It also supports efficiency: fewer routine jobs need to be referred for one-off engineering input, and compliant scaffolds can be planned with greater confidence from the outset.

TG30 has vastly reduced the need to work through manufacturer manuals to check basic compliance details, because a TG30 compliance sheet can be issued and checked against the scaffold on site.

Access the full TG30 guidance suite and compliance sheets at [nasc.org.uk/nasc-portal.html](http://nasc.org.uk/nasc-portal.html)



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# SCAFOM-RUX DELIVERS MANCHESTER'S TALLEST GROUND-BASED SCAFFOLD

In the heart of Manchester's financial district, a major high-rise development is setting new benchmarks for construction scaffolding in the UK. For this complex inner-city project, Prime Scaffold Design engineered the hoist tower, while Scafom-rux supplied the RINGSCAFF modular scaffolding system to build the 140-metre-high structure.

Construction began in September 2023 with demolition and enabling works. Within 26 months, work progressed to level 14 of the above-ground structure, while a three-storey basement and extensive internal fit-outs up to level 12 took shape below. With the concrete frame advancing floor by floor, the 140-metre hoist tower is already playing a central role by providing vital access for both personnel and materials as the building rises.

*"The hoist tower is a critical element of the project,"* explains Mark Gaffney of Kinlan Scaffolding. *"It will service all floors and has been designed to safely carry loads of up to 10 kN per square metre. With over 20,000 RINGSCAFF components totalling around 100 tonnes, the structure demonstrates the versatility and strength of modular scaffolding systems."*

## Perfecting the scaffold design off-site

The scaffold design had to meet demanding technical requirements, from its self-weight and live loads to anchoring in tight urban spaces with challenging ground conditions. Early-stage collaboration between Scafom-rux and Kinlan Scaffolding allowed a trial section of the tower to be built off-site to refine the design and ensure seamless integration with the trades on-site.

*"Material delivery and logistics posed significant challenges due to the restricted city-centre site,"* adds Andrew Gee from Scafom-rux. *"By staging deliveries via Kinlan's yard on the outskirts of Manchester and lifting materials with tower cranes, we ensured efficiency while meeting all project deadlines."*

## How to anchor a 140 metre hoist tower

The scaffold assembly required a dedicated team on-site, typically two to four scaffolders, supported by engineers and site personnel. The hoist tower reaches an impressive 140 metres, and achieving this height posed particular



Andrew Gee, Scafom-rux, and Mark Gaffney, Kinlan Scaffolding, in front of the 140-metre-high RINGSCAFF hoist tower

challenges, as the scaffold had to be carefully anchored with pre-installed ties to ensure stability while safely carrying materials and personnel throughout the building.

David Rogerson from Prime Scaffold Design, responsible for the scaffold engineering, explains: *"The ties were a little out of the ordinary, so we worked with the concrete contractor to look at casting anchors. The solution was to install the ties ahead of the scaffold, so when Kinlan and the team progressed with the scaffold, the anchor point is right where we need it."*

Despite the complexity, early milestones, such as completing the basement deck and installing the hoist, were achieved on schedule. Project Manager John Holden of Domis Construction comments: *"The building will be one of the most striking glass façades in Manchester. Incorporating the historic Sir Ralph Abercromby Pub into the scheme added complexity, but we managed to progress without delays."*

## The monster of Manchester

The project aims for completion of the concrete frame by December 2026, with overall delivery scheduled for September 2027. *"Manchester's tallest ground-based scaffold shows what careful planning and close collaboration can achieve,"* concludes Andrew Gee. *"It's a high-profile, technically challenging project, and we are proud to be part of it. The monster of Manchester, as we call it."*

As the building continues to rise, it stands not only as a record-breaking structure but also as a showcase of technical expertise and teamwork in one of the UK's most challenging urban construction sites.

# PAG

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# YOUTH EMPLOYMENT REFORMS: A NEW RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR SCAFFOLDING?

The scaffolding sector has long understood the challenge of bringing new people into a skilled, safety-critical trade. Employers need reliable entrants, structured training routes and early exposure to real site environments. At the same time, Government is attempting to tackle a growing national problem: too many young people are not in education, employment or training (NEET), while industries such as construction continue to report skills shortages.

The Government's Youth Guarantee, first set out in the Get Britain Working White Paper, is intended to bring these agendas together. Its aim is simple in principle: young people should have access to learning, employment support, apprenticeships, training, work experience and careers guidance before they drift into long-term inactivity. For scaffolding employers, the reforms are worth watching because they may open new routes into recruitment, work experience and funded skills development.

The programme is being tested through Youth Guarantee trailblazer areas, including the East Midlands, West Midlands, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, West of England, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and two areas in London. These areas are trialling more joined-up local support, bringing together employers, colleges, careers services, Jobcentres and local authorities. The purpose is to identify young people at risk of becoming NEET earlier and help them progress into work, apprenticeships or further training.

One of the most significant elements for employers is the Jobs Guarantee. This provides paid six-month work placements for eligible young people who have been receiving Universal Credit and have struggled to move into earning or learning. The scheme is being expanded to include eligible 18 to 24 year-olds, with Government funding intended to reduce the financial risk for participating employers. For labour-intensive trades, this could become a useful bridge between work experience and a longer-term apprenticeship or employment offer.

Alongside this, the Youth Jobs Grant offers a further incentive. Announced as part of the wider youth employment package, it provides £3,000 to employers recruiting eligible young people aged 18 to 24 who have been on Universal Credit and looking for work for six months or more. While detailed delivery arrangements will matter, the direction of travel is clear: Government wants employers to take a more active role in creating first-step opportunities.

Apprenticeship reform is another relevant area. From April 2026, Government announced full funding of apprenticeship training costs for apprentices aged 16 to 24 employed by small and medium-sized businesses. For scaffolding contractors, many of whom operate as SMEs, this could reduce one of the key barriers to taking on younger entrants. Foundation Apprenticeships may also provide a staged route into construction for those not yet ready for a full occupational apprenticeship, although scaffolding is not currently in scope.



PICTURE CREDIT: Simian

Work experience is also being pushed higher up the agenda. Government has signalled ambitions for thousands of additional work experience opportunities and expanded sector-based Work Academy Programmes. For scaffolding, this matters because the trade is often misunderstood by young people, parents and teachers. Structured, well-supervised workplace exposure can show the discipline, safety culture, teamwork and career progression that sit behind professional scaffolding.

Skills Bootcamps add a further practical dimension. These short, employer-designed programmes, usually lasting up to 16 weeks, are intended to give adults job-ready skills in sectors with recruitment demand. Construction is one of the priority areas, and scaffolding has already seen sector-relevant activity through partnerships involving NASC, City & Guilds Training and CISRS-accredited provision. Funding support for approved scaffolding training can make upskilling more accessible and help employers address skills gaps without relying solely on traditional recruitment.

For the industry, the opportunity is not simply to wait for Government schemes to deliver candidates. Scaffolding firms, training providers and representative bodies will need to engage locally, explain the trade clearly and help shape provision so that it reflects real site requirements. That means speaking to colleges, Youth Hubs, mayoral authorities, Jobcentres and careers teams, as well as offering safe and meaningful work experience where possible.

The scaffolding sector has a strong story to tell, and if the Youth Guarantee and associated reforms are implemented effectively, they could help more young people see scaffolding as a skilled career rather than a fallback option.

The key message for employers is to prepare early. Monitor local Youth Guarantee activity, speak to training partners, assess where apprenticeships or Bootcamps could support workforce planning, and consider whether work experience can be offered safely and professionally. The firms that engage first are likely to be best placed to turn policy into practical recruitment advantage.

# NASC LAUNCHES TEACHER TOURS



PICTURE CREDIT: Artem Maltsev-unsplash

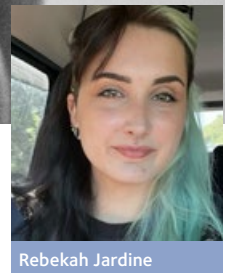
NASC has launched a new national pilot initiative designed to give teachers, careers advisers and employability professionals a direct experience of the modern scaffolding industry.

Teacher Tours invites educators into NASC member workplaces to see first-hand what the scaffolding and access sector looks like today; the safety standards, the career progression opportunities, the entry routes and the qualifications available. The aim is simple: the better informed that educators are regarding scaffolding as a career, the more likely they are to recommend it to young people.

The programme is already up and running, with a number of events confirmed across the country this summer. Enigma Industrial Services is hosting tours in Derby on 25 June and Newton-le-Willows on 16 July, each running from 10am to 12pm. In Wales, CWIC Scaffolding Academy in Swansea is hosting a session on 30 June in partnership with Centregreat Engineering and CITB, with capacity for up to 45 attendees.

Rebekah Jardine, Careers Executive at NASC, said: *“Teacher Tours is about changing perceptions of our industry. When educators come and see the scaffolding and access sector for themselves, they go back to their schools and*

*colleges fully informed of what a career in scaffolding looks like. That is how we help shift the dial on the skills shortage.”*



Rebekah Jardine

Teacher Tours sits alongside the NASC Work Experience Pledge as part of a broader push to strengthen the pipeline of talent into the scaffolding sector. While the Work Experience Pledge focuses on giving unemployed adults and career changers direct access to the industry, Teacher Tours targets the professionals who shape career decisions long before young people enter the jobs market.

NASC is also developing a suite of careers and engagement resources to support both educators and member companies, covering everything from how to deliver careers talks and host site visits to working with schools and running work experience programmes effectively.

With a skills shortage that could see around 40,000 vacancies across the sector, initiatives like Teacher Tours are an important part of the long-term solution. If your organisation is interested in hosting a Teacher Tour or finding out more about getting involved, **CLICK HERE**.

## EXTREME PLEDGE FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

NASC member Extreme Scaffolding has booked their first WEX Pledge site visit for 30 June, with 10 young adults going to spend a day in the yard where they will experience yard operations work and spend time with the estimator and with the project manager.

Remarkably, Extreme has committed to delivering this initial site visit day once a month for the rest of the year - so at minimum that will be 50-60 out of work adults getting a taste of the industry through the company.

Extreme is also open to offering further work experience placements to any outstanding candidates from that day. This first placement has attracted candidates from Job Centres across North Essex, Letchworth and Hertfordshire.

Sean Doyle Scaffolding has also got involved. The company

has offered a starter of two 10-person site visit days, with then a number of two-week work experience opportunities, with people taken from the first attendance cohort. These will be throughout August.

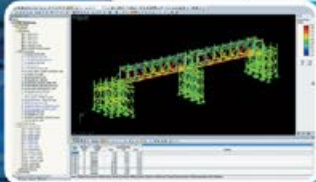
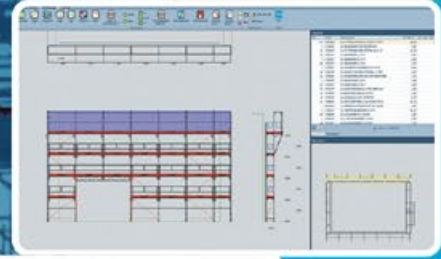
NASC's Work Experience Pledge, in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), encourages employers and organisations to commit to opening their workplaces to young people through structured and meaningful experiences.



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