

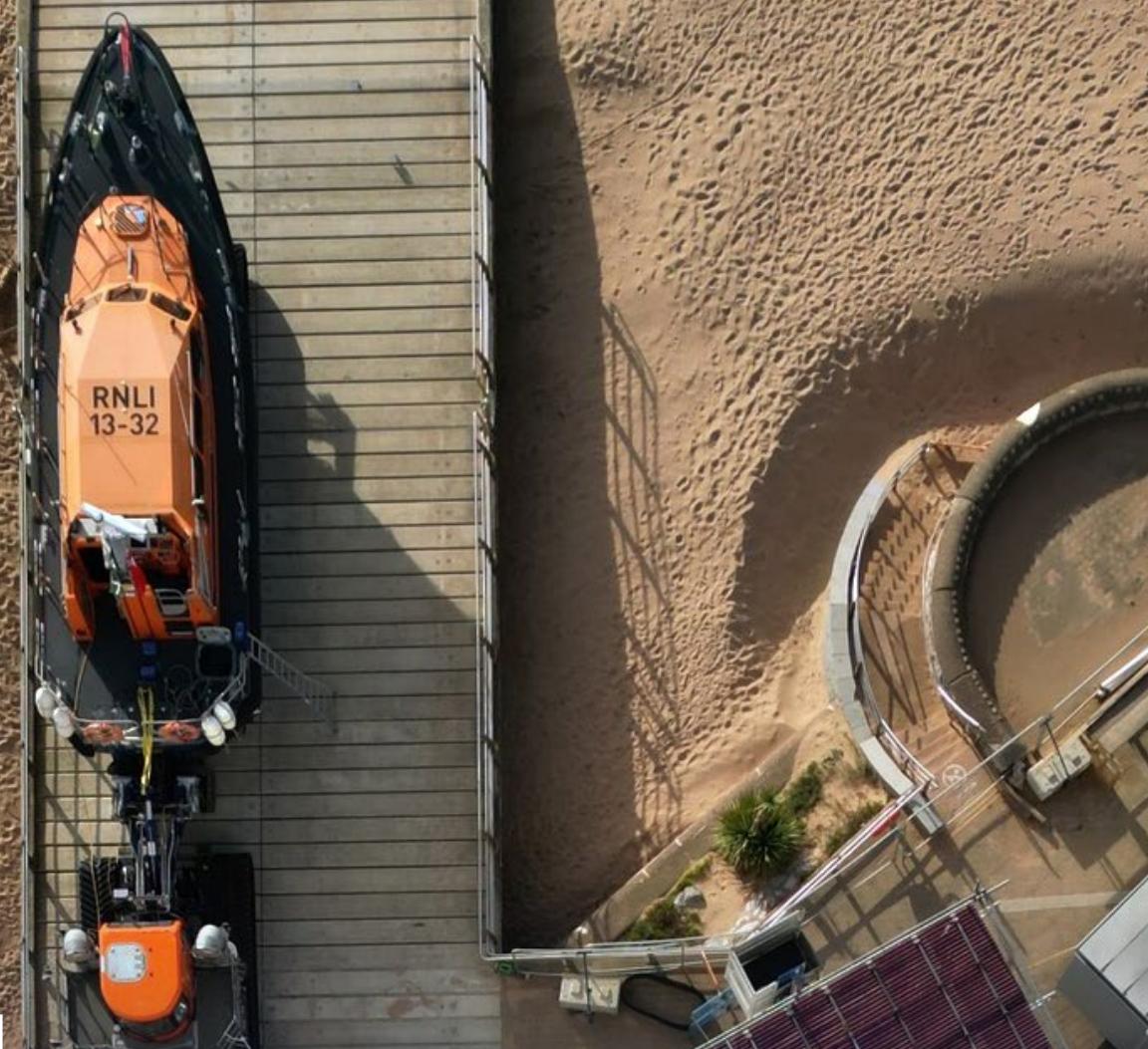
Scaffolding Insider

NEWS | FEATURES | COMMERCIAL | HEALTH & SAFETY

JANUARY 2026

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The projects that defy categorisation



**WAYNE
CONNOLLY**

1970 - 2025

**FIT FOR THE
FUTURE**

**NASC outlines digital
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FROM THE EDITOR

As with everyone in this industry returning to work in January, the shadow of the sudden and untimely death of Wayne Connolly has been ever-present as we put this issue of the magazine together. I experienced the same Wayne as so many others – enthusiastic, interested, supportive, hard-working, respectful, passionate, visionary – and am pleased to devote space in this issue to run his obituary and to capture just a few of the scores of heartfelt remembrances from the online Book of Condolence (pages 7-8).

One of the elements of NASC's development that Wayne was wholeheartedly driving forward was the digitalisation programme. On pages 13-15 of this issue, we bring you the latest news on that and a detailed review of the rationale for the changes. We hear from Clive Dickin, CEO, and Mark Collinson, Head of Technical, as they explain just how NASC and CISRS will use technology to put members ahead of the game. Launches of new websites and apps will come thick and fast this year, starting at the end of this month.

On pages 9-11 of this feature-filled issue, we hear from Carl Morse, Managing Director at ITP Ltd, who explains the importance of authentic testing and certification in meeting fire safety compliance in scaffold and site protection materials. Scaffold sheeting is a critical area of risk, and it is vital that scaffolding companies are completely on top of all guidance and regulations – all of which are explained in the NASC Guidance TG27, which was updated only months ago.

We have a couple of short case studies on pages 17-18, hard to categorise except that they're typical of the unusual jobs that quality scaffolders sometimes get called to deliver. Read about how Apex Scaffolding tackled a job at the RNLI, Exmouth; and Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding's St Erth SUEZ Recycling Project in Cornwall.

Finally, you'll notice we've had a bit of a change-round with the news. NASC News has now moved to the front of the issue, while Industry News becomes just a one-page Industry News Round-up. If you're a newshound, there are plenty of excellent websites delivering daily information from our sector and beyond, so we have decided to now just pull together the month's top stories in brief to ensure everyone can catch up with all the latest news in a matter of minutes.

I hope you enjoy the issue.



Nick Campion
Editor

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LEADERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS ANNOUNCED

Following the awful news of the death of NASC Chairman and President Wayne Connolly, the Boards of NASC and CISRS have confirmed leadership arrangements in accordance with their established governance protocols.

As a result, David Brown, Immediate Past Chair of NASC and CISRS, has resumed the roles of President and Chair. These arrangements provide continuity and stability and reflect decisions already embedded within the organisations' governance framework.

In line with plans agreed at a General Meeting, Sarah Klieve, currently Vice President, will assume the Presidency in June.

David Brown will continue as Chair of the NASC and CISRS Boards until June 2028.

During this period, he will oversee the delivery of the future governance structure and the planned appointment of an Independent Chair in June 2028, a key element of the organisations' long-term governance evolution.

NASC and CISRS Boards have reaffirmed their commitment to honouring Wayne Connolly's legacy by delivering on his clear wishes and designs for the future governance of both organisations. This includes strengthening transparency, representation and independence, while ensuring that NASC and CISRS continue to be led by and for their members.

Speaking on the announcement, David Brown said: *"Wayne was an exceptional leader who cared deeply about this industry and about doing the right thing for its future. While his loss is felt profoundly, the strongest way we can honour him is by delivering the governance reforms he championed and by continuing his work with the same integrity, professionalism and purpose. I am committed to ensuring that Wayne's vision is realised."*

Clive Dickin, Group CEO, said, *"NASC and CISRS remain supported by highly professional Boards, Council and substantial committee structures, all of whom are committed to the development of a strong, credible and highly representative trade association. Together, they will continue to ensure that NASC and CISRS are firmly member-led and focused on raising standards, protecting competence and supporting the long-term success of the access and scaffolding sector."*

NASC'S SAFETY PRESENCE

Safety, Health and Wellbeing Live 2026 (SHW Live) brings together the UK's safety professionals, leaders and stakeholders who are committed to advancing workplace safety standards. Hosted at Manchester Central on 10–11 February 2026, this two-day event is designed to empower regional safety communities with essential education, networking and procurement opportunities.

Attendees can expect keynote addresses from influential figures such as the HSE Chair and leading voices from IOSH, alongside interactive seminars, live demonstrations, and focused sessions on topics like mental health and technological change.

Attendees can also expect to see the NASC team, which is taking the famous Buzz van to Manchester Central and exhibiting at Stand D18. NASC's regular events team of Phil Goddard and Lloyd McKenzie will be present throughout the event, on hand to discuss anything and everything – but particularly to spread the message that main contractors should be using NASC-accredited members in their supply chain in order to ensure maximum safety, efficiency and quality.

NASC will also be demonstrating TG20 and TG30 on the



David Brown



SAFETY, HEALTH & WELLBEING LIVE
MANCHESTER | 10 - 11 February 2026

ePortal. Head of Technical Mark Collinson will be speaking at the event on day two, covering the risks of working at height.

The team will also be providing a live demonstration on TG30 and SG4 Working at Height. NASC's very own Advanced Scaffolder, Lloyd McKenzie, and Scaffolder Adam Wells, will be putting on PPE and showing off their skills, ably supported by Past and Incoming President David Brown, and members from Layher, Leachs, IBN Scaffolding Access and Spanset, who will be supplying system scaffolding and top of the range PPE, including harnesses.

THE TOP FIVE

Starting this month, Scaffolding Insider will run a new feature - 'The Top Five' - each issue on these pages. This will help members to become familiar with the wide range of guidance available from the organisation by picking one document out each issue to highlight its key messages.

This issue, we look at the top five messages from CG27 Third Party Walls and the Scaffolding Contractor:

1. Do not assume a right of access

Scaffolding contractors must not assume they can enter neighbouring land to erect scaffolding. Hirers/customers such as principal contractors should arrange and agree access.

2. Terms and conditions

Scaffolding contractors should also have T&Cs that place responsibility for securing neighbour access on to their customer.

3. Plan and comply with CDM duties

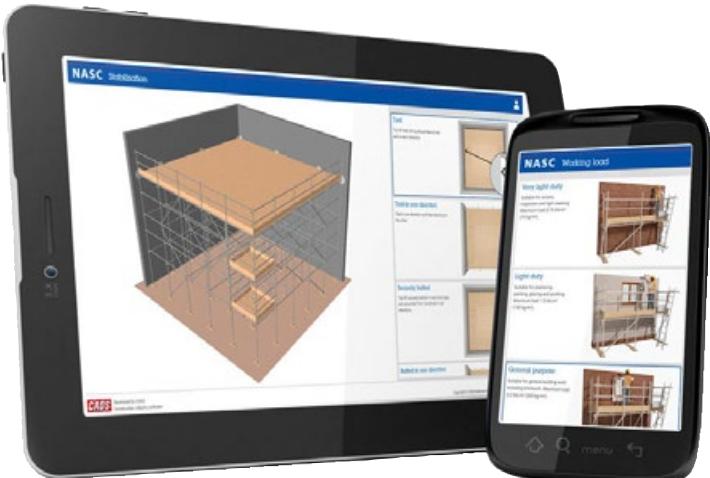
Work must be planned under the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015. Scaffolding contractors need site-specific RAMS, and must coordinate with all other CDM duty holders. They must also understand how CDM domestic client duties may transfer to them.

4. Avoid and manage trespass and safety risks

Do not block neighbours' access or airspace unless agreed in writing.

5. Prevent damage

Don't fix bare tubes against neighbouring property to stabilise the scaffold. Instead use mechanical ties to secure the scaffold. Where there is an agreement to butt neighbouring property, protect the façade e.g. with plastic end caps.



CG27:25



Third Party Walls and the Scaffolding Contractor

Issued - September 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

This guidance has been prepared to enable scaffolding contractors and others to understand their obligations when accessing land belonging to a third party, and their duties under the Party Wall etc. Act 1996 (applicable to England & Wales only) and Access to Neighbouring Land Act 1992.

Scaffolding contractors are usually acting on the instruction of their customer (the property owner) and most litigation is between the owners of the respective properties, rather than the contractors or subcontractors.

However, that does not stop the scaffolder being the "first person on the ground" and being subjected to initial anger from neighbours arriving home to find scaffolding erected on their property. Moreover, scaffolders are often the first to deal with a police presence if tensions escalate (even if the trespass is a civil matter).

Therefore, the NASC recommends that scaffolding contractors ensure that their terms and conditions (T&Cs) are such that they are not responsible for arranging and agreeing access over neighbouring land, and their client or the principal contractor is wholly responsible to have this arranged if required.

There is not always a right to enter neighbouring land. In the event that access is required and denied, it would then be prudent to speak to a specialist surveyor or solicitor.

2. PLANNING REQUIRED BY THE DOMESTIC CLIENT (E.G. HOME OWNER), NEIGHBOUR, PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR, CONTRACTOR, AND LANDLORD

All construction work should be planned in advance in line with the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM).

NOTE: With domestic clients (e.g. home owners), CDM duties normally fall to the contractors on site (see Appendix A). With regard to planning arrangements, typically "neighbour A" would speak to "neighbour B" and ask permission for a scaffold to be erected on neighbour B's property.

In the majority of cases where the neighbours are civil then they would agree terms directly between one another. This may be a verbal conversation.

However, the NASC recommend that this agreement is recorded in writing and provided to the principal contractor or contractor where applicable. Often it is in both neighbours' interests to ensure works can be properly undertaken with neighbour B also benefiting from living next to a well-maintained property.

If access cannot be agreed directly between the neighbours, or there is a misunderstanding of the terms of such access, then a dispute arises and input from a specialist surveyor or solicitor may be required to assist in such matters.

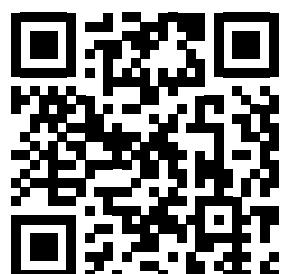


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HOSPITAL PROGRAMME PROMISES WAVE OF WORK

The National Audit Office (NAO) says the Government's reset of the New Hospital Programme has put the programme on a more credible footing, with final hospitals now expected to complete in 2045-46.



For contractors, the reset brings long-term certainty and a stronger forward pipeline, but the NAO warns that the next five years will be critical, with a tight construction schedule and limited contingency leaving little room for early slippage or cost overruns.

But capacity risks remain in key public sector client delivery roles – further evidence of the need for the Government to support sectors such as scaffolding to increase recruits into the industry. The programme currently has a 39% vacancy rate with gaps in digital, commercial and technical skills flagged as a particular risk.

PPE STILL LAGGING BEHIND

Ten of thousands of women across the UK feel unsafe, embarrassed and scared at work because they are forced to wear Personal Protective Equipment designed for men's bodies.

A survey of GMB Union members showed more than 70 per cent suffer from ill-fitting PPE:

- 24 per cent said they felt unsafe to work
- 18 per cent said they couldn't carry out their job
- 58 per cent said they were uncomfortable
- 22 per cent said they felt embarrassed
- 4 per cent said they felt scared.



CONSTRUCTION LOOKING UP

The January Glenigan Construction Index reveals that overall construction performance is starting to improve following a sluggish six months. Projects starting on site rose by 7% in the three months to December, indicating that the sector is starting 2026 on a surer footing.

Glenigan's Economics Director, Allan Wilen, says, "Contractors and subcontractors across the UK will be breathing a sigh of relief that, contrary to expectation and speculation, the sector finished up 2025 on a positive note, buoyed by significant Q4 growth across non-residential verticals, particularly office and industrial."

BROGAN GROUP AND ALIMAK GROUP FORM STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Brogan Group, owner of the CAS Common Tower and Atlas gantry systems, has entered into a strategic alliance with Alimak Group's Construction Division. The partnership brings together Brogan's proprietary CAS technology with Alimak's global sales and rental network.

As part of this alliance, the CAS Common Tower and Atlas gantries will now be available through Alimak's international contracts and operations, working in tandem with Alimak's hoists and transport platforms to create a fully co-ordinated vertical access system.

NORTHERN POWERHOUSE RAIL SCHEME REVIVED

Ministers have pledged to keep the Northern Powerhouse rail scheme within a hard £45bn funding envelope, in a bid to avoid the spiralling overruns that derailed HS2. The Treasury will now release an initial £1.1bn to kickstart detailed planning, design and development work, laying the groundwork for construction to begin in the 2030s.



Heidi Alexander

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander said: *"Northern Powerhouse Rail will deliver faster, more frequent services across the great cities of the North, unlocking jobs, homes and opportunities and creating a world-class growth corridor that people of the region need and deserve."*

CCS CONSIDERS A LARGE LOSS

The latest accounts from the Considerate Constructors Scheme show that the industry standards body has suffered a pre-tax loss of £769,000 – down from a profit of £165,000 last time, despite turnover rising from £5.3m to £5.9m.



The accounts reveal that during the year, remuneration for key management personnel jumped from £399,374 to £598,695. Executive Chairman Amit Oberoi and Chief Strategy Officer Alex Minett left the CCS in August 2025.

SMALL REDUCTION IN ACCIDENTS

The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) annual statistics on work-related ill health and injury for 2024/25 show a small change in the total number of employer-reported (RIDDOR) accidents, with a figure of 59,219 – down 5% from 62,410 in 2023/24.



Of those, 4,684 were a result of a fall from height – down 7% from 5,033 in 2023/24. Non-fatal fall from height injuries account for 8% of all accidents at work reported by employers. This proportion remains the same as previous years.



WAYNE CONNOLLY

1970 - 2025

Manchester Central, the day before ScaffEx25 opened. Everywhere, teams of scaffolders were hard at work putting the finishing touches to their stands. Among them, cutting a striking but slightly out of place figure, strolled Wayne Connolly. Amid the overalls and hi-vis jackets, he was dressed to the nines in full dinner suit in the middle of the day. It's fair to say heads were turned.

Wayne had been recording an opening address for the Scaffolding Excellence Awards and offered to help the film crew create some extra footage they could use. As he followed their lead, someone suggested the inevitable: this was a golden opportunity to create a James Bond-themed social clip to promote the event.

Wayne, as ever, was up for it. Funny, self-deprecating, honest, hard-working, plain speaking and always on the look-out for the next opportunity. This was archetypal Wayne Connolly.

Whether thinking seriously about how to further improve the industry or hamming it up as Bond, Wayne gave everything he had. He spoke a lot about the importance of being open to opportunity and even more about being willing to offer opportunities to others. This was one reason he put so much into all areas of his life. He recognised he had already been presented with some great opportunities and wanted to share his own good fortune with others.

There was a natural entrepreneur in him that not only had this ability to spot a chance but also the drive to execute on an opportunity and turn it into something meaningful. The two successful eponymous businesses he built, first a car maintenance business, which lives on with his name to this day, and the second the hugely successful Connolly Scaffolding, are witness to that. And to the end he was always ready and open for the next opportunity.

At NASC, Wayne was President and Chairman at the time of his sudden death in December 2025, following earlier work as a regional chairman and chair of the membership standards committee. Here, as elsewhere, he helped create space and openings for others.

Wayne was a major driving force behind NASC's new approach and the industry's modernisation programme, including the launch and successful expansion of ScaffEx. He oversaw a major overhaul of NASC's governance and as chair of CISRS, fought hard for the recent improvements and modernisation in education and training for scaffolders.

Wayne was a quiet, effective leader. He didn't need to shout to be listened to, didn't have to raise his voice to be heard. He had that rare talent the best leaders have to instinctively know how to deliver the right message at the right time. And whenever he saw the opportunity to improve something, he took it and delivered.

Wayne Connolly was born in Manchester in 1970 and leaves behind his fiancée, Nicola, three children, three stepchildren, and an enduring legacy.

From the Industry

NASC opened a book of condolences for Wayne, which now contains scores of personal reflections from across the industry and the world.

A small sample is shown here but read more at:
<https://rememberancebook.net/book/wayne-connolly/>

Wayne was a customer of mine for over 10 years, an industry leader, and someone I looked up to as a business mentor. When I first started out, he gave his time and advice freely, often without realising just how much it helped me as a young business owner.

Lee Buckley - Buckley Design Solutions (BDS)

Wayne was widely respected and a driver for positive change in the scaffolding industry. Wayne's legacy will be felt for many years to come through the standards he set, the people he inspired, and changes to NASC and the scaffolding industry over his tenure as President.

Luis McCarthy - CEO JMAC Group

Wayne was honest, forthright, passionate and considerate, he had his opinions yet was willing to listen to others, take on board their thoughts and not afraid to change his own. I always enjoyed our conversations on the industry, he not only listened to what I said but he heard what I meant, that is a subtle but significant thing. He was a true gentleman who will be missed by all those that had the privilege to know him, while his passing is a huge loss to the scaffolding community as a whole.

Alan Slater, Head of Technical & Product Support at TRAD UK

Wayne inspired loyalty amongst his lads, that is the reason there are many lads like myself that have worked for him for years and years. We all knew his door was always open and if you ever had any problems and he could help you, he would. I will never forget the support he gave me when my mum passed away and know many of the lads have been helped by Wayne in similar ways.

Gavin Murphy

His loss has been felt profoundly across the scaffolding industry and beyond. Wayne will be remembered as a true leader and a driving force for positive change. As President of the NASC, he was fundamental in moving the organisation forward under its current expansion plan, helping to shape a stronger and progressive future for the industry. His shared vision, commitment and ability to bring people together were instrumental in advancing standards, professionalism and collaboration. He led with integrity, clarity and purpose, always focused on what was best for the industry as a whole. His influence extended far beyond his role, inspiring confidence and ambition in those who worked alongside him. Wayne's contribution and legacy will not be forgotten.

CCS Scaffolding



Wayne was a true champion of the scaffolding industry, dedicating years to its growth and improvement. His commitment to supporting ex-offenders back into work and his leadership as NASC and CISRS Chairman made a lasting impact.

Andrew Tetlow - Taziker Industrial Services

Spirits were high, the feeling was of great optimism for 2026 but the greatest feeling was one of being one big family. This is the culture that Wayne created, one of belonging, one of working with friends who became family. Wayne was an inspirational leader whose integrity, warmth and unwavering vision shaped every part of Connolly Scaffolding, his drive and determination pushing the Company forwards. Wayne's door was always open, which made him truly approachable, creating an environment where everyone felt valued and heard. His legacy will live on in the standards he set, the opportunities he created, and the countless lives he touched.

Connolly Scaffolding

Wayne dedicated his heart and soul to raising the standards of the global scaffolding industry. When he visited SCEA in Japan, I was struck by his energy as he toured construction sites and manufacturing plants, sincerely striving to understand the current state of our industry. I will never forget the time I took him to a local Japanese izakaya—the kind of humble spot tourists never find. He gave me such a warm smile and said, "This is exactly the kind of place I wanted to visit." Sharing sake with him remains one of my most cherished memories.

Yasuo Toyosawa, President, Scaffolding and Construction Equipment Association of Japan (SCEA)

I'm deeply saddened by the passing of our President, Chair and friend, Wayne Connolly. Wayne was an exceptional Chair – inspirational, driven and wholly committed – but above all he was a kind and generous man. His leadership, integrity and warmth made a profound impact on me and everyone who had the privilege of working with him. He was not only a highly respected colleague, but a valued friend, and his loss is felt deeply by us all. On a personal level, I am utterly devastated by Wayne's passing. My thoughts are with Nicola and the entire Connolly family at this incredibly difficult time. Wayne's contribution, character and legacy will not be forgotten.

Clive Dickin, Group Chief Executive Officer, NASC

SCAFFOLD SHEETING: FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY



Carl Morse

Carl Morse, Managing Director at ITP Ltd, explains the importance of authentic testing and certification in meeting fire safety compliance in scaffold and site protection materials.

The construction industry has entered a new era of more robust oversight under the new Building Safety Regulator. A range of duty holders, from principal contractor to designer, are now under more scrutiny to ensure

that buildings meet fire safety compliance. This is a welcome development, but the same scrutiny needs to be applied to safety on active construction sites. The design of scaffolding is one area that requires greater clarity and a more joined-up approach in meeting fire safety compliance. Widespread misunderstanding and misinterpretation of standards is resulting in many developers and contractors operating on site without knowing that their scaffold solutions are not compliant with relevant regulations.

Scaffold sheeting is a critical area of risk. When it comes to assessing fire safety in scaffold sheeting, flame retardancy is the defining metric. It's important to recognise the difference between flame-retardant and flame-resistant/flame-proof. To be considered flame-retardant, a material must self-extinguish within a certain time when flame is taken away; the material does not contribute to the fire and does not produce flaming droplets after flame removal.

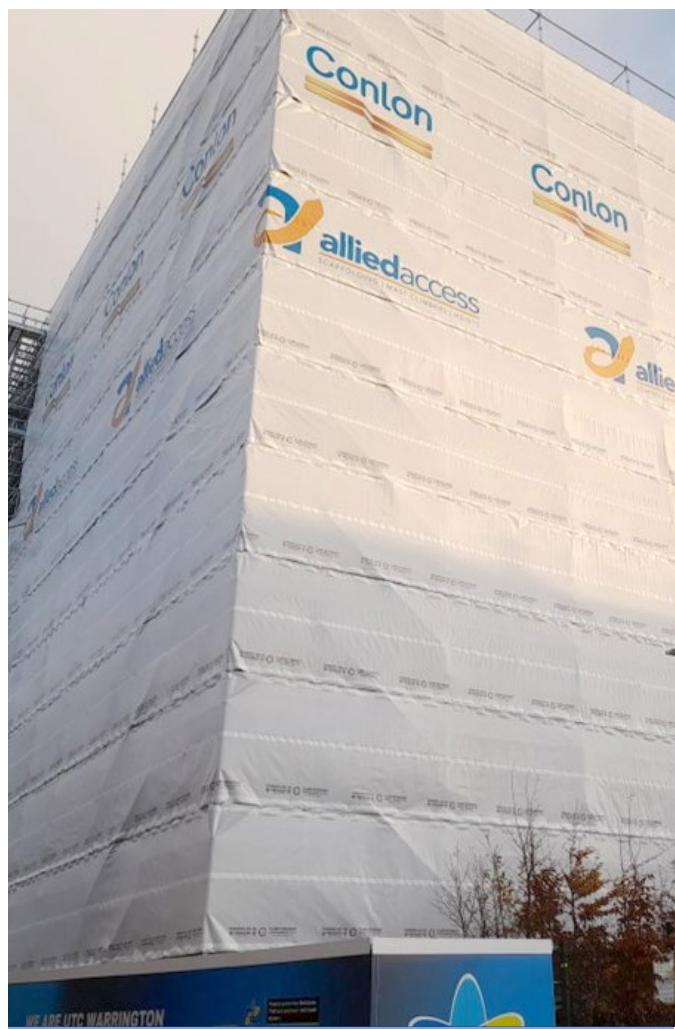
Industry standards

BS 7955: 1999 is often referenced when discussing specification for performance and test methods for containment nets and sheets on construction works. This standard specifies flame retardancy certification as well as requirements for tensile strength and strength of eyelets and attachment fasteners, like toggle ties. Compliance with BS 7955 is recognised within the industry and endorsed by the HSE and insurance providers.

BS 7955 is a useful reference, but the Fire Protection Association's Fire Prevention on Construction Sites (Issue 10, amended January 2023 and May 2025) is essential reading for any organisation responsible for scaffolding on high-value projects. Clause 2 of the document states that scaffolding must comply with the relevant fire safety standards in any contract valued over £2.5 million or smaller contracts which form part of a large project with a value over £20 million. Clause 10 refers to the use of flexible protective covering materials requiring fire retardancy certification, explaining that it is not acceptable to use non-approved materials in different parts of the building, at different storeys/heights or on different elevations.

Recognised certification

Two organisations in the UK are recognised to certify flame retardancy: Warringtonfire, under its Certifire scheme, and the BRE Global/Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB). Certifire applies its TS62 certification standards for external applications and TS63 certification standards for internal applications standards. The LPCB's standards are LPS1207 for internal use and LPS1215 for external use. Both use similar test methods; however, Warringtonfire has recently changed its small flame test requirements to align with European standards.



Photograph shows ITP's Powerclad Premium FR Scaffold Sheeting on an AT-PAC Ringlock system installed by Allied Access at a development by Conlon Construction



Photograph shows ITP's Powerclad Premium FR Scaffold Sheeting on an AT-PAC Ringlock system installed by Allied Access at a development by Conlon Construction

With flame-retardant scaffold sheeting/netting, it's recommended to be either TS or LPS certified to meet compliance. The HSE's document, HSG168 Fire Safety in Construction 2022, refers to both standards in its guidance for scaffold sheeting.

The standards apply to a wide range of temporary protective materials, including scaffold sheeting, temporary roof sheeting, tarpaulins, meshes and twin wall fluted sheets. Separate testing and certification apply to external and internal use, and to plain and printed sheeting as the print process uses mostly solvent inks which affect flame-retardant qualities.

Aside from the primary issue of compromising safety, failure to meet flame retardancy compliance can have severe implications for the delivery of a project: Clause 2 of Joint Code of Practice on the Protection from Fire of Construction Sites and Buildings Undergoing Renovation (JCC) refers to the possible ceasing or withdrawal of insurance. This is a critical penalty as the contractor/subcontractor normally needs insurance cover as a condition to work on a project. Various major insurers – including Aviva and HSB (part of Munich RE) – now refer to TS and LPS standards and certification in the terms of their policies.

Testing and auditing for certification

Achieving certification is a rigorous process requiring multiple tests which include small, medium and large flammable

liquid flame tests, as well as smoke and toxic fume tests. Certification is also subject to ISO 9001 accreditation and regular factory audits scrutinising the production of the products, the consistency of raw materials (which cannot be changed without new tests) and full batch traceability of raw materials, components and finished products. Audits also undertake regular flame-retardancy tests for random samples and examine qualifications of machine operators, quality control and maintenance of machines and quality control equipment to ensure 100% consistent product quality.

Scaffold contractors should be wary of suppliers claiming their products to be compliant based on substandard evidence which cannot provide any guarantee for actual production. Products should not be considered certified to either TS62, TS63, LPS125 or LPS 1207 if they have been subject to one-off testing or only part-tested. Suppliers should be able to provide their testing records, as some tests may be several years old or based on a small number of samples.

Evidence of certification

To avoid these pitfalls, certified products should be easy to identify through clear, authentic marking: the product labelling and identification strip printed on the materials should display the approval mark, including LPS/TS and certificate numbers alongside the product name.

Accompanying certification documents should refer to the application of the recognised set of tests. Marking which merely states that the product has “passed” flame retardancy test should not be considered compliant; so too any marking that refers to unidentified lab results or overseas testing bodies.

When checking certification for scaffold sheeting, it's important to check whether the certificate refers to printed material, unprinted material or both. Certificates for debris netting should include information about which colours are certified. Scaffolding contractors should check the websites of the certifying body to ensure that scaffold sheeting supplier specifications and certificates are up to date, as these can change.

Debris netting is often subject to confusion in relation to fire safety due to a lack of clarity in product marking. Many debris netting products are marked with between one and three red stripes to indicate that they are flame-retardant once the packaging has been removed. This can be misleading as these bands do not confirm whether the product has been subject to the level of testing required

for TS or LPS. Two years ago, ITP launched a new flame-retardant debris netting product which includes a red band, but more importantly also includes a marking at the end of each roll showing the certificate number, which stays on the material. We believe this type of identification should be essential for any fully and independently certified debris netting, enabling HSE inspectors, contractors, developers and scaffold specialists to choose products with complete confidence.

Enforcement of safety compliance under the Building Safety Regulator is evidence-based and data-driven, with a 'golden thread' keeping a digital record of crucial building information. Oversight of safety during the construction phase should follow the same approach, ensuring that suppliers' product data is 100% authentic and free of any ambiguity. Clarity in certification is pivotal in achieving that goal.

ITP has been manufacturing and testing flame-retardant building materials for decades, and has an expert technical team. To find out more, contact: 01347 825 200 or email info@itpltd.com

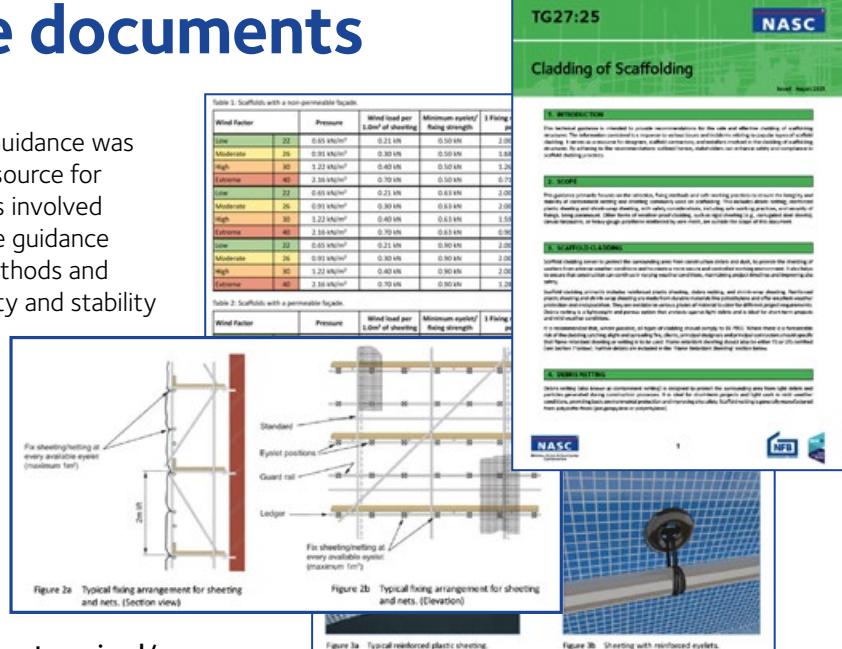
Crucial guidance documents

TG27: Cladding of Scaffolding

NASC's new TG27 Cladding of Scaffolding Guidance was released in August 2025 and serves as a resource for designers, scaffold contractors and installers involved in the cladding of scaffolding structures. The guidance primarily focuses on the selection, fixing methods and safe working practices to ensure the integrity and stability of containment netting and sheeting commonly used on scaffolding.

The guidance has sections on: scaffold cladding, debris netting, reinforced plastic sheeting, shrink wrap sheeting, flame retardant sheeting, netting design, wind speed considerations, sheeting of temporary roofs, sheeting frames and banners, and the role of sheeting in TG20 and TG30 compliance sheets.

<https://nasc.org.uk/product-category/uncategorized/>

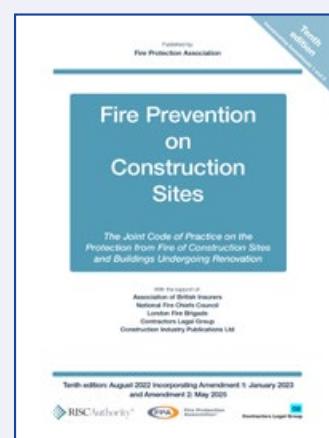


Fire Prevention on Construction Sites: The Joint Code of Practice on the Protection from Fire of Construction Sites and Buildings Undergoing Renovation

Every year there are numerous major fires on construction sites and in buildings undergoing refurbishment; the objective of this Code is the prevention of fires on construction sites: the majority of fires can be prevented by designing out risks, taking simple precautions and by adopting safe working practices. The scope of this code applies to projects with an original contract value of £2.5 million or above, and equally applies to smaller value contracts where these are part of a large project. There may be exceptional circumstances, such as in the case of high fire risk sites, where these thresholds are reduced.

While the whole document is important and relevant to scaffold contractors, particular attention should be paid to section 10: temporary protective covering materials.

<https://www.thefpa.co.uk/advice-and-guidance/free-documents>





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A NEW DIGITAL ERA

PICTURE CREDIT: negativespace

NASC and CISRS are unveiling a comprehensive new digital infrastructure that will underpin the scaffolding industry's progress into a digital future. With a focus on a streamlined and personalised user experience for members, future-proofing NASC operations, and maximum safety and security, there will also be invaluable new tools, such as the ScaffPal app, to make NASC members' lives immeasurably easier



Clive Dickin

"There are many reasons for our investment in a new digital infrastructure for NASC and CISRS, which will allow for the first time the creation of a single, joined-up digital ecosystem," explains Group CEO Clive Dickin. "But one massive factor is security."

He goes on to explain that the new infrastructure will be built to incorporate the latest security standards, which will help to make life both easier and safer for anyone interacting with the new system. *"By building on an existing, tried and tested platform that is specifically designed for membership organisations and trade bodies, we can incorporate elements such as Single Sign On (SSO) and Two-Factor Authentication (2FA). These are widely used standards that enhance both ease of use and security."*



Mark Collinson

The project has been led by NASC Head of Technical, Mark Collinson, who adds that the use of one system that is fully joined up and that complies with all the latest cyber security standards should be a plus for member firms. *"Our members are used to having to meet Cyber Essentials plus and other, similar standards, especially if they want to tender for government work or public sector contracts. They are well established as procurement standards across the industry. It's a massive plus for them to be confident that the entire new NASC and CISRS digital infrastructure, including*



New world order

Some benefits the new system will deliver:

- ▶ More targeted updates from NASC, CISRS and/or the ePortal
- ▶ All users will only see information that is relevant to them
- ▶ A quicker, smoother interface
- ▶ Integrated registration for all NASC events, including Regional Meetings and ScaffEx
- ▶ A better user experience across devices
- ▶ Easier login process (after initial set-up) with Single Sign On
- ▶ Safer, more secure and resilient system
- ▶ Better integration between NASC, CISRS and the ePortal

the ePortal, meets these requirements and will keep up to date as the standards develop over time."

For too long NASC has survived, rather than thrived, in the digital age. *"We have had a lot of success in recent years, with the membership growing and more CISRS cardholders than ever," adds Mark. "But our existing patchwork of standalone systems wasn't able to scale easily and wasn't fit for the future. We took the call that now was the right moment to switch to a single, stronger, more integrated system."*



PICTURE CREDIT: idne

From 26 January 2026, NASC members and CISRS cardholders will notice things look different when they visit either the NASC or CISRS website. Members, cardholders and training centres will all have to log in on their first visit, and update their security credentials.

As with any transition to a new system, there may be a little extra effort required as part of the initial sign-in and set-up process. Thereafter, log-in to the whole ecosystem should be simpler, with SSO and 2FA combining to make systems more secure.

As Clive Dickin puts it, *"Since we started on this project we have seen several major disruptions, not least the Jaguar Land Rover hack, which halted production for several months. Through our ePortal, which is also part of this new platform, members are downloading some 14,000 compliance sheets a month. The impact of not being able to issue a compliance sheet for three months, for example, would be devastating."*

The new system is built on the concept of having one central location for everything. *"This is the foundation of the new system,"* explains Mark Collinson. *"The way we interact with each other and with organisations has changed, and this is the dawning of a new era for the scaffolding industry, one where we are really embracing the future and looking ahead to the needs of future generations of scaffolders."*

But for all this is a new era, it is also a logical next step for NASC, which has always embraced new technologies and has continually developed its ePortal over recent years, with the latest addition of TG30 helping to bring total downloaded compliance sheets over the half million mark.

A major advantage of the new ecosystem, which includes the launch of a dedicated new app – ScaffPal – will be

ScaffPal

The scaffolding world in your pocket

ScaffPal is the all-in-one app built for scaffolders and anyone who runs a scaffolding firm. It puts the tools, updates and industry insights you need right in your pocket, so you can spend less time chasing information and more time getting the job done.

Key features:

Your digital CISRS card

Carry your CISRS card securely on your phone. Quick to access, always up to date and ready when you need it. Powered by CISRS (cisrs.org.uk).



Industry events and updates

Stay informed about upcoming events across the scaffolding sector, including major dates like ScaffEx26. No more missed opportunities or last-minute scrambling.

NASC news and insights

Get the latest news, views, and updates direct from the National Access & Scaffolding Confederation (nasc.org.uk), alongside wider industry insights that matter to scaffolders and company owners alike.

Member-only features for NASC members

If you're a NASC member, ScaffPal lets you:

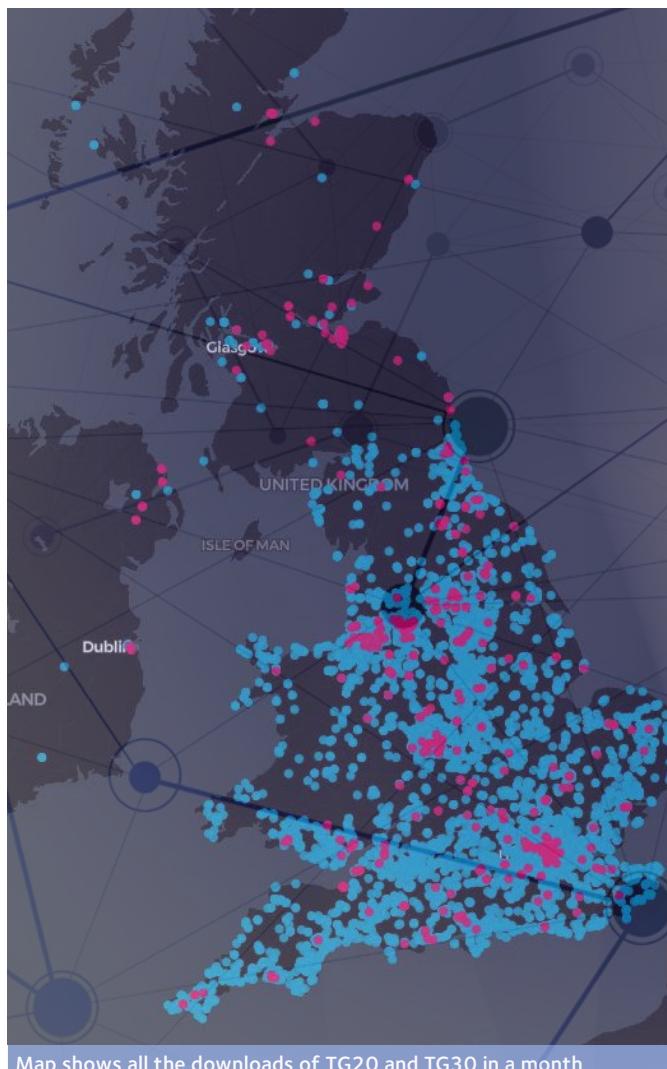
- ▶ Register for member-only events
- ▶ Record attendance at regional meetings and AGM
- ▶ Keep a clear record of your involvement

Built for the trade

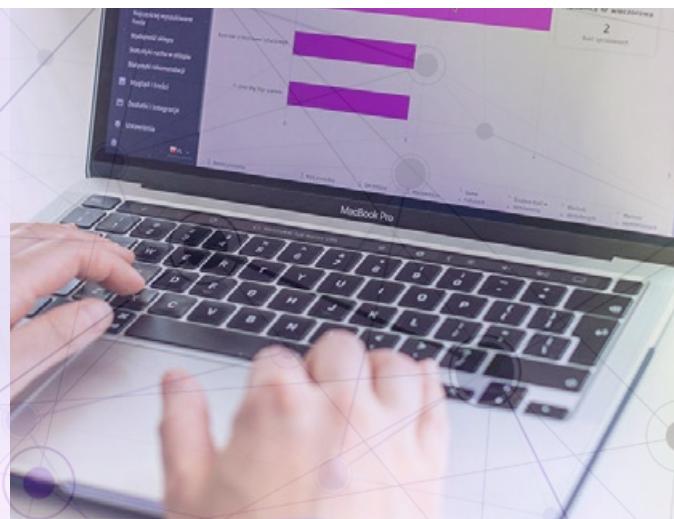
ScaffPal is designed specifically for the scaffolding industry, with a clean, straightforward layout that works just as well on site as it does in the office.

Whether you're on the tools or running the business, ScaffPal helps you stay connected, compliant, and informed.

Download ScaffPal and keep your scaffolding world in your pocket.



Map shows all the downloads of TG20 and TG30 in a month



PICTURE CREDIT: Shoper

The way we interact with each other and with organisations has changed, and this is the dawning of a new era for the scaffolding industry, one where we are really embracing the future and looking ahead to the needs of future generations of scaffolders.

*Mark Collinson,
NASC Head of Technical*

ease of use. "A great example is the digitalisation of CISRS cards," says Mark Collinson. "From about March onwards, the ScaffPal app will be home to your digital CISRS card and as long as you have the app downloaded on your phone and have your phone on you, you will always have your CISRS card with you. No more hassle when you leave your wallet at home - you will be able to use your phone to get on site. We are also looking at a range of other practical tools to add over time to make the app as valuable as possible."

Clive Dickin adds that this is also about making life as easy as possible for employers and training centres. "The digital cards will always be up to date with someone's latest training and qualifications. It will make life easier and safer for everyone. There remain some major issues at the moment with the use of fraudulent cards and this should help to reduce that problem."

"We are also working hard so that the new ScaffAcademy, a digital learning management system (LMS), will eventually be a core part of the ecosystem. It means that everything is joined up, to the benefit of learners, training centres, employees and employers."

Another upgrade will be a move away from generalised publishing to more nuanced, personalised, targeted content. "When you go onto the website at the moment, it's a one-size-fits-all approach," explains Mark Collinson. "With the

new system we're using what's called conditional content. This means that depending on your profile and the topics you have selected when you first register, you'll only see the content and key messages that are most relevant to you."

This more targeted approach will also carry through onto a new app – ScaffPal – launching next month. "This will really transform how we engage with and communicate with NASC members and the wider CISRS community," says Clive Dickin. "We have to recognise that the world has been mobile-first for some time now. It's no longer enough to base our operations around the assumption that people want to read emails. People want information in lots of different ways, and we need to embrace that multi-channel culture if we want to keep engaging with the younger generation of scaffolders."

Timeline for change

26 January 2026	Launch of new NASC and CISRS websites
14 February 2026	Beta launch of ScaffPal
March 2026	Full launch of ScaffPal, complete with digital CISRS card
June 2026	Launch of ScaffAcademy



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OFF THE BEATEN PATH

When it comes to scaffolding, some projects stand out not for their scale, but for the unique challenges they present. Those projects demand a willingness to venture beyond the ordinary. This article looks at two such unusual scaffolding projects and the creativity and professionalism that was required to deliver them.



RNLI Exmouth: Apex Scaffolding

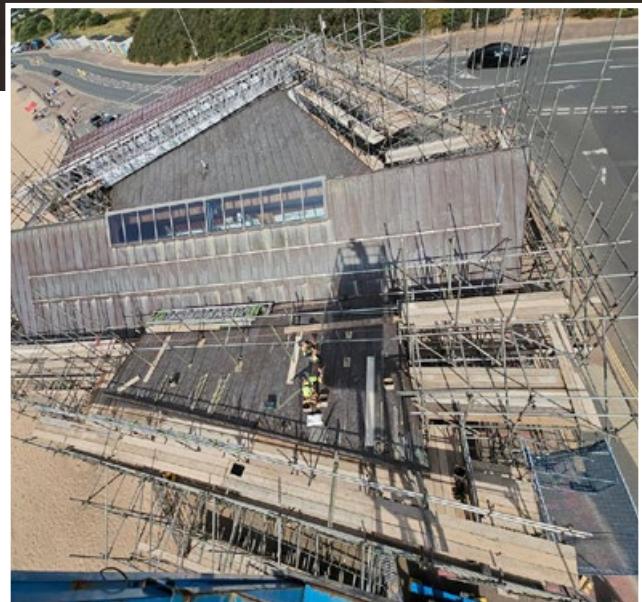
When Apex Scaffolding received an enquiry about working on a project for the RNLI in Exmouth, it was one of those jobs that was too good to turn down. The RNLI station on Exmouth sea front needed re-roofing. A working lifeboat station, on a main road and a busy tourist beach all added to the complications of a building which was not designed with a temporary roof scaffolding in mind.

There were three different buildings, all abutting. One with the RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat), one with the main lifeboat and the other housing the staff accommodation. Each one had a different roof height, wall make up, and none were in line.

With the building sitting on the main promenade of Exmouth Sea Front, the interaction with the public was crucial, especially while working during the summer months. Segregation, marshalls and Chapter 8 traffic management were all used to keep the public out.

Working in the summer, use of the beach increased and this led to an increase in call-outs for the RNLI crews. When the alarm went off, the Apex team was briefed what to do to ensure they had no impact on the emergency services. They were almost as well drilled as the crews themselves!

After eight weeks, the scaffolding was fully erected and



the building fully enclosed within a mix of a Haki Rooftek and CI Sheet roof. This allowed the rainwater management to be kept away from the RNLI crews and the public.

It was needed too: from September to February, the scaffold was tested to the limit. Nine named storms whipped through the South-West peninsula that winter. The scaffolding stood up to all of them. Each time it was inspected after the winds died down, there was minimal damage. In fact over the course of the 26 weeks, the only repairs required were one roll of monarflex, and bungees - which was only done as a precaution.

This was a very impressive scaffold.

St Erth SUEZ Recycling Project: Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding

This project involved a major upgrade to an existing waste transfer station and stands as a testament to Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding's commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainability. The project was completed between March and May 2024 for SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK in St Erth, Cornwall. The work involved erecting a scaffold support system to enable the safe installation of high-level shuttered concrete panels and steelwork.



The company provided temporary structural support to the front elevation of the steel frame building, allowing a 30m section to be carefully removed and replaced. This required 70 tonnes of scaffold erected over just seven days by eight skilled scaffolders. The innovative design created efficient and safe structures that overcame structural challenges with creative solutions.

The project had a real sustainability focus and the company's sustainable practices included the use of eco-friendly materials and design decisions that contributed towards the goal of net zero carbon emissions. Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding received high praise from SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK for their professionalism,

attention to detail, and the quality of the scaffolding work. The building was a live site, and they had to work around the shift patterns of the workers, so the main works were completed in the evenings and over the weekends.

The innovative solution of installing a high-level rail NIKO tracking system, incorporated within the scaffold, saw electric hoists facilitating the construction of the reinforced concrete walls by lifting and tracking heavy formwork panels and reinforcement cages.

Communication with the client and depot was crucial, ensuring all parties were kept informed at every stage of the process and responded to queries as needed. The company's efficiency actually helped the broader project to get back on schedule, having been behind, and it was all completed on time and within budget.

The client said that the versatility and safety of the scaffolding was particularly impressive, and safety was to the highest standards. Safety measures included timber toe boards for edge protection during overhead operations and securing scaffolding with screw jacks and tie tubes to prevent collapse.

The company aligned with the facility's sustainability goals by ensuring environmentally conscious practices and prioritised local labour, with all eight scaffolders living and working within Cornwall. This reduced travel, supported the regional economy, and built community value into the delivery model.

CISRS TRAINING AND CITB GRANTS: WHAT SCAFFOLDERS NEED TO KNOW

There has been some confusion and frustration in the scaffolding industry as a result of CITB's recent major overhaul of its grants system. The aim was to simplify funding but some support has been removed and it has caused inevitable disruption to established CISRS training routes and funding streams, leading to frustration and uncertainty. The new CITB funding model took effect on 8 January 2026.

Scaffolding Insider asked NASC's Head of Training and Education, Paul Napper, to explain:

For scaffolders, maintaining competence and card validity is not optional - it is essential for workforce safety, compliance and career progression. With ongoing changes to CITB funding in recent years, many employers and training managers have understandably asked: which courses are grant-funded, and how can these grants be accessed?

Core CISRS training remains supported

CITB continues to provide grant support for core CISRS-accredited training, recognising that these courses are vital for safe scaffolding operations. This includes:

- COTS (Construction Occupational Training Scheme)
- Tube & Fitting Scaffolding courses: Part 1, Part 2, and Advanced
- Systems Scaffolding courses, including SSPTS (System Scaffolding Product Training Scheme)
- Scaffold Inspection courses
- CISRS Supervision and Management courses
- Refresher modules
- BASE card training for non-scaffolders is also available

These grants are achievement-based, meaning the funding is paid once a delegate completes the course and receives their CISRS card. Depending on the course, grants may cover part of the course fees, exam fees and the CISRS card cost. This ensures that essential training remains affordable for both small and large employers, while maintaining national competence standards.

How to access CITB grants

Accessing grants for CISRS training is straightforward:

1. Ensure your company is CITB-registered
2. Book the course through a CISRS-recognised training provider - providers will often guide employers on grant eligibility and may submit claims on your behalf.
3. Complete the course and achieve the card
4. Submit the claim to CITB.

Employers should retain documentation for every claim, as CITB may request verification during audits.

Wider CITB funding changes

While CISRS courses remain protected, CITB has implemented several changes affecting other training:

- Many short courses not linked to formal competence schemes are now funded at reduced levels or, in some cases, no longer funded at all.



Paul Napper



PICTURE CREDIT: Simian

- Non-CISRS training is now funded through Employer Networks rather than the grant scheme. H&S in Construction and associated courses will be funded at 30% and other eligible courses will be funded at 50%. There is a list of the H&S in Construction and associated courses on the CITB website at <https://www.citb.co.uk/media/b5klzda2/hs-courses-supported-via-employer-networks.pdf>
- Large employers face specific changes in funding access, so budgeting and planning for workforce training pipelines is more important than ever. A new large Employer offer will go live from 1 April, with details to follow.

These changes mean that while essential scaffolder competence remains supported, employers need to be strategic about non-CISRS training to make the most of available funding.

What this means for scaffolders

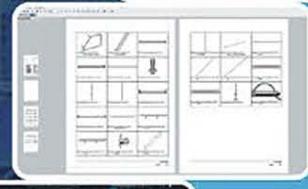
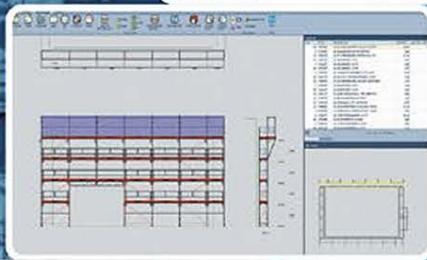
Core CISRS training remains grant-funded, reliable and essential. Employers can continue to invest in the skills and safety of their workforce, knowing that CITB support will reduce the direct cost of mandatory scaffolding qualifications. At the same time, companies should carefully plan other training needs in light of wider funding changes to maximise resources and ensure compliance.

For scaffolders and training managers, staying informed about CITB grant and funding eligibility is crucial. Proper planning and engagement with CISRS-recognised providers will ensure that scaffolding teams continue to meet industry standards safely and cost-effectively.

To speak directly to a CITB advisor in your area for guidance or support, go to <https://www.citb.co.uk/about-citb/what-we-do/citb-in-your-local-area/>

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