

Scaffolding Insider

NEWS | FEATURES | COMMERCIAL | HEALTH & SAFETY

AUGUST 2025

DOING THE HARD YARDS

Why yard management is the foundation for success

ALL SET FOR SCAFFEX

Previewing the exhibition and conference

AUDIT CHANGES

NASC refines membership standards

SCAFFEX25

MANCHESTER 11-12 SEPT

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MANCHESTER CENTRAL 11-12 SEPT 2025

ScaffEx is back. With a bigger and bolder event bringing together the scaffolding and access world for a two-day exhibition and conference showcasing the latest products and innovations across the industry, ending with the **Scaffolding Excellence Awards 2025**.

The exhibition and conference are free to attend and offer an unmatched opportunity to learn and network.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Issue 20 of Scaffolding Insider marks a first for us: this issue is being printed for the first time, in limited numbers, for distribution at ScaffEx25. So if you have a physical magazine in your hands as you read this, consider yourself a pioneer!

We have a large ScaffEx25 feature on pages 8-11, including the complete conference timetable and the complete floorplan. To people of a certain age, like me, having something like this in front of you on paper might be very welcome – but I know there is also an excellent app available to help you navigate around the two-day event. Let me know which you prefer. I'll be around for both days, reporting on the exhibition, conference and awards in the September issue, as well as taking a small space in the exhibition itself, so please do come and talk to me about your ideas for what you might like to see in the magazine. That includes talking about your own brilliant projects, people, products and services.

The exhibition is shaping up to be an outstanding space for speaking to some of the key players in our sector, and trying out brand new products which are launching at the event. The conference programme looks fascinating and wide-ranging, with some excellent speakers and discussions planned. Have a look at our preview, make sure you have your free ticket, and start planning now.

Our cover story this month looks at the subject of yard management. While it is, of course, the scaffolding work itself that is usually the focus of attention in case studies in magazines like this, it can only happen as part of a much broader process. Central to that process in literally every job is the scaffolding yard. Progress on how yards are managed has been enormous over the last couple of decades – not least because, as one of our contributors points out, larger clients insist on audits as part of the contract, and yards are a central part of that.

But the benefits of good yard management are so much more than this: it is integral to every aspect of the business. We speak to a highly regarded and experienced yard manager on pages 13-15 and look at a range of angles around the issue.

We have our usual news stories, including a report on NASC's changes to its all-important audit process (see page 17).

I hope you enjoy the magazine, whether in digital or printed form – and if you're at ScaffEx and have an idea for an article or some feedback on the publication, do come and find me.



Nick Campion
Editor

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ACCELERATION PLAN

The Government says that first-time home buyers and local communities will reap the benefits as Britain's broken planning and development system is 'rewired' to accelerate infrastructure delivery and homebuilding while safeguarding the environment under the Plan for Change.

Environmental planning reforms will be backed by £500 million, which includes funding for the Government's flagship Nature Restoration and Marine Recovery Fund schemes and funding to build capacity in the planning system. This will help to process planning applications faster and help developers bring their projects to life, without compromising on environmental protections. The Government says this will ensure 1.5 million homes are built and 150 planning decisions on major infrastructure projects are fast-tracked by the end of this Parliament.

The Lower Thames Crossing will become the first major UK infrastructure project to have one lead environmental body in charge. A clear, single point of contact will cut the time it takes to secure planning permissions and approvals for large-scale developments, boosting project certainty and minimising costs and delays.

The Government says communities across Britain will

benefit from new transport, energy and housing schemes sooner, thanks to a new dedicated body that will address planning issues early to keep critical projects on track.

The Defra Group Infrastructure Board will help accelerate the planning process for at least 50 major infrastructure projects, including Hinkley Point C, East West Rail and Heathrow expansion.

Early oversight will help to identify challenges such as those faced by HS2 in building the bat tunnel, meaning that for future similar situations alternative solutions to meet environmental obligations can be explored earlier in the process – ensuring proportionate decisions are made and reducing costs and delays.

Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary Angela Rayner said: *"We have been stuck with a status quo that has stopped us building the homes we need, and has done nothing for nature's recovery."*

"Communities deserve better. This is another step towards our 1.5 million homes Plan for Change target which will restore the dream of homeownership, end the housing crisis, and boost economic growth across the country."



Angela Rayner

INDUSTRIAL ACTION AT SELLAFIELD



Unite the Union, representing over 1,500 construction workers across 34 contractors at the Sellafield nuclear site in Cumbria, has confirmed a wave of industrial action amid disputes over pay and allowances.

Sellafield workers have been enacting work-to-rule from 23 August after voting overwhelmingly in favour of industrial action. The action comes as a result of a dispute in which Sellafield workers are not being paid equally compared to workers at other nuclear sites, including Hinkley Point C.

Employers have so far refused to provide specific allowances to Sellafield workers, such as nuclear profession status or hazardous environment pay, whereas Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C both offer these benefits.

Criticism has also been levelled at Sellafield employers for union-busting, including refusing to release union reps in meetings, cancelling site meetings with trade unions, and deducting the wages of reps.

HIRING PLANT – AND STAFF

Lynch has launched a new labour supply division providing operatives to Tier 1 and Tier 2 infrastructure contractors across the UK.

Lynch Labour will add to the company's established plant hire offering as the industry continues to struggle to attract skilled workers.

Lynch has set-up a dedicated labour delivery team which is experienced in sourcing, vetting, and mobilising candidates. The pool of operatives includes a range of trades but not currently scaffolders.

CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE SHRINKS

In the second quarter of 2025, the UK construction workforce shrunk to its lowest level for a year, according to the latest employment data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

There were 2,064,084 workers in the construction sector in the second quarter of 2025, with over one-third self-employed.

The size of the workforce remained 12.2% lower than in pre-pandemic Q2 2019, with 287,898 fewer workers. Compared with Q2 2008, just before the start of the global financial crisis, the workforce has shrunk by more than 417,000 workers.

TOO HOT TO WORK?

Scaffmag is reporting that scaffolders could be given the right to stop work during extreme heat under plans being developed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The proposals are aimed at protecting manual workers from heat stress, and would require employers to carry out formal heat stress assessments when temperatures hit a certain level. Employers would also need to provide more frequent breaks, access to shade and drinking water.

Unions are pushing for a legal maximum of 27°C for manual labour, a move that would set a clear cut-off point for high-risk outdoor work such as scaffolding. The Met Office does not publish data for days above 27°C but does share data for days above 30°C, of which there have been 11 in England this summer alone. This would suggest that there are likely to have been considerably more above 27°C, representing a real headache for scaffolding firms, and the construction industry at large, were this proposal to be implemented.

BACKGROUND PICTURE CREDIT: JPLUDIO

MACE BOOKED IN



Developer Mitsui Fudosan UK Ltd has chosen Mace as construction manager for the £1.1bn British Library extension project at St Pancras in central London.

Construction is due to start on site in 2026 once detailed design is complete and planning conditions met. The work is expected to take around six years to complete.

Plans include a 100,000ft² extension to the British Library, comprising new spaces to enhance the Library's public service offer, and more than 600,000 ft² of commercial facilities and integration of Crossrail 2 infrastructure.

VINCI BOUNCES BACK

Vinci's combined UK construction operations bounced back into the black with a £64m pre-tax profit last year, from a £6.4m loss in the previous year. Strong performances from its highways, materials and civil engineering businesses drove the recovery at the group.

Revenue, including joint ventures, across the five main operating businesses rose 7% to £2.45bn.

However, the overall result was tempered by heavy provisions against legacy risks in the building and facilities businesses, linked to historic fire safety claims, fixed-price contracts, and PFI disputes.



Currently, UK law sets a safe minimum workplace temperature of 13°C for strenuous work, but there is no legal maximum. The revised guidance, last updated in 1992, is expected to stop short of setting a binding maximum temperature, but would give stronger direction to employers.

A spokesperson for NASC said: *"We all need to recognise that environmental challenges are growing and that this is likely to result in more instances of extreme weather including heat waves and hotter summers. Good safety guidance should absolutely take care of staff and should consider all aspects of health and safety."*

"Guidance on working at temperatures would be a good addition - it's something we don't have. We'll look to work with the relevant union to create something that works well for all parties."

CONSTRUCTION WARY OVER AI

Construction companies are investing in AI, cybersecurity and cloud platforms, but most are still in the early stages of their digital transformation journey, according to a new survey.

The 2025 State of Technology in Construction report found that 82% of respondents said their organisation has an AI strategy, but most are still at the entry level, using AI in limited ways rather than integrating it into strategic decision-making.

Almost three-quarters plan to invest in cybersecurity in the coming year, yet 80% of executives said their firm had experienced a data breach in the past 12 months.

EMPLOYEES FUNDING OWN TRAINING



PICTURE CREDIT: Pexels

New data from occupational safety and health company Astutis has revealed that a growing number of UK employees - currently 10% - are funding their health and safety training from their own pockets. Their research suggests half of British workers surveyed also say that health and safety training is skipped due to a lack of time at work.

The report, which surveyed 920 workers, also found that nearly a third of UK workers said that their employer's training budget was insufficient for their role or risk level.

Steve Terry, Managing Director of Astutis, said: *"When workers are reaching into their wallets for absolutely critical training, it's a wake-up call."*

SARNZ BOSS TO LEAVE



Tina Wieczorek

A familiar and respected presence at NASC events, the head of Scaffolding, Access & Rigging NZ Inc (SARNZ) is to leave her role in October after four years in charge. Tina Wieczorek will step down as chief executive on 1 October, the trade body confirmed.

SARNZ Board President Paul Cunningham said: *"Her leadership has been nothing short of transformative. Her dedication, drive, and*

unwavering commitment have not only put SARNZ firmly on the map but have seen us punching well above our weight in influence, visibility, and impact."

Ms Wieczorek is credited with strengthening ties between the scaffolding, access and rigging sector in New Zealand and the wider construction industry, as well as championing members' interests and raising professional standards.

STOCKPORT MILESTONE



Stockport Council and its development partner ECF have secured planning permission for the £250m Stockport 8 scheme, marking a major milestone in the town's £1bn regeneration push.

The 8-acre neighbourhood will see around 1,300 homes built alongside new shops, leisure, offices and public squares on land either side of King Street West, next to the historic viaduct and new interchange.

INDUSTRY VIEW

This month, Paul Allen, MD of scaffolding company Allen & Foxworthy Ltd, gives his view about mentorship in the industry.

As an experienced Managing Director within the scaffolding industry, I've come to believe that mentoring young scaffolders isn't just good practice, it's essential for the future of our trade. With an ageing workforce and a demand for competent leadership on site, the only way to ensure quality and safety is by helping to develop the next generation of site foremen.

We've made it a priority to identify potential leaders early. That doesn't just mean the ones who are quick on the tools, but those who show a willingness to take responsibility, think ahead, and support their fellow scuffs.

Mentoring them doesn't stop at toolbox talks or helping them with their portfolios, it means being present, offering honest feedback, and allowing them space to learn.

A high percentage of our workforce remain with us for



Paul Allen

years (decades in some instances) as we have shown there is career progression here. It's very important to me to reward those who are loyal and willing to listen. One of the most effective things I've done is spend time on site with our younger operatives. Not to manage but to observe, watching how they plan the build and handle pressure, and how they represent our business when dealing with the client. Having one of your scaffolders respond to unexpected challenges tells you far more than a CV will.

When one of our scaffolders, Scott McNab, whom I had earmarked as being a future foreman for us, handled a complicated scaffold ahead of programme and managed a team with confidence and clarity, I knew he was ready to take on more. We gave him the opportunity to shadow an experienced team on historical restoration projects and it wasn't long before he was running smaller jobs on his own with great success. Once he completes his CISRS SSSTS and Advanced course he will become lead foreman on the same projects he was nurtured on.

We can't expect good leaders to appear out of nowhere. It's up to us to create the conditions for them to grow. That means providing mentorship, managed exposure with the freedom to lead, whilst knowing they have senior management's support behind them at all times. We can't be their safety net of course, but as per that famous phrase: 'With great power comes great responsibility', the mindset of a leader gives you razor sharp focus.

If we all commit to this across the industry, we'll inspire not just individuals, but the entire standard of scaffolding supervision in the UK.



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SCAFFEX25: WELCOME TO THE DEMO ZONE

One of the most exciting new additions to the ScaffEx exhibition for 2025 is the Demo Zone, which across the two days will host a range of new product launches from the likes of Layher, Leach's and NASC itself.

NASC is unveiling the latest iteration of TG30, its ground-breaking software for creating compliant designs for system scaffolding. Launched in pilot form at ScaffEx24 in Belfast, TG30 is NASC's flagship guidance for system scaffolding, doing for system what TG20 has done for tube and fit. NASC is delighted to be unveiling the latest stage in its phased roll-out, with lots of new features and benefits available to users.

Headline sponsor **Layher** will also have plenty of new products on show. It will be using the Demo Zone to showcase SIM2FIELD XR, a new app for Apple and Android tablets that presents scaffolding plans and supports work preparation, assembly and monitoring. The app displays 3D scaffolding models and includes a 3D viewer and AR mode for projecting models into reality—either full-size or scaled—for presentations or assembly monitoring overlays.

G-DECK will showcase three key solutions through full erection displays: the Low-Level Trestle System for quick ground-level assembly, stability and ideal for tasks close to the ground; the High-Level Trestle System for safe and compliant elevated access; and the G-DECK Platform System, featuring rapid installation and high load capacity.

Leach's is showing off its BIGBEN SuperHoard system and ScaffDeck. SuperHoard is an easy-to-use, recyclable PVC system installed directly onto traditional or system scaffolding, providing secure, reusable hoarding without carpenters or timber. Meanwhile, ScaffDeck is the world's most advanced, fully modular, suspended access system, available exclusively through Leach's. It can be built elevated or at ground level, and is engineered to increase safety, reduce construction times and provide flexible solutions for offshore platforms, high-elevation structures and complex bridge maintenance.

Baton is an all-in-one cloud-based software solution that provides an end-to-end workflow for scaffolding companies.



Achieve greater resource control, increased efficiency, improved accuracy, effortless scalability and stronger profitability with real-time management through your device on site.

Pilosio will be showing off its FlyDeck suspended access system, which it describes as a 'unique, lightweight, underslung modular system ideal for bridges, viaducts and aging structures'.

ScaffCycle is the UK's first dedicated digital marketplace for buying and selling used scaffolding. The platform streamlines equipment reuse by enabling users to list, discover and negotiate scaffold sales quickly and securely. Supporting freight and finance through trusted partners, ScaffCycle reduces waste by keeping quality materials in circulation. This demonstration will showcase the complete user journey—from uploading listings to managing offers.

The SMART Team will demonstrate the brand-new SMART Forms application, launching at ScaffEx25, which supports multiple form types and features an AI-powered engine to digitise existing forms within hours. The complete SMART Scaffolder suite empowers scaffold businesses through software supporting the entire lifecycle from estimate to completion. Features include rapid 3D modelling, BIM integration, automated load lists, drawings, and quotations, plus mobile applications for handovers, inspections, variations, and off-hires.

As compliance and safety have become the top priority for key contractors over the past decade, there has been greater focus on ensuring scaffold structure safety. Mobile phones have emerged as essential tools for recording construction information. **Staht** has developed a digital pull tester with an accompanying app and dashboard to record and share tie test results with managers, customers and stakeholders.

SCAFFEX25

MANCHESTER 11-12 SEPT

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NASC's show-only offers

Come and visit the NASC Buzz van: as well as a good opportunity to catch up with Phil, Lloyd and the NASC team, there will also be the chance to:

- Save 50% on any new ePortal subscriptions for TG20, TG30 or the combined package registered at the van
- Save 50% on any additional purchases made through the eshop if purchased at the van
- Be paid £250 (via vouchers) for Referring a Friend. If you know an eligible scaffolding contractor or supplier that isn't currently a member and they successfully apply for membership, we'll send you a finder's fee of £250.

Just by coming to meet the team at the van and getting your badge scanned you'll be entered into a prize draw to win some special prizes.

www.nasc.org.uk

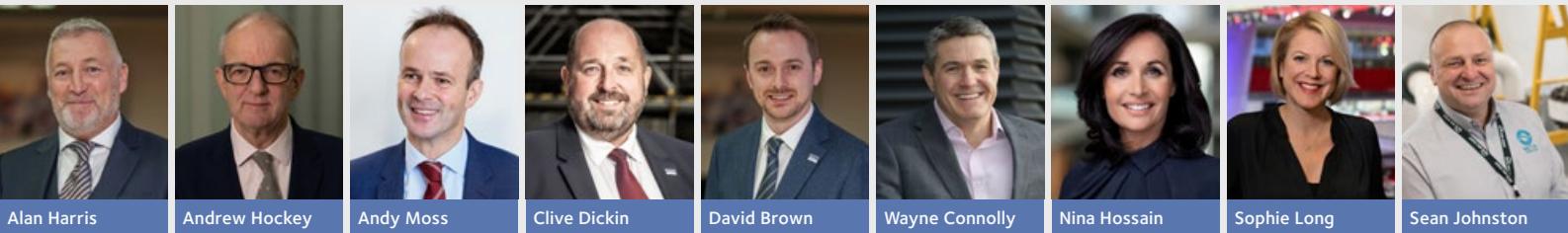

Entrance



The Corfield Collection

While the theme for ScaffEx25 is the Future of Scaffolding, 2025 is NASC's 80th anniversary and the organisation is acutely aware of the need to celebrate its heritage and acknowledge how the industry has transformed since 1945. Keen to celebrate the history of the entire industry, this year at ScaffEx there will be an opportunity to turn back the years with a first-time display of a unique collection of scaffolding memorabilia, pulled together by Buckley Design's Paul Corfield.

From some of the first ever advertisements for tubular scaffolding to early spanners, to early NASC documentation and Yearbooks, the collection contains items covering all aspects of the industry. It will be displayed at ScaffEx for the first time. Amid all the focus on technology, innovation and the future, it will be a great opportunity to indulge in some nostalgia for a lost world.



CONFERENCE: THE FUTURE OF SCAFFOLDING

Building on the foundation of 80 years of NASC being at the heart of the industry, the two-day ScaffEx Conference will be very much focused on looking forward.

The Mayor of Salford City, Paul Dennett, will open the event with a keynote address, while speakers from across the industry will address the industry's most critical issues from a range of perspectives. Speakers include scaffolding business leaders such as Pro-Fix Access's CEO, Alan Harris; Peter Cullen, GKR's Health and Safety Director; Leach's Head of Marketing David Bezant; and Luis McCarthy, CEO, JMAC.

There is also a session focused on the importance of mental health and wellbeing, with former Everton and England footballer, Trevor Steven, now heading up Mindflow, a charity focused on supporting mental health in construction. He will be joined by Matt Hartill, Head of Wellbeing and Mental Health Support, Brand Access Solutions.

The conference will be looking at new technologies and innovations with a deep dive into how artificial intelligence

(AI) is already reshaping the scaffolding and access sector and the major changes that are still to come. It's got to the point where no business can afford to ignore it any more.

Delegates will also hear about the future of training and education with speakers from City & Guilds, NASC, the ECITB, and an overseas perspective from the New Zealand market. The Conference will also look at how industry training is changing, including the role of digitalisation with perspectives from both employers and trainers. There will also be a major discussion of the current experience for those joining the industry in 2025 and what they see as the major challenges and opportunities for the future.

For any scaffold, there is always a client and the conference will hear from a range of expert scaffolding buyers looking at the future of the procurement process and why it matters to be engaged with your supply chain. There will also be a discussion of the role of ESG and net zero and how this may affect the industry over the coming years.



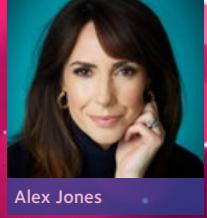
PICTURE CREDIT: Hala Alghanim



PICTURE CREDIT: Surya Prasad

PICTURE TO COME

Leigh Francis



Alex Jones



Clare Balding

A night with the stars

The stage is set, the stars are booked, the companies have been shortlisted, and tickets are flying out. The Scaffolding Excellence Awards is always a big night for the industry, but in 2025 it may be the biggest night yet. To an already stellar cast of Leigh Francis, Alex Jones and Clare Balding have been added rugby legend Mike Tindall (back for a second year) and Manchester royalty Shaun Ryder. But for all the line-up of celebrities helping us celebrate, the real stars of the show will be those people and projects shortlisted for an award. Good luck to all those who have made it onto a shortlist.

Get your tickets while you still can at:
<https://nasc.org.uk/nasc-ball-information/>

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THE FUTURE OF SCAFFOLDING

Built around the theme of 'The Future of Scaffolding', ScaffEx25's conference will feature two days full of insights and inspiration across the scaffolding and access sector – jointly hosted by leading broadcast journalists, Nina Hossain and Sophie Long. Register for free at <https://nasc.org.uk/product/scaffex25-conference-pass/>. Below is the programme as it stands at the time of publication.

Thursday 11 September 2025

10:30 SESSION 1: THE FUTURE OF SCAFFOLDING – KEYNOTE

Paul Dennett, Salford City Mayor, followed by a panel discussion.

11:30 BREAK

12:00 SESSION 2: THE FUTURE OF YOUR BUSINESS

To scale or not to scale: Small is beautiful vs. big is best
 Alan Harris, Chief Executive Officer, Pro-Fix Access
 Peter Cullen, Health and Safety Director, GKR Scaffolding

How to pick the best marketing approach for your business

David Bezant, Head of Marketing, Leach's

In conversation with:

Speaker to be confirmed

Panel discussion

13:00 LUNCH

14:00 SESSION 3: THE FUTURE OF SAFETY – GETTING IT RIGHT WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

Learning from disaster: PR, reputation management and the role of social media
 Luis McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer, JMAC

Mental health and wellbeing and its impact on a safe work environment

Trevor Steven, CEO, Mindflow
 Matt Hartill, Head of Wellbeing and Mental Health Support, Brand Access Solutions

In conversation with:

Eddie Tuttle, Director of Policy, Research and Public Affairs, CIOB

Panel discussion

15:30 BREAK

16:00 SESSION 4: THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION – USING AI TO BOOST YOUR BUSINESS

AI and the future of scaffolding

Clive Dickin, Group Chief Executive Officer, NASC & CISRS

The American experience of AI in scaffolding

Speaker to be confirmed

AI and productivity

Ciaran Boyd, Managing Director, Footprint

Q&A

17:00 DAY 1 CONFERENCE CLOSE

Friday 12 September 2025

10:00 SESSION 5: THE FUTURE OF WORK: THE ROLE OF TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN RECRUITING, RETAINING AND MOTIVATING YOUR TEAMS

Delivering skills for the Sector

Andy Moss, Chief Customer Officer, City and Guilds

Getting recognition for the role of soft skills in training
 David Crowley, Board member, SARNZ

Training as a tool for recruitment and retention

Andrew Hockey, Chief Executive Officer, ECITB

Careers: engaging and attracting new talent in scaffolding and access

Rebekah Jardine, Careers Executive, NASC

Training and the future of work: panel discussion

NEW ENTRANTS PANEL: EARLY EXPERIENCE IN THE SCAFFOLDING INDUSTRY

11:30 BREAK

12:00 SESSION 6: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CISRS update

Wayne Connolly, President, NASC and Chair of CISRS board

CISRS centre development

Sean Johnston, Director, NETA

CISRS quality assurance training

Speaker to be confirmed

The mentoring approach to apprenticeship

Speaker to be confirmed

Panel discussion

13:00 LUNCH

14:30 SESSION 7: THE FUTURE OF PROCUREMENT – THE BUYER'S PERSPECTIVE

Net zero in scaffolding and access: turning sustainability into a competitive advantage
 David Brown, Managing Director, IBN Scaffold Access

Panel: Shaping the future of scaffolding and access procurement

James Butcher, Executive Director, National Federation of Builders (NFB)

Clare Jones, Group Procurement Director, Mace

Further panellists to be confirmed

Watch out for more speaker announcements in the coming weeks.

16:00 CONFERENCE CLOSE



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- Professional indemnity insurance
- Management liability insurance

DOING THE HARD YARDS

Effective management of scaffolding yards is crucial for the construction industry. Scaffolding yards serve as the central hub for storing, maintaining and distributing scaffolding materials, and proper management of these yards ensures not only the safety and efficiency of construction projects but also the longevity and reliability of the scaffolding equipment.

Industry experts say that you can tell if a scaffolding contractor has the right safety culture by how well the office and yard are managed. On their own premises, they are the principal contractor, and any non-conformances in the yard directly reflects negatively on them.

Yard management includes the inspection of scaffolding components for damage or wear before being sent out to job sites. This includes checking for rust, cracks or other signs of deterioration that could compromise the integrity of the scaffolding. By maintaining a rigorous inspection and maintenance schedule, scaffolding yards can significantly reduce the risk of accidents on construction sites.

Efficiency is another critical aspect of good scaffolding yard management. Construction projects usually operate on tight schedules, and any delays can lead to increased costs and missed deadlines. Efficient management of scaffolding yards ensures that materials are readily available when needed, reducing downtime and keeping projects on track. This involves organising the yard in a way that allows for easy access to materials, implementing inventory management systems to track the availability and condition of scaffolding components, and coordinating with construction teams to anticipate their needs.

Good management practices in scaffolding yards can lead to significant cost savings. Proper storage and maintenance of scaffolding materials extend their lifespan, reducing the need for frequent replacements. This not only saves money but also minimises waste, contributing to more sustainable construction practices. Well-organised scaffolding yards can reduce the time and labour required to locate and transport materials, further lowering operational costs.

Effective scaffolding yard management also involves adhering to regulatory standards and industry best practices. Compliance with safety regulations is both a legal requirement and a moral obligation to protect workers. Scaffolding yards must stay up to date with the latest safety guidelines and ensure that all materials and practices meet these standards. This includes proper labelling and documentation of scaffolding components, maintaining clear pathways and signage in the yard, and providing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for yard workers. Regular audits and inspections can help ensure compliance and identify areas for improvement.

Having the right Yard Manager is critical, so Scaffolding Insider spoke to one of the best in the business – and one of the most modest: he asked not to be named. Our expert has worked for one of the leading names in the industry for the best part of 35 years, with 20 of those as Yard Manager.

He briefs all yard operatives regularly on the company's yard operations manual and gives them weekly toolbox talks,

as well as always being out in the yard ensuring everything is being done right. He also oversees auditors' visits over 20 times a year

All information, including the operations manual, and NASC guidance is saved in a folder in the yard canteen for easy access. This includes the following – all important in a yard:

- NASC-SG40-20 Scaffolding yard operations
- NASC-TG5-24 Timber scaffold boards - BS 2482-2009
- NASC-TG6-22 Care and maintenance of scaffold boards
- NASC-TG7-21 Scaffold nailplates
- NASC-TG10-21 Flame retardant treatments for timber scaffold boards
- NASC-TG11-20 Stress corrosion cracking in high tensile steels and alloys
- NASC-TG17-22 Identification of EN74-1 couplers
- NASC-TG25-21 scaffold tube storage racks

The experienced yard manager explains: *"When I first started 35 years ago, the yards then were crazy – dangerous, disorganised, you'd have to move stuff every time you wanted to get something. But people got on with it.*

"So I tried to organise it how I organised my jobs on site – I just like to know where things are, how to get to them and that it's clean and tidy. It took a long time to get it done but we did. People started taking on board that the yard was as important as the scaffolders outside.

"Most yards are a lot better now because if you want to win the big work, you get audited, and you have to improve the yard in order to pass the audit. That is an economic driver as well as a practical one – the quicker we can turn around the equipment coming in and going out, the quicker the work is done.

"It's a busy place: it feels like a merry-go-round and it never stops; you have to be on top of it all the time. I believe that as a yard manager, you have to be out there in the yard all the time, seeing things come in and go out. You've got to be with your men in the yard, sharing your knowledge and getting stuck in – they follow what you do, listen to you, and respect you. Yard staff have to listen and be prepared to evolve. Once you've got good people, as I have, you hold onto them. Workers in the yard don't get the respect and the recognition they deserve – it is hard and important work.

"For me, being a good yard manager is down to experience and evolution. Over time you encounter problems, you work out how to overcome them, and you find a solution – and then that solution might stick and improve your process. It's constantly evolving as you never stop seeking improvement.

"The evolution of my yards means we can now unload and load six to eight trailers a day – it's a lot of work but it's doable. We count everything off, and the scaffolders have

been taught to put the tube on properly tied, so we can pick it off using forklifts. Fittings go in tonne bags. This all means we can unload trailers eight times quicker than without these systems. For this to work, everyone's got to be on board."

Facilities Management

Yard management is also about facility management – and the yard manager often must do this too, including managing, arranging inspections, including recording them and expiry dates (examples below):

- Yard scaffold weekly inspections
- Compressor inspections
- Oil tank inspections
- Machinery inspections
- LEV (local exhaust ventilation) inspections
- RPE inspections
- Shunter, forklift maintenance and LOLER inspections.
- Air conditioning inspections
- Emergency preparedness inspections, including spill kit tests
- Fire alarm tests, weekly and monthly inspections and emergency evacuation drills
- Electrical inspections, including PAT, and 5 year electrical inspections



Mark Collinson, Head of Technical at NASC, says that the impact of the yard can be far-reaching into the whole ethos of the company: "A well-managed, well-organised yard that consistently sends out high-quality equipment sets the tone for the standard of work scaffolders deliver. When scaffolders receive reliable, serviceable kit that's delivered on time and properly stacked and arranged on the vehicle, it shows in the quality of the scaffold they build.

"On the other hand, if they're given sub-par materials, such as seized fittings, bent tubes or split boards, it's easy for their mindset to become, 'Why should I care about quality if no one else does?'. This is also cyclical: when scaffolders are supported with good quality deliveries, they're more likely to return gear in an organised way that helps yard staff, thus keeping the whole system running smoothly."



TECHNOLOGY AND YARD MANAGEMENT

The market is full of software providers offering tools for scaffolding companies to manage every aspect of their business, including the yard. Some of the main ways to maintain a strong yard management operation include using software such as:

Digital Inventory Management Systems

These systems use barcodes, RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) and QR codes to track and manage scaffolding components. By scanning these codes, workers can quickly and accurately update inventory records, monitor the movement of materials, and ensure that all equipment is accounted for. This reduces the risk of lost or misplaced items and streamlines the process of checking in and out equipment.

Automated Maintenance Scheduling

Automated maintenance scheduling software helps ensure that all equipment undergoes regular inspections and maintenance. These systems can generate alerts and reminders for upcoming maintenance tasks, track the history of each piece of equipment, and provide detailed reports on the condition of the scaffolding materials. This proactive approach minimises downtime and prevents potential accidents caused by faulty equipment.

GPS and Telematics

GPS tracking allows managers to monitor the location of vehicles and equipment in real time, ensuring efficient use of resources and reducing the time spent searching for specific items.

Drones for Inspection and Monitoring

Equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors, drones can quickly survey large areas, capturing detailed images and videos of the yard. This technology allows for remote inspections, reducing the need for workers to climb scaffolding structures and minimising the risk of accidents.

Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)

AR and VR technologies are making their mark in scaffolding yard management by providing immersive training experiences and enhancing safety protocols. AR can overlay digital information onto the physical world, helping workers identify hazards, follow safety procedures, and navigate the yard more effectively.

Smart Equipment

Smart scaffolding equipment can communicate with management systems and provide real-time data on usage, wear and tear, and environmental conditions. Sensors embedded in scaffolding components can detect structural weaknesses, monitor load capacities, and alert managers to potential safety hazards.

Cloud-Based Collaboration Platforms

Cloud-based platforms enable real-time sharing of information, documents, and updates among team members, regardless of their location. These platforms facilitate better coordination, streamline workflows, and ensure that everyone is on the same page. Features such as task management, progress tracking, and instant messaging enhance productivity and reduce the risk of miscommunication.

SG40:20 Scaffolding Yard Operations

NASC has produced comprehensive guidance for managing the scaffolding yard. The invaluable SG40: 20 document contains information such as:

Understanding Workplace Hazards

Scaffolding yards are rife with potential hazards, including:

- **Safety Hazards:** Inadequate machine guards, unsafe workplace conditions, and unsafe work practices.
- **Biological Hazards:** Exposure to viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites.
- **Chemical Hazards:** Risks from solids, liquids, vapours, gases, dust, fumes, or mists.
- **Ergonomic Hazards:** Strains from repetitive and forceful movements, awkward postures, and improperly designed workstations.
- **Physical Hazards:** Noise, vibration, energy, weather conditions, heat, cold, electricity, radiation, and pressure.
- **Psychosocial Hazards:** Overwork, stress, bullying, and violence.

Risk Management Strategies

Effective risk management is crucial in mitigating these hazards. NASC recommends conducting comprehensive health and safety risk assessments. These assessments should identify potential risks and implement control measures to eliminate or minimise them. Communication of these assessments to all employees and contractors is vital.

Manual handling requires particular attention. Employers must conduct risk assessments and avoid tasks that could result in injury. The use of a written Yard Operations Manual can help retain essential company knowledge and ensure consistent safety practices.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE is a critical component in safeguarding workers against health and safety risks. Employers must assess the need for PPE through risk assessments and ensure that suitable equipment is provided, maintained, and used correctly. NASC recommends five-point PPE, including hard hats, high-visibility clothing, gloves, safety footwear, and eye protection.

Optimising Yard Layout

A well-planned yard layout balances storage space and working space, facilitating efficient operations. Key areas include receiving new stock, unpacking, packing, transportation, hire and sale stock, usable stock, equipment maintenance, administration, and welfare facilities. Implementing a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) can minimise interactions between mobile plant and personnel, reducing the risk of injury.

Plant and Equipment Management

Proper management of work equipment, including scaffolding, hand tools, machines, and lifting equipment, is essential. Regular inspections and maintenance by competent personnel ensure that equipment remains safe and functional. Forklift trucks, in particular, require thorough examinations and training for operators to prevent accidents.

Environmental Protection

Environmental protection measures, such as the proper storage and inspection of intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) and bunded



fuel tanks, are crucial. Regular inspections and compliance with legislation help prevent leaks and spills, protecting both the environment and human health.

Waste Management

Effective waste management involves segregating waste into hazardous, non-hazardous, and inert categories. Recycling and reusing materials can significantly reduce landfill waste, protecting profit margins and addressing sustainability concerns.

Inspection, Maintenance, and Storage of Scaffolding Material

Regular inspections and maintenance of scaffolding materials, including boards and fittings, ensure their safety and usability. Proper storage practices prevent damage and maintain the integrity of the equipment.

Workplace Signage and Communication

Clear and effective signage is essential for communicating safety information and directing personnel. Signs should comply with health and safety regulations and be prominently displayed to warn of hazards and provide instructions.

Provision of Workplace Welfare Facilities

Providing adequate welfare facilities, such as toilets, washing facilities, drinking water, and rest areas, is fundamental to safeguarding workers' health and wellbeing.

Emergency Arrangements

Employers must develop and communicate emergency plans to handle foreseeable emergencies, such as fires, spills, and first aid incidents. Regular drills and training ensure that all personnel are prepared to respond effectively.

Statutory Compliance

Compliance with health and safety legislation is a legal duty for employers. This includes maintaining records of accidents, fire management, fall arrest systems, water hygiene, electrical testing, and more. Regular inspections and adherence to regulations ensure a safe working environment.

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AUDIT PROCESS SEES SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

NASC is making a number of important changes to its audit process. These include:

- **Audit findings – risk-based approach**

Currently audit findings are shown as "Compliant" or "Non-compliant" – but this has no measure regarding how important the findings are, nor is there any requirement to respond to findings by investigating and implementing corrective actions. In future, the findings raised will be graded:

- Major non-conformance
- Minor non-conformance
- Advisory
- Conforming.

The main criteria that will be used to categorise findings will be:

- Is the integrity of the scaffold highly uncertain with a high potential for failure?
- Is there a very high risk of a safety breach?
- Are there a high number of repeated findings across the company?

NASC will also be introducing random audit visits or site observations during the year. The timing of these visits will be influenced by the outcome of the member's previous audits.

- **Feedback on Findings**

Each finding will require a plan of action to prevent recurrence, and this must be sent to NASC within two weeks of receiving the audit report. The action plan must identify:

- The immediate correction taken
- The "Root Cause" and actions to ensure it does not recur.



- **Audit Cycle**

NASC's present audit cycle is a desktop audit one year followed by a site audit the next. This will now change, depending on the outcome of the previous audit. Changes will include the implementation of a follow up site audit within the year to reassess major findings, and a year later to examine minor findings.

- **CISRS Card Requirement**

NASC Contractor membership requires a 90% carded workforce with 50% qualified over a 12-month rolling average. If a member is not compliant, it must have a plan of action on how compliance is to be achieved in a realistic period. The 90% carded workforce must hold one of the following CISRS cards: Scaffolding labourer; Trainee scaffolder; Scaffolder; Advanced scaffolder.

- **System Scaffolding and Training**

There has been an increase in the use of system scaffolding by members, and the training is not always at the required level. If members do not have enough trained operatives, the equipment must be stored, and not be used until training has been completed.

TRANS-ATLANTIC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE SECTOR

NASC and the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), formalising a partnership that will unite the strengths of the leading scaffolding and access organisations in the UK and North America. This strategic agreement reflects both organisations' commitment to enhancing safety, training and innovation within the global scaffolding and access sector.

Under this MOU, NASC and SAIA will jointly pursue initiatives that include:

- Sharing best practices in training and education across the UK and North America.
- Exchanging insights on scaffold and access equipment testing procedures to enhance safety.
- Promoting efficient, risk-mitigated scaffolding and access structures.
- Exploring mutual recognition of membership and educational standards across borders.

Clive Dickin, CEO of NASC, who also spoke at the SAIA Conference, said: "This exciting partnership will deliver huge benefits to NASC and SAIA members as well as benefitting the global scaffolding and access sector. Both organisations



are committed to driving up quality and improving safety standards around the world."

Mike Bredl, SAIA President, said: "The partnership between SAIA and NASC is a powerful commitment to the safety, education, and empowerment of the men and women working on jobsites around the world. By combining our expertise to deliver world-class training, promote best-in-class safety practices, and drive innovation in access and scaffolding solutions, we are laying the foundation for a stronger, safer, and more unified industry."

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM CITB

CITB can help you access up to £100,000 of funding for training to improve your business. The Leadership and Management Development Fund for large businesses will enable large construction companies (with over 250 directly employed staff) to invest in developing the leadership, management or supervisory skills of their workforce.

The fund will support a wide range of leadership and management development activities, including external or in-house training programmes, recognised leadership qualifications, development of new content or improvements to existing bespoke leadership training resources. It can help you improve an existing programme, develop a new one, try a new delivery method or simply repeat an existing training programme to new cohorts.

All training or related activity must focus on the development of management, leadership, or supervisory skills. This should be aimed at delegates whose primary role is as a manager, leader, or supervisor, or someone being developed to step into that role in the near future.

This funding opportunity will allow you to deliver training to your team, based exclusively on your business needs.

It is worth noting that this fund does not support any activity already funded under the grant scheme or other funding routes.

Who can apply to the Leadership and Management Development Fund?

To apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- Your business needs to have over 250 directly employed staff
- You will need to have submitted your most recent Levy return
- All years' levy payments must be up to date

CITB says that Leadership and Management training may still be available to you even if you don't meet the criteria for this fund. Visit CITB's website page for further information: [Leadership and Management training with CITB](#)



How much you can apply for?

The amount of funding you can apply for is determined by the total number of direct (PAYE) staff employed across all large associated businesses within your group.

Entitlements are as follows:

- 250-499 up to £50,000
- 500-999 up to £75,000
- 1,000 or more up to £100,000

CITB is currently accepting applications to the fund. If you are successful, the funding must be used and evidenced within 18 months from the date of the funding agreement, or by March 2027 (whichever is sooner). Funded activity cannot commence until after a successful funding decision has been communicated. Retrospective activity is not fundable.

Find out more at [Leadership and Management Development Fund for large businesses - CITB](#), where there is information about the application process and all the documents you need to read before applying.

CISRS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR EXPERT AUTHORS

Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) has put the call out for freelance writers and reviewers to join the CISRS Authoring Team. This remote, project-based opportunity would begin at the start of 2026.

CISRS is moving away from its previous authoring process, creating a degree of objectivity and independence by taking on a pool of expert freelance authors and reviewers to develop and quality check scaffolding training content. This flexible, remote opportunity is ideal for experienced professionals passionate about improving scaffolding education – from site safety to potential HNC and degree-level modules.

CISRS is recruiting for:

Primary Authors to draft engaging, technically accurate course materials using CISRS templates, with potential to support a higher-level curriculum.

Secondary Reviewers to quality-assure course content, ensuring clarity, accuracy, and consistency with CISRS standards.

Applicants will need the following:

- Advanced CISRS cardholder and/or significant training experience
- Minimum three years in scaffolding or construction education
- Strong writing, editing, and feedback skills
- Comfortable working collaboratively and remotely
- Professional indemnity insurance

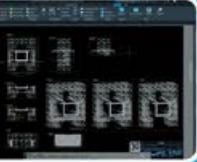
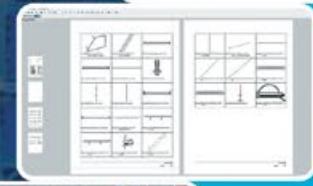
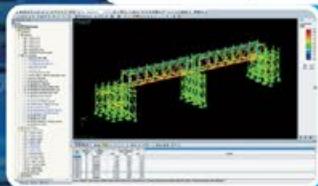
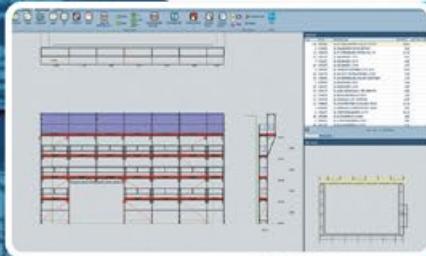


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If you're interested in helping to shape nationally recognised training and to influence future HNC/degree programmes, apply by 30 Sept 2025 by emailing paul.napper@nasc.org.uk with a short statement and CV, putting in the subject line: CISRS Authoring Team Application.

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