



NASC

Scaffolding Insider

THE VOICE OF SCAFFOLDING AND ACCESS

SEPTEMBER 2026

NO SUCH THING AS IMPOSSIBLE

Profiling Lifetime Achievement
Award winner Chris Sedgeman

**THE STORY OF
SCAFFEX26**

The whole industry
in one place

**CISRS AND CSCS
TO SPLIT?**

All the latest on card
scheme withdrawal

SCAFFEX27
MANCHESTER 9-10 SEPT

Layher 
More Possibilities. The Scaffolding System.

**THE SCAFFOLDING
AND ACCESS WORLD
UNDER ONE ROOF.**

SCAFFEX27

MANCHESTER 9-10 SEPT

**FREE
TO ATTEND
REGISTER NOW!**



tinyurl.com/SCAFFEX27

FROM THE EDITOR

What a couple of days ScaffEx was! (see pages 10-15). There is no doubt that this year's event felt bigger and busier - and everyone seemed to be there. Walking around the event, I saw many familiar faces and a constant hustle and bustle of visitors enjoying the exhibits and deep in conversation on the stands. It was revealed afterwards that there were 35% more visitors through the door than last year, and at least one huge deal and one Memorandum of Understanding were signed there, as well as many important meetings and discussions taking place.

The conference element was very much focused on bringing the discussion into a practical realm, focusing on the challenges contractors face in practice and how they might make changes to benefit their businesses. This included discussions around managing the supply chain, the skills shortage, starting (and continuing) your own scaffolding firm, the dangers of fire, silica, vibration and noise on site, effective training - and a couple of sessions looking at projects in significant technical detail, which drew large numbers of fascinated scaffolders, designers and engineers.

The exhibition saw 70 busy exhibitors enjoying getting up close to visitors, with many exhibitors showing new products and services for the first time. There were also two zones in the heart of the space which were home to practical demonstration sessions.

The Awards saw an absolutely packed room celebrating the brilliance of the people in our industry and the humour of host Dara O'Briain and his special guests. An incredible night to top off a remarkable two days. NASC has now signed a deal to stay at this venue for a further three years. See you next time...

One of the winners on the night was Chris Sedgeman, who took home the Lifetime Achievement Award. I spoke to Chris and we profile him in this issue on pages 17-18. His is a remarkable story with innovation and problem-solving at its heart.

It is a really busy news month, including the latest on NASC and CISRS trying to solve a problem of their own with the revelation that they have given notice on their CSCS licence after receiving legal advice that the scheme was in breach of Construction Leadership Council requirements and risked having its licence revoked. That discussion is ongoing. See pages 4-6 for the latest on this and more.



Nick Campion
Editor

CONTENTS

From the Editor	3
NASC News	4
Industry News Round-up	7
Industry View: Andy Preston	8
Feature: ScaffEx in Review	10
Profile: Chris Sedgeman	17
Training & Education	19

CONTACT DETAILS

editor@nasc.org.uk

020 7822 7400

07958 695778

National Access & Scaffolding Confederation

4th Floor, 12 Bridewell Place, London. EC4V 6AP

www.nasc.org.uk



Scaffolding Insider is published by National Access and Scaffolding Confederation Ltd (NASC). Content does not necessarily represent the views of NASC. NASC is not liable for any inaccuracy or claims of any type from editorial, advertising, or any content within the publication.

Not all images used are representative of the standards NASC upholds and may be supplied by third parties in support of content featured in the publication.

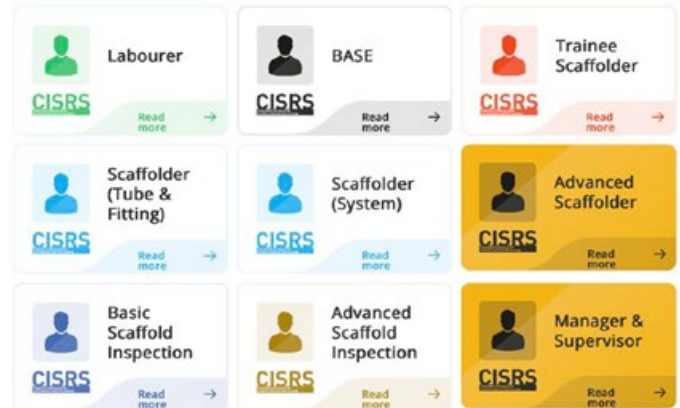
All rights are reserved. Scaffolding Insider is the trademark of NASC, and the NASC logo and brand are registered.

CISRS TO LEAVE CSCS SCHEME OVER LICENCE RISK

CISRS has announced its decision to give notice on its CSCS licence, while stressing that consultation is still at an early stage and this decision could be withdrawn or reversed if discussions with relevant stakeholders produce an alternative solution. The move followed updated legal advice to the CISRS board that the scheme faced a risk of CSCS withdrawing its licence because it could not fully comply with Construction Leadership Council (CLC) Industry Card Scheme Rules, while continuing to serve the wider scaffolding and access industry.

The issue centres on the CLC's One Card Rule and Clause 4, whose application CISRS says creates uncertainty because scaffolders work far beyond construction, including industrial, infrastructure, marine, offshore, utilities and petrochemical environments. At a webinar hosted by NASC and CISRS on 22 September, CISRS CEO Clive Dickin said giving notice was intended to protect the industry from the possibility of being forced to terminate within a 90-day timeframe. He added that plans are being developed for a smooth transition over the next nine months if required, but that he hoped positive discussions would continue so that a different outcome was possible. Crucially, existing cardholders, qualifications and training standards would be unaffected. Current CISRS cards will remain valid for their full five-year term and established training and assessment requirements will continue.

The webinar also set out more details on the future direction of CISRS, with a planned name change to the "Competence in Scaffolding Record Scheme" from 1



January 2027, reflecting its role across every sector where scaffolding and access competence is required. If the separation from CSCS proceeds, CISRS plans to leave on 1 June 2027, with new and renewed cards issued without the CSCS logo.

CISRS says this is an administrative and governance change, not a reduction in competence standards, and it has committed to pursuing Ofqual registration within three years. The 22 September session also highlighted the continued rollout of ScaffPal, greater integration of digital systems and further consultation with employers, training providers and the wider industry. CISRS will hold another free webinar on 8 October at 10am to discuss the latest position, answer questions and consider how current uncertainties could be resolved. **Sign up for the CISRS webinar on 8 October.**

NASC LAUNCHES UPDATED MANIFESTO

Last month, NASC launched its updated 2026 Manifesto, setting out eight key actions it believes will support a safer, more skilled and productive scaffolding and access sector, while helping to strengthen the wider UK economy.

Speaking at the launch of the manifesto, Clive Dickin, NASC and CISRS Group CEO, said, *"This latest manifesto marks a change in approach for NASC. Rather than remaining a static document, it will now be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect changes in Government policy, legislation and the challenges facing members."*

Responsibility for maintaining the manifesto will sit with NASC's ESG and Public Affairs Committee, ensuring the organisation's policy priorities continue to reflect the needs and views of members.

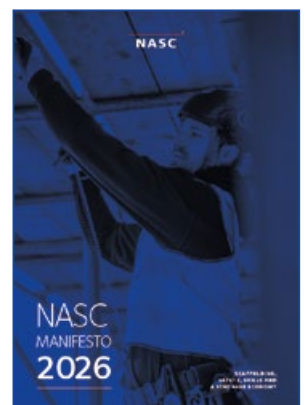
The eight key actions span six main policy areas: supply chain support, training, employment law, safety, skills and the environment.

Among its recommendations are stronger protections and prompt payment for contractors and subcontractors, greater investment in further education, improved careers

education and work experience, and targeted access to skilled overseas workers.

It also calls for increased funding for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), greater public awareness of safe and compliant scaffolding, continued support for the Building Safety Regulator and changes to transport rules affecting scaffolding businesses.

The manifesto concludes that collaboration between industry, government and the education sector – including the CISRS centres offering scaffolding training – will be essential to creating a modernised scaffolding and access sector capable of unlocking growth, while continuing to improve safety, skills and efficiency.



RETURNS AND 1.5M LIFTS NOW AVAILABLE IN TG20

The latest update to TG20 introduces two additions that give greater flexibility when configuring tube and fitting scaffolds: returns and 1.5m lifts. Users of the technical guidance for safe tube-and-fitting scaffolding in the UK can now select 1.5m lift heights when configuring their scaffold.

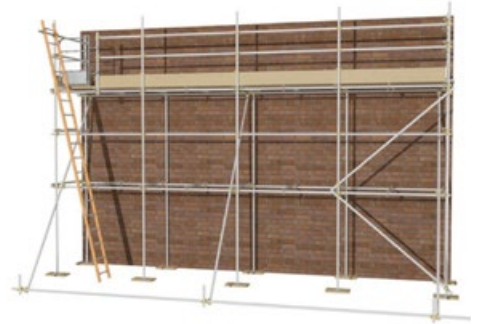
This is particularly useful in the traditional new-build sector, where 1.5m lifts are commonly used to provide a comfortable working height for bricklayers laying bricks and blocks. The new option allows the TG20 configuration to more closely reflect the scaffold arrangements typically used on these projects.

The update also introduces the ability to include returns within a TG20 scaffold configuration. When a return is selected, an additional page is included within the compliance sheet, providing the parameters for forming both internal and external returns. This covers how far the scaffold should extend around the return, connection arrangements at the return, and how the scaffold should be tied as it is returned around the building.

The result is more practical information on the compliance sheet itself, helping to clearly establish the requirements for forming the return in accordance with TG20.

The online versions of both the TG20 Operational Guide and the TG20 Design Guide have been updated to cover these items in more detail. Both additions come as a result of user feedback.

In July 2026 alone, 14,021 TG20 compliance sheets were downloaded from the ePortal. With TG20 in use at that scale across the industry, practical enhancements like these can make a real difference and help the system better reflect the scaffolding arrangements encountered on site.



NASC SIGNS MOU WITH WISA

NASC and Women in Scaffolding Association (WiSA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), establishing a new partnership focused on supporting women and strengthening the future workforce of the scaffolding and access industry.

The MOU was signed at ScaffEx26 on the WiSA stand by Clive Dickin, Group CEO of NASC, and Emerantia Claassen, Founder and Director of WiSA.

The agreement formalises a commitment by both organisations to work together to increase awareness of scaffolding as a career, support workforce development and promote recognised industry standards. It also sets out a shared ambition to improve the visibility, progression and long-term participation of women throughout the sector.

Under the MOU, NASC and WiSA will collaborate on initiatives covering recruitment, retention and career progression, as well as mentoring, networking and professional development. The organisations will also share industry knowledge and best practice and participate in events, forums and other engagement opportunities.

Clive Dickin said: *"The scaffolding and access industry needs skilled people across every part of the sector, and addressing those skills shortages means making sure we are attracting talent from the widest possible pool. We need more initiatives that encourage women to see scaffolding as a genuine, rewarding career, whether that is on the tools, in design and engineering, health and safety, training, management or leadership. Working with WiSA gives us an opportunity to help turn that ambition into practical action."*

Emerantia Claassen said: *"WiSA is still at a very early stage in its journey, and the opportunity to work alongside NASC means a great deal to us. We are extremely happy with the*



objectives and the spirit of the MOU and what it represents for women in our industry. By working collaboratively, we can create more opportunities for women to enter scaffolding, build their careers and see a long-term future for themselves within the sector."

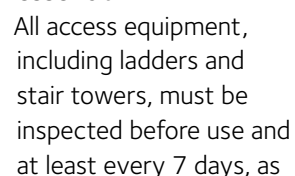
NASC will bring its industry expertise, technical knowledge, training and competence frameworks and extensive network of contractors, training providers and other industry stakeholders to the partnership. WiSA will contribute its expertise in workforce engagement and industry representation, together with outreach, mentoring, advocacy and awareness initiatives designed to help more women enter, progress and succeed within scaffolding.

The MOU reflects a shared commitment to a safe, competent and professional scaffolding industry and recognises the role collaboration can play in developing a stronger and more diverse future workforce.

As part of the agreement, NASC and WiSA will initially meet quarterly to develop the relationship and review activity, before moving to agreed meeting intervals. The MOU will be formally reviewed every two years.

Ladders must comply with the appropriate standard, extend at least 1 metre above the landing point, be installed at the correct angle 65° to 75° (1:4 ratio), be securely fixed to prevent movement, and have protected access points using self-closing gates, ladder trap hatches or guardrails to reduce the risk of falls.

Thursday 10 December 2026
- Manufacturing Technology Centre, Coventry



Clients, principal contractors, and users must ensure unauthorised access to scaffolds is prevented. This includes preventing access to stair towers, removing first-lift ladders when not in use where practicable, or fitting locked ladder guards to make ladders unusable. The ladder guard must match the ladder – “a minimal rung width should be exposed when the locked guard is pushed hard to one side. Remember that trespassers are frequently very young and may have small feet” (page 15).

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FINED AFTER SCAFFOLDER FALL

A domestic house builder in Sowerby Bridge was fined after a scaffolding labourer sustained serious spinal injuries when he fell one storey onto concrete through a stairwell opening.

Joseph Tuck, a father of one, sustained serious spinal injuries that prevented him returning to a physical job. Simple measures to prevent a fall, including securing the stairwell cover or installing edge protection, were not in place. HSE identified multiple failures in the management of work at height.

It was only his second week on the job when Mr Joseph Tuck, 24, a father of one, stepped backwards and fell through an opening intended for a staircase that had not yet been installed. He was working as a temporary labourer for

a scaffolding company in January 2024 at a site of four new domestic dwellings being constructed by Hillbeck Homes (Sowerby Bridge) Ltd.

An HSE investigation found that Hillbeck Homes (Sowerby Bridge) Ltd had failed to put adequate measures in place to prevent falls from height, resulting in Mr Tuck falling through an unprotected stairwell opening and suffering life-changing injuries.

The company was fined £300,000 and ordered to pay £9,284.05 in costs at Leeds Magistrates' Court on 16 September 2026.



HMRC FILES WINDING-UP PETITION AGAINST JECS OFFSHORE SCAFFOLDING

HM Revenue & Customs has filed a winding-up petition against specialist offshore access contractor JECS Offshore Scaffolding Ltd. The case was due before the High Court on 23 September. JECS has not yet been wound up as Scaffolding Insider went to press.



OFFICE CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT FALLS

Barbour ABI reports that UK office construction output dropped 20% in 2025, putting pressure on vacancies and commercial rents. Output is expected to tighten further in 2026.

In 2026, only 694,000 square feet of office space is expected to be completed across the Big Nine regional cities, which is significantly lower than the average of 2.2 million square feet per year from 2020 to 2024.

CONSTRUCTION TOPS INSOLVENCY TABLE

Construction recorded 3,866 company insolvencies in England and Wales in the 12 months to August 2026 – the most of any industry. The total was 2% lower than a year earlier but represented 17% of recorded cases.

EUROPEAN GROUP HOLDS SCAFFEX GENERAL MEETING

The Union of European Scaffolding Companies (UEG) held its General Meeting and Working Committee Meeting on 9 September 2026 in Manchester, the day before attending ScaffEx26.

Discussions centred on international trainee exchanges, regulatory updates, and core industry themes of skills, safety, and business growth.



FIRST-HALF LOSS FOR HENRY BOOT

Falling land sales and weak housing demand pushed Henry Boot to a £6.3m first-half loss as its new chief executive seeks to turn its large land bank into cash.

The Sheffield-based property and land group swung from a £9.8m pre-tax profit a year earlier as six-month revenue fell 19% to £81m. Net debt rose from £108m at the end of 2025 to £133m, lifting gearing from 26% to 33%.

The group has agreed terms to raise its bank facility to £165m until year-end and is discussing changes to full-year covenants as subdued markets delay land transactions.

Chief executive Ed Hutchinson is reviewing the business, with a refreshed strategy due in early 2027. Henry Boot has nearly 108,000 plots, including more than 9,000 with planning consent, and estimates consented and pending sites could generate £305m in future gross profit.

Hutchinson said the priority was to unlock that value, improve cash generation and position the group for a market recovery.



INNER-CITY TRAIN STATION HOMES NEEDED

Britain's 12 largest cities are missing 1.2 million homes around inner-city train stations compared to G7 peers, according to research published by the independent think tank Centre for Cities.

Centre for Cities has warned that the Prime Minister's commitment to building more homes around stations will move far too slowly without urgent reform of land ownership and planning rules that make it difficult to build new homes in urban areas.

The biggest potential gains are in London, followed by Glasgow and Manchester. Centre for Cities says that chronically low density in the places where more homes should be built is a significant blocker to economic growth. Centre for Cities has made several recommendations for inclusion in the forthcoming devolution White Paper.



PICTURE CREDIT: TheOtherKey

Andy Preston is the Director of Marketplace at Once For All, a leader in supply chain management solutions for the construction industry. Andy suggests that for scaffolders, demand isn't the problem – getting seen is.



According to Companies House data, new scaffolding companies have almost doubled over the last three years. They're entering a market where demand is booming and it seems like there's a genuine opportunity for new entrants to the profession.

On Marketplace, scaffolding ranks sixth in terms of the volume of jobs posted. This demand is also reflected in scaffolder confidence. Of the 57 scaffolders we surveyed at this year's ScaffEx, 80% are optimistic about the sector over the next 12 months.

Yet demand doesn't always translate to a secure pipeline, especially for new businesses with limited resources and reputation.

So, while this optimism can be justified, challenges remain, such as getting your business recognised, or moving from the domestic to the commercial sector. So, the first step is always knowing where to find the opportunity and who to contact.

Relationships still open doors

Like many business deals, particularly in corporate tenders and contracts, reputation and relationships have the biggest sway and the lowest risk. The survey backed this up, with the majority of respondents listing repeat business and word of mouth as the most successful way of securing work. This lends itself to the assumption that work is directed towards well-established scaffolding firms rather than newcomers. That is why getting new contacts and building business recognition can be a particular challenge for younger, less well-known companies.

However, that's not to say that starting your own scaffolding business isn't worth the time. What it does mean is that new businesses without a referral or repeat business pipeline need a clear strategy for winning work, and that

starts with finding the opportunities and getting seen. Data from our Marketplace Health Index shows 34% of subcontractors cited being noticed by the right contractors as their main challenge.

The hidden cost of finding work

Beyond relationships, the next most common way scaffolders found work was through Google, but this comes at a time cost. Without a strong pipeline of work, new businesses might find themselves spending more time looking for work than doing the work. From the scaffolders we asked, 37% spend more than 10 hours a week looking for work, and 1 in 5 spend up to £15,000 a year doing it. This may be a reasonable output for larger businesses but is unsustainable for smaller contractors or sole traders.

At the end of the day, scaffolders want to be on site delivering the work, not chasing it. That is why they need affordable solutions that can match their company to relevant opportunities.

Beyond being seen

Being seen is only the first half of the challenge. Being ready to win the work once seen is the other half, particularly with the Future Homes Standard raising the bar on skills and compliance.

That is why scaffolders should ensure they're visible in the right places, such as networking events (such as ScaffEx) to build and maintain relationships, as well as making sure they engage with contractors beyond Tier 1, as the Tier 2, 3, 4 contractors are often the best source of work.

Then they will be in a strong position to take advantage of the growth opportunity to build a successful and sustainable business.

The scaffolding world in the palm of your hand.

Download the app today.



*Coming soon



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play

ENERGY, IDEAS – AND GREAT BUSINESS AT SCAFFEX26



For those who never stopped talking, listening, learning and laughing for two days non-stop, it was with a sigh of relief that the doors closed on ScaffEx26 at Manchester Central. This was the biggest ScaffEx yet staged, with 35% more visitors through the door than last year, more exhibitors on the floor and a broader spread of sectors, products and services represented than at any show before it.

However, numbers don't tell the story of being there. The atmosphere was bustling, lively and energetic as the whole breadth of our industry came together to renew friendships, gather ideas and seal deals.

From the moment the doors opened on Thursday morning, the exhibition hall was busy and stayed that way. Exhibitors from all round the world brought their best to Manchester with full-scale scaffold displays, product launches, new systems and technology and hands-on demonstrations. Here we look at some of the highlights of the event.



Turning words into actions: Conference 2026

After introductions from host Sophie Long, NASC President Sarah Klieve, principal sponsor Layher's Sean Pike and a video from MP Rebecca Long-Bailey, the conference got underway.

Session 1 was a strong start to the conference with a session entitled Thriving In Uncertainty – Insights From Across The Supply Chain. Conversation quickly turned to where the risk lies in contracts at the moment, with the consensus being that much of it falls on the scaffolding contractor who has to deal with cash flow issues and potential penalties. Panellist Danny Dwyer from PhD Access says it is still the client that holds the power on payment despite regulation for prompt payment.

All panellists agreed that collaboration from the very start is what makes a good client-contractor relationship and Colin Murphy from Altrad UK made it clear that principal contractors don't know everything and they need to trust their supply chain. Rob Wright from Lindum Group pointed out that it was important to have a lessons learnt process for every single project before rushing off to the next job.

Regarding the skills shortage, there was a broad consensus that the CITB levy is a big issue with it feeling unfair and getting worse. Rob Wright spoke about the need to reach kids at 14 and not 16 in order to gain their interest at the right time. Fergus Harradence from the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade spoke about the Government's aim to get a more coherent approach to skills development at a local level because this is where changes can be made. He pointed out that the big problem is the



transition from training to employment because 40% of apprentices don't complete their apprenticeship. Danny Dwyer said that as scaffolding contractors, we need to do a bit more to see these apprentices through.

Session 2 was a fascinating and revealing session called What Nobody Tells You About Starting Your Own Scaffolding Firm. KAS Scaffolding's directors Shane Wood and Adam Millgate joined James Brierley from Rose System Scaffolding and Lee Marley from the Lee Marley Group to talk about how they had made their way in the industry. James and Shane spoke about how you just have to do everything at the start, juggling it all, although with a history in the industry behind him James believed that having a clear plan and good advice is important, while Shane started out on his own and learned very quickly from experience, having always been a scaffolder and never a business owner or manager. In his words, he winged it and learnt on the job every day. Lee spoke about how growth is a hard thing to fund and success can actually cost you money sometimes. James spoke about not going too fast at the start because the amount of equipment you need can catch you out, especially where jobs get delayed.

Retaining staff is important because that's how you build a good culture; James commented that culture comes from the day you open your doors – you must act the right way from day one. Culture is hard to pin down but you know when it's not right.

Session 3 looked at the current talent crisis in detail, with a range of experts who spoke about the need to gain youth awareness early and also to focus on retention and development, not just recruitment. There was concern that careers advisers just don't have the experience and the knowledge about scaffolding that we would like them to have so the scaffolding companies must do more to promote the industry.

The final session was a project showcase that brought the strongest audience of the day who were treated to some fascinating technical detail around highly complex projects delivered by GKR Scaffolding, BrandSafway, and ISS. Audience members were able to get stuck into considerable detail and learn a great deal.

Day 2 began with an important session on hidden risks, which took in fire safety, silica, vibration and noise. A detailed technical presentation on fire retardant sheeting by David Gilmore of ITP gave some important insights into the variability of specification and the importance of not mistaking compliant materials with certified materials.

Matt Greenly from Pragma & Associates spoke about the hidden and grave dangers of silica and the danger of it being the next asbestos. The dangers aren't immediately obvious like falling off a ladder, but scaffolders are exposed to silica every day, whether that's drilling anchor ties, dismantling scaffolds where other trades' dust has settled, or even the dust carried home on work clothing. It doesn't take much to cause a problem. Matt issued a direct challenge to the industry to change.

Consultant Alice Thomson gave a highly technical and comprehensive review of the danger of dust, vibration and noise, revealing just how many ways there are in which scaffolders' health can be damaged and how important it is for contractors to consider each of these issues. The panel agreed that it was time to shift the focus from safety to health.

David Anderson from Allen & Foxworthy joined the panel and spoke about how it is a cultural challenge to get people to change – it took 20 years to get people to wear hard hats – but managers and supervisors must be more persuasive in enforcing both safety and health, and main contractors should be more involved in enforcement too. Matt Greenly encouraged the industry to address the 'why' more when they are asking their employees to work healthily as well as safely and to encourage more personal responsibility.

The next session took a look at training and the balance between digital methods and practical training, including Rob Boardman, Head of Education and Training at NASC and CISRS, speaking about plans to develop their CPD offering.

The final session was once again a crowd pleaser – another detailed and technical presentation around innovation in temporary roofing, presented by AT-PAC and Scaffco, and Layher and Laidlaw. The panellists spoke about genuine innovations to make the impossible possible, and a fascinated audience listened intently and asked well-informed questions.

Delegates can reflect on a conference that focused on questions contractors face in practice and how they – and the broader industry – might make changes to benefit their businesses.

The conference did not pretend for a moment that the industry's skills, safety and commercial challenges could be solved in two days. Instead, it created a forum where competing perspectives could be tested in public and where practical next steps could be carried back to businesses.



Busy floor, bigger builds, broader church

With 2,800 visitors and 70 exhibitors, ScaffEx26 was the largest edition yet. NASC reported attendance up 39% year on year, while the event occupied 35% more exhibition space. For anyone who had attended in 2025, this was

Quotes from the floor

"ScaffEx always gives us opportunities to meet with industry peers, suppliers and innovators. I'm always open to discussions, and was pleased to be invited to discuss employment in the scaffolding industry. Opportunities, that's what this industry is full of. Youngsters at high school or college only see scaffolding access around buildings or houses locally as they commute, but the industry is more than that. We need to collaborate and show the next generation the opportunities available."

Ross Brown, MD – Global Scaffolding Services at i-SCAFF

"A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by our stand. It was fantastic to meet so many new faces, catch up with familiar ones and spend the day chatting with the people who make our industry what it is."

Leach's

"We had an amazing day and night of networking. Lush to meet so many people I've been in contact with on LinkedIn and within the industry for a while in person... this is what's it's about, allowing those connections to grow and being one big team."

Vicky Welch, Scaffolder

"A few days at ScaffEx has made it clear that there's still a lot to be said for getting out and seeing people face to face. We spend more and more time dealing with people through emails, Teams calls and WhatsApp, so it's easy to forget how much you can learn from actually being in the same room. Speaking to customers and catching up with people you've worked with over the years gives you a much better feel for where the industry is at right now. That's one of my biggest reasons for being at events like ScaffEx."

Mark Holmes, Head of Sales, AT-PAC

immediately visible on the floor: full-scale scaffold structures and viewing platforms, new systems, software and safety equipment, hands-on demonstrations, and a broader mix of suppliers and services than in previous years.

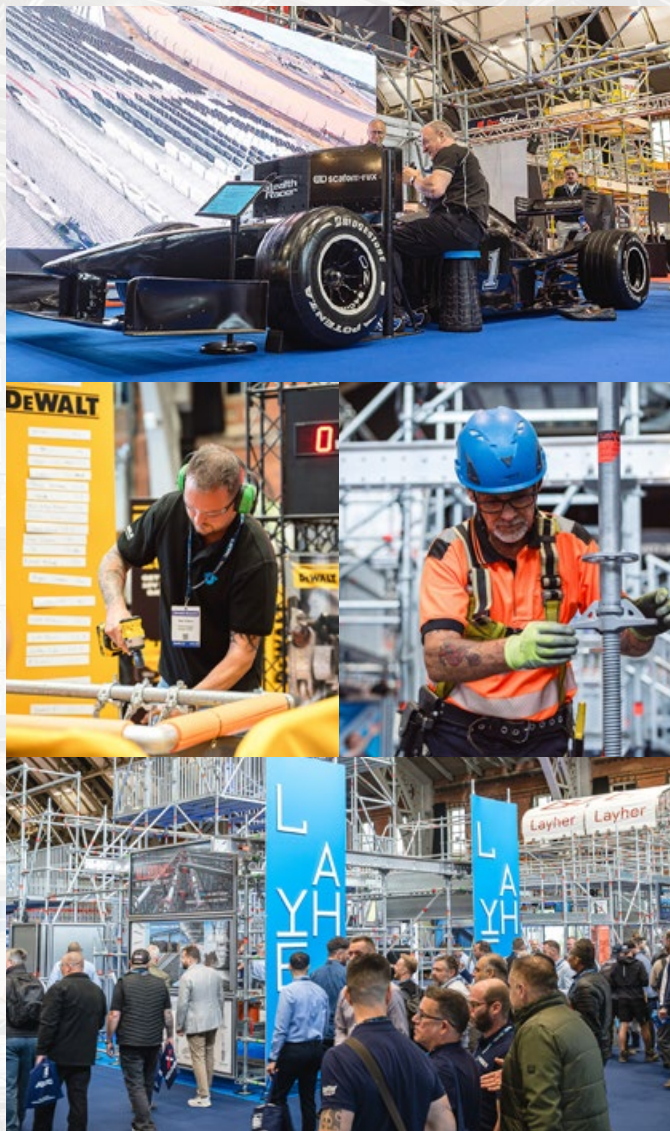
The show's range ran from system scaffolding and temporary roofing to AI-enabled safety wearables, design visualisation, RAMS and inventory software, transport equipment, fixings and containment products. Scaffolding trucks sat alongside huge structures, and the two practical demonstration zones ensured a constant supply of energy in the centre of the show. Face-fit testing, rescue planning, effective supervision and live product demonstrations sat alongside commercial stands, while the NASC Village's Black Hat Arms created an informal meeting point for all.

Revscraft and Layher's Seven-Figure Deal

Layher UK announced a major seven-figure agreement with Revscraft at ScaffEx26. Chris Batemen, Revscraft Group Managing Director, said: "Revscraft Safety Systems is part of a larger group of companies specialising in the installation of safety systems on construction sites in the UK. In early 2025, we developed a business plan to set up a scaffolding division to complement the already long-established services of Prodek Safety Systems and Revnet Safety Systems.

"We have without doubt made the right decision to form this strategic partnership with Layher, the original and the best system scaffold available, and we are very excited about continuing to strengthen and grow our relationship with them into the future. We very much look forward to getting started".

Clive Dickin, Group CEO of NASC & CISRS said: "A seven-figure agreement made official on the show floor at ScaffEx26 tells you exactly what this event is about. ScaffEx exists to bring the whole scaffolding and access industry together in one place and a deal of this magnitude is a fantastic example of what happens when it does."



Exhibitors repeatedly emphasised conversation as much as product display. SpanSet UK described an “amazing couple of days”, while Simian International, who travelled from the UAE, said every conversation, handshake and connection made the journey worthwhile. Gilray UK described the event as a reminder of the importance of collaboration, continuous learning and strong supply-chain relationships. Layher, the principal sponsor, said it had held valuable discussions about the future of scaffolding and access.

Scaffold Mart’s Rohan Trivedi said ScaffEx was “more than an exhibition”: it was a chance to “listen, learn and turn conversations into action”. Those conversations, he reported, had already opened doors to strategic partnerships and prompted work on new product categories for a more

Quotes from the floor

“Well, what a fantastic few days at ScaffEx26 and the Scaffolding Excellence Awards!

“It was great to catch up with so many familiar faces, meet lots of new people and showcase what SpanSet UK has to offer across the scaffolding and work-at-height industry. A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by the stand, had a chat, asked questions, shared ideas or simply came over to say hello. It was great to have so many interesting conversations over the two days.”

Rachel Hazeldine, BDM, SpanSet

“What we really took home from Manchester is seeing our customers from all around the world in person. Not on the phone. Not by email. At the stand, over a coffee, in between everything else. They say business is built on handshakes, not signatures. After two days in Manchester, we’d sign that. Some of these people we’ve worked with for years, and catching up in person felt like picking up a conversation we never really stopped. Others we met for the very first time and left with more than a business card. Both felt good. Thanks to everyone who stopped by. Looking forward to seeing you next time.”

Cetrac

“A brilliant couple of days at ScaffEx. Great to spend time surrounded by the people, businesses and ideas shaping the future of the scaffolding industry. From the exhibition floor to the conference panels, there were some really interesting conversations around: skills and competence; training and development; digital technology; safety and standards; innovation across the sector; and where scaffolding goes next.

“For me, events like this are particularly valuable because you get to hear different perspectives from across the whole industry – operatives, trainers, manufacturers, employers, governing bodies and technical specialists all in the same space. I came away with a lot of ideas confirmed, a few assumptions challenged, and an even clearer picture of where I believe vocational training can go next. The next few years in scaffolding could be very interesting indeed.”

James McMillan, H&S Advisor

complete UK supply offer.

The show’s international reach was also visible. The Scaffold & Access Industry Association said meeting professionals from the UK and overseas was a reminder of “just how connected the global scaffold and access community truly is”, praising the exchange of ideas as well as the welcome it received in Manchester.

SCAFFEX27

Plans are already well underway for ScaffEx27, which will again take place at Manchester Central. Put 9-10 September 2027 in your diary now!

If you are interested in taking stand space at ScaffEx27, get in touch with NASC asap by emailing businessdevelopment@nasc.org.uk or contact your designated Business Development Manager.

WINNERS' DELIGHT AT STAR-STUDDED AWARDS

Dara O'Briain, Rachel Riley, Kym Marsh and Phil Tufnell joined the celebrations at the Scaffolding Excellence Awards, where delighted winners celebrated with 850 of their peers.

An incredible set, a packed room, delicious food and an audience full of energy and anticipation watched on as the nine winners were announced following a process that saw 40% more entries than last year. Being shortlisted is impressive enough but here we celebrate those that took home the awards.

Those awards were presented following an incredibly moving film shown in tribute to former NASC President Wayne Connolly. The film featured interviews with Wayne's former colleagues at NASC and Connolly Scaffolding, as well as an especially poignant interview Wayne recorded before his death. Silence fell on the room while the film played, followed by a spontaneous standing ovation from guests. Wayne's fiancée then presented the first award.



Wayne Connolly Apprentice of the Year: Leo Bradbury, High Peak Scaffolding

Judges said Leo combined technical competence, leadership potential and professionalism.

Runner-up:

Lloyd McNicholas, JDC Scaffolding

Judges described Lloyd as an outstanding apprentice, recognising his maturity, competence and future leadership potential.



Service of the Year: George Roberts Ltd

Judges recognised a supply partner with real scale, reliability and infrastructure.

Highly commended: Southern Hoist Services

Judges described it as an outstanding service which also has a genuine social impact.



Product of the Year: AT-PAC, Raised Ledger System

Judges saw it as an overdue but highly practical innovation – a simple solution that improves usability, safety and efficiency.



Design of the Year: Benchmark Scaffolding

Judges described it as the most disciplined engineering-development submission.





**Project of the Year, Small:
JMAC Industrial & Access Group Ltd**

Judges praised a technically sound and professionally delivered project, strong on safety, engineering and collaboration.



**Project of the Year, Medium:
Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding Limited**

Judges described it as a compelling story that combined engineering capability, innovation and care for vulnerable residents.

**Highly commended:
Rise Scaffolding Services**

Judges said the project was genuinely innovative, technically excellent and highly sensitive to the heritage setting.



**Project of the Year, Large:
Alandale Plant & Scaffolding Ltd**

Judges called it an exceptional, industry-leading demolition-access project and a standout for its technical rigour and safety culture.



**Lifetime Achievement Award:
Chris Sedgeman**

Judges said this was one of the strongest lifetime submissions you could expect to see., and the industry-level contribution is unmatched.



**Project of the Year, Major:
GKR Scaffolding Ltd**

Judges called it an exceptional heritage restoration project.

**Highly commended:
JDC Scaffolding**

The project was praised by judges as a superbly engineered and exceptionally well-evidenced temporary works solution.





**SETTING THE STANDARD
IN SCAFFOLDING TRAINING
FOR OVER 50 YEARS.**

CISRS CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY
SCAFFOLDERS
RECORD SCHEME

CISRS.ORG.UK

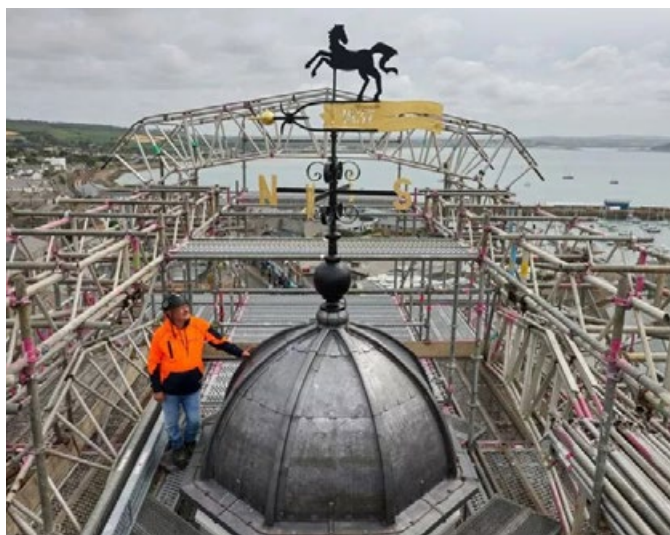
BUILT ON BELIEF

Chris Sedgeman has spent more than four decades in the scaffolding and access industry, building a career defined by solving problems no-one else would attempt. *"I started with very, very little,"* he says. After running Keith Charlesworth's company for a short period, Charlesworth told him: *"I don't know what you've got, but you have got something,"* and encouraged him to go out on his own – words Chris has thought about throughout his career.

In July 1996 he founded his business with a £5,000 investment and a single guiding principle: if you are going to do a job, you do it right. He also credits the backing of his wife and family throughout. Today, Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding Ltd employs 53 people, carries over £2.75 million in assets, and has grown turnover from under £2 million in 2009 to over £4 million by 2024, achieved by delivering technically demanding work others declined. *"I always believed I could be very good at what I did if I worked hard enough,"* he says. *"It wasn't about becoming a big company; it was about being good at what we do."*

Catalogue of difficulty

The projects that define his career form a catalogue of difficulty. *"I've always enjoyed problem-solving and I've never really looked at a scaffolding job and thought we couldn't find a way of doing it,"* Chris says. At Hayle Viaduct, the team tackled 36 arches, three road gantries and a rolling temporary roof, ensuring the rail line opened a week earlier than planned. At Lloyds Bank Market House, Penzance, a Grade I-listed granite building of 1838, what began as a minor brief became a full temporary-works operation: a 17-lift scaffold cantilevering over the main bus route without a road closure, carrying a UBIX roof adapted to an octagonal dome and wholly independent of the listed structure. At St John's Hall, Penzance, a Grade II civic building occupied throughout, Chris's team devised an in-house 40-metre box gutter and spine beam, crane-lifted as a single assembly to carry dual UBIX roofs over 1,600 square metres. Tested by Storm Ciarán, it held without leakage.



His problem-solving has also been tested in emergencies. In 2014, when storms destroyed the Dawlish Railway Line, Chris directed emergency scaffolding on one of the decade's highest-profile infrastructure incidents. When Storm Goretti struck on 7 January 2026 and tore 40m² of roof from a fully occupied care home, he coordinated the response, mobilising emergency works, temporary protection and make-safe operations across a battered region, culminating in the engineered Poldhu House and Nursing Home insurance reinstatement: a wide-span Plettac Contur scaffold designed for 1.214 kN/m² coastal wind loading, UBIX tracked-sheet temporary roofs, asbestos-safe sequencing, a 100-tonne crane operation, and a covered pedestrian tunnel to preserve ambulance access.

Across more than a decade of formal research and development, Chris has produced innovations that are now in regular use, including: a modified coupler enabling anchorage without penetrating listed fabric; a council-approved highway barrier system; a child-height handrail for stair towers; a bespoke flagpole weatherproofing tool; and a GEDA hoist integration approach adapted for confined coastal sites. Each arose from a client constraint that had no existing solution. They are the product of forty years of refusing to accept that something cannot be done.

Lead from the front

Chris has always led from the front. He still goes to site, still works alongside new recruits, and was personally present throughout the Storm Goretti emergency response at Poldhu.

That leadership has shaped the people immediately around him: the family and long-service structure Chris built has

proven resilient through recessions, industry collapses, and storm emergencies alike.

That resilience was tested when ROK Plc entered liquidation, leaving the company exposed to over £100,000 of unpaid debt at the most vulnerable point of the year. Chris absorbed it himself rather than pass it to staff or suppliers. The company survived. That decision defines his leadership.

Invest in the future

Investment in team development is continuous: 17 SSSTS or CISRS Supervisor cards and 14 Advanced Scaffolder qualifications held across the workforce; four Mental Health First Aid certifications at management level; IPAF, SEATS, LGV, asbestos awareness, and first aid training sustained across more than 40 staff. *"We've always said that if you're going to do something, do it right, and that hasn't changed,"* Chris says. *"I've always wanted our people to train to the highest level and progress as far as they can."* Chris is a Living Wage Foundation signatory and pays apprentices at qualification rate, not the legal minimum.

Chris takes the same approach to equipment, vehicles and the yard: *"We invest in the best we can afford and replace things when they need replacing. I also believe strongly in having the right systems behind the work. It's not only what happens on site; the paperwork, compliance and people behind the scenes are just as important."*

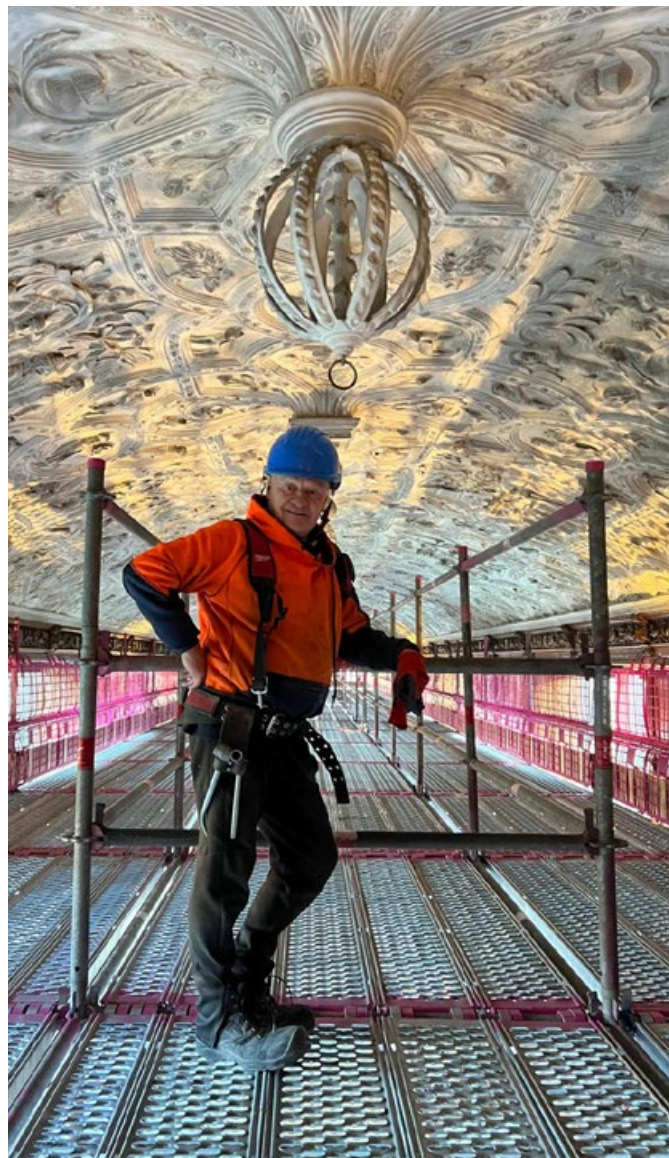
Chris has maintained NASC membership throughout the company's trading life. *"NASC has strengthened us as a company, and I think we've supported NASC in return,"* he says.

His most enduring industry contribution is the people he has produced. Scott Nicholas, his first apprentice from 1998, co-founded Raptor Scaffold Design & Consultancy Ltd in 2012 with Chris's direct support. Raptor now delivers the region's most technically demanding design work alongside CSS. Lynn Way's time as NASC President is a direct result of three decades of working to Chris's professional standards. *"I was extremely proud when my sister, Lynn Way, our Financial Director, became NASC President,"* Chris says. *"Lynn has been with me from the very start of the business and has put an enormous amount of effort into the company and the industry."*

Beyond the site

Chris's commitment to the wider cause of scaffolding training has taken him beyond yard and site. He attended parliamentary meetings and supported the industry's case for structured scaffolder training and apprenticeship investment at Government level. He has been a regular attendee at NASC regional meetings, participated in the initiative to bring veterans and service leavers into scaffolding as a skilled trade career, and represented NASC at public and industry events, talking directly to prospective entrants about what it means to be a professional scaffolder.

"One of the biggest benefits of being involved with NASC has been meeting other people in the industry," he says. *"There's a real camaraderie between members, and being able to talk openly with other companies about jobs, problems and experiences has helped us enormously. Good*



companies are willing to share their experiences and learn from one another, and I think that has helped us develop as a business as well."

Perhaps the best evidence of how Chris runs his company lies in the people who have stayed. Some employees have stayed decades and describe a man who listens, who acts when things are difficult on a personal level, and who makes people feel genuinely valued. His training legacy extends to over 100 scaffolders helped to full qualification, several of whom have since established businesses of their own.

His approach to safety is zero compromise. Every project carries client-reviewed RAMS; every operative holds a current medical clearance; every piece of PPE is individually issued, logged and inspected.

His community sponsorships – grassroots cricket, rugby, darts and triathlon – reflect an understanding that legacy is not confined to the projects a company delivers. His wider contribution was recognised with the Scaffolding Excellence Awards Lifetime Achievement Award 2026. *"Hearing my name called for the Award was quite overwhelming,"* he says. *"To think that a small company in Cornwall can achieve what we have, and to look back at what I've personally achieved in this industry, made me very proud."*

CISRS UNVEILS NEW TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAMME AT SCAFFEX26

CISRS unveiled its new Train the Trainer programme at ScaffEx26 in Manchester, establishing a formal route for experienced scaffolders to move from site work into the classroom.

The four-week course is aimed at advanced scaffolders seeking a new career in training, as well as existing trainers who want to broaden the parts of the CISRS scheme they can deliver. It will combine technical understanding with the practical skills needed to engage learners of differing experience levels.

Rob Boardman, Head of Education & Training at NASC and CISRS, said: *"There is broad agreement across the industry that we need more trainers, and that the route into training should be clearer than it has been. What we have not had until now is a defined path from site to the classroom with proper outcomes attached to it."*

Appointed CISRS instructors will deliver the programme following a rigorous recruitment process. Assessment will focus primarily on candidates' delivery, measured against formal criteria, so graduates are ready to lead sessions confidently rather than simply demonstrate technical

knowledge.

"This programme will build confidence and delivery skills alongside technical understanding, so people finish it ready to stand in front of a group," Rob Boardman added.

Support will continue after completion through instructor mentorship, CISRS observations with structured development feedback, regular CPD, updated scheme materials and a peer network for sharing experience and best practice.

A UK pilot is planned before the end of 2026, with participant feedback informing refinements ahead of a wider launch. The CISRS Quality Assurance Committee will oversee the process to protect scheme standards and ensure clear learning outcomes. Rob Boardman said the initiative would give scaffolders *"ongoing mentorship and support as they begin this exciting new chapter of their careers"*, while strengthening confidence across training centres and the wider industry.



Rob Boardman

FIVE NASC GUIDES TO HELP SCAFFOLDERS ATTRACT NEW TALENT

NASC has produced a practical suite of careers-engagement guides to help scaffolding businesses present the industry positively, connect with potential recruits and give young people a clearer route into work. Covering online and face-to-face delivery, short presentations, careers fairs and the use of the NASC Talent Pack, the publications turn outreach into a planned, engaging and measurable activity. New guidance includes:

Delivering an Online Engagement Session

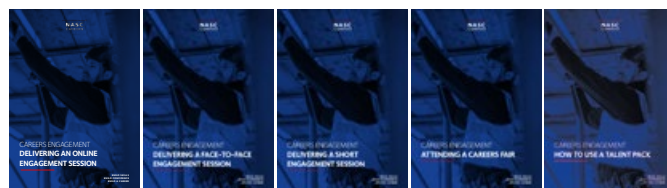
This guide sets out how to define a session's aims, audience, content and desired outcome before going live. It highlights the reach, flexibility and cost benefits of online platforms, then recommends clear introductions and agendas, camera use, questions, breaks and varied formats. Practical checks include speaker roles, timings, backgrounds, internet quality, noise, rehearsal and feedback.

Delivering a Face-to-Face Engagement Session

This publication explains how employers can raise scaffolding's profile while spotting candidates for work experience or apprenticeships. It covers introductions, agendas, audience awareness, interaction, breaks and mixed media, alongside accessibility, staffing and timing. It also suggests polls, quizzes, breakout groups and structured feedback to deepen participation.

Delivering a Short Engagement Session

This short-session guide shows how to spark curiosity about life as a scaffolder, entry routes and industry opportunities. It advises presenters to know their audience, rehearse, speak steadily, use notes and keep slides simple. A suggested



structure divides the time between a hook-led introduction, business and career content, a brief recap and honest questions, supported by follow-up resources or a return visit.

Attending a Careers Fair

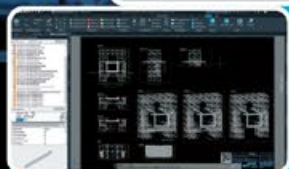
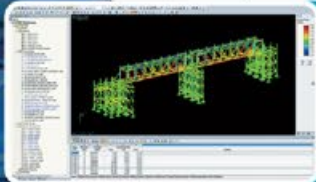
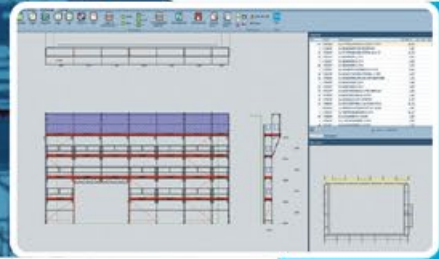
This guide positions careers fairs as an efficient way to: reach many young people, challenge misconceptions, support social value and strengthen an employer's talent pipeline. It urges companies to set clear objectives and be candid about vacancies or work experience. Recommended preparation includes a balanced team of experienced and younger staff, well-briefed representatives, business cards, name badges, promotional literature and clear display materials.

How to Use a Talent Pack

The Talent Pack guide explains how to deploy NASC's ready-made engagement kit: a VR headset, K'NEX kit, industry resources, Talent Portal leaflets, banners and a branded tablecloth. The VR experience introduces working at height safely, while the construction kit adds hands-on interest. Guidance covers booking, set-up and allocating enough space for activities, information and conversations, helping employers manage busy stands or make classroom talks more interactive.

SCAFFOLDING PLANNING
IS MULTI-FACETED
AND INTERCONNECTED.

LAYER'S LAYPLAN SUITE
PROVIDES POWERFUL
360° PLANNING, DESIGN
AND PRESENTATION
CAPABILITY, INCLUDING
THE GAME-CHANGING
SIM2FIELD.



NOT ALL SCAFFOLDING SUPPLIERS
CAN SUPPORT YOU LIKE THAT.

Layher 

More Possibilities. The Scaffolding System.



layher.co.uk