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JULY 2026

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FROM THE EDITOR

There must be thousands of scaffolders and scaffolding company owners who roll their eyes every time someone outside of the industry just assumes that scaffolding is synonymous with the construction industry alone. This issue of Scaffolding Insider is full of examples that show it is far more than that.

On pages 13-15, we look at four case studies where the common factor is power stations. The work involved is varied but each project is incredibly specialist, requiring highly-skilled operatives working to the very highest safety levels and the very tightest tolerances. A real example of the extraordinary skill and expertise in the sector.

Speaking of extraordinary skill and expertise, you'll find the full shortlists for the Scaffolding Excellence Awards in our NASC News pages. With the highest number of entries ever and the standard, according to the judges, sky high, it's clear that any company or individual making it to these shortlists is exceptional and already has every right to be proud. We'll find out all the winners at the awards ceremony on Friday 11 September. Having been to a couple of these, I can strongly recommend coming along to this night of celebration.

During the daytime on Friday 11th and the day before, Thursday 10th, ScaffEx runs its exhibition and conference. Read more about this on pages 11-12. The exhibition will be even bigger than last year with great opportunities to network and see all the latest products and services, while the conference has a focus on real-world issues and practical changes both on site and in the boardroom. Tickets are once again free, so do register and come along.

Returning to the issue of scaffolding being about far more than construction, NASC and CISRS Group CEO Clive Dickin picks up on this issue in his Industry View on page 8. He speaks about the broader implications of the Government's recent clarification that scaffolding and temporary works do not fall within the remit of the Building Safety Act.

On pages 17-18, find out more about NASC's committees and how they are quietly the absolute backbone of the organisation and the industry as a whole. There's training and education news on page 19, as well as an introduction to Rob Boardman, the new man heading up this area of the business on page 10.

I hope you enjoy the issue.



Nick Campion
Editor

CONTENTS

From the Editor	3
NASC News	4
Industry News Round-up	7
Industry View: Clive Dickin	8
News Feature: Rob Boardman	10
Feature: SCAFFEX	11
Feature: Keeping the Lights On	13
Feature: NASC Committees	17
Training & Education	19

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THE CONTENDERS!

SCAFFOLDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

The shortlist for the Scaffolding Excellence Awards 2026 has been announced.

This year's awards attracted the highest number of entries in the event's history, with submissions increasing by 40% compared with 2025. Following a rigorous judging process, the independent panel has selected the finalists across the nine categories, recognising excellence in projects, products, services, design and individual achievement.

Dr James MacFadden, chair of the independent judging panel, praised the exceptional entries: *"What impressed the judges most was not simply the quality of individual projects, but the professionalism, competence and pride evident throughout the submissions. The judges saw not only technical excellence, but also clear evidence of innovation, professionalism and a genuine commitment to safety across the sector."*

"To be shortlisted in such a competitive field is a significant achievement, and I would like to congratulate every finalist on their success."

The winners of the Scaffolding Excellence Awards 2026 will be announced on Friday 11 September at Manchester Central, during a spectacular evening of celebration and entertainment. The ceremony will be hosted by acclaimed comedian Dara Ó Briain, with special guests Rachel Riley, Kym Marsh and Phil Tufnell, as the industry comes together to celebrate the very best in scaffolding excellence.

Tickets and tables for the awards can be booked online here.



Lee Marley – Project of the Year: Major



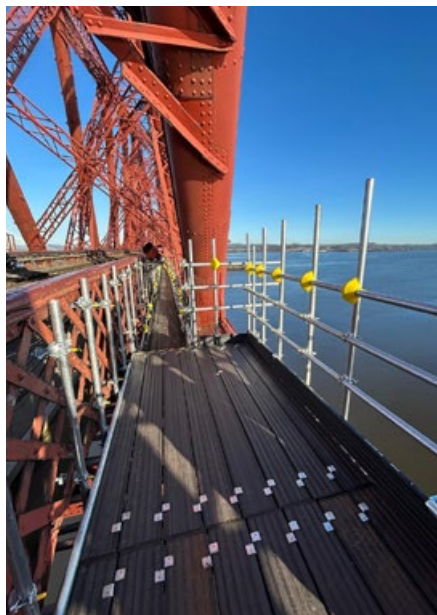
Infrastructure Site Services – Project of the Year: Major



Crossway Scaffolding
– Project Of The Year: Major



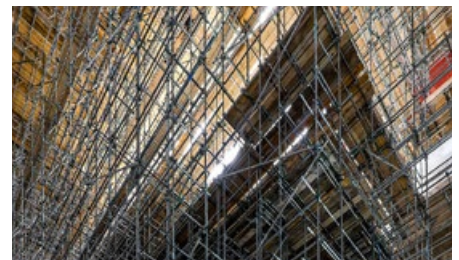
GKR Scaffolding
– Project Of The Year: Major



JMAC Industrial & Access Services
– Project Of The Year: Small



Advanced NI Scaffolding Services
– Project Of The Year: Small



JDC Scaffolding
– Project Of The Year: Major

SCAFFOLDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026 SHORTLIST

Wayne Connolly Apprentice of the Year Award ▶ Leo Bradbury, High Peak Scaffolding ▶ Lloyd McNicholas, JDC Scaffolding ▶ Taylor Brown, Connolly Scaffolding ▶ Tyler Boddy, SRT Scaffolding Services	Project of the Year: Small ▶ Advanced NI Scaffolding Services Cutts Bridge, Coleraine ▶ JMAC Industrial & Access Services Forth Rail Bridge ▶ SRT Scaffolding Services St John the Baptist Church, Harleston ▶ Zenith S.A.S. Glasgow Cathedral	Project of the Year: Medium ▶ Brand Access Solutions – Henry Cotton Building, Liverpool ▶ CCS Scaffolding VRAS Headhouse, HS2, Acton ▶ Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding Project Poldhu ▶ Rise Scaffold Services Mannington Hall, Norfolk
Project of the Year: Large ▶ Alandale Plant and Scaffolding 1 Undershaft, London ▶ Brand Access Solutions Jenners Department Store, Edinburgh ▶ JR Scaffold Services The Walton Building, Glasgow ▶ MR Scaffolding Services 5 Aldermanbury Square, London ▶ Tone Scaffolding Services – Barking Creek Barrier Gate, London	Project of the Year: Major ▶ Crossway Scaffolding Skinner Street, Leeds ▶ GKR Scaffolding Project Picnic, London ▶ Infrastructure Site Services Floors Castle, Kelso ▶ JDC Scaffolding Barkers, Kensington ▶ Lee Marley Group Oval Gas Holder, London	Design of the Year ▶ Agile Design Consultancy 5 Aldermanbury Square, London ▶ Benchmark Scaffolding HMCTS Court Building, Salisbury Square, London ▶ Creator Scaffold Designs & Temporary Works Consultancy Floors Castle, Kelso ▶ Zenith S.A.S. Glasgow Cathedral
Product of the Year ▶ AT-PAC Raised Ledger System ▶ SMART Scaffolder SMART Estimator ▶ SpanSet DSL3 Fall Arrest Lanyard ▶ Velo Tech Systems V-Deck	Service of the Year ▶ George Roberts ▶ ITP ▶ Southern Hoist Services ▶ Worldwide Scaffold & Access	Lifetime Achievement Award  TO BE ANNOUNCED ON THE NIGHT

NEW BUILDING SAFETY ACT GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS

Following engagement with the Government on the issue of the application of the Building Safety Act to scaffolding and temporary works, NASC has launched new guidance for members: PAG2:2026 Application of the Building Safety Act to Scaffolding and Access.



The new guidance, issued to all full NASC members last week, is designed to help businesses respond consistently and accurately where questions about the Building Safety Act and Building Regulations arise, particularly during Build UK Common Assessment Standard (CAS) audits. It is accompanied by written confirmation from Samantha Dixon MBE, the then Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Democracy at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), secured through NASC's ongoing conversation with the department.

The Government's correspondence provides welcome clarity, confirming that, in the normal course of events:

- Access scaffolding is not normally "building work" as defined by the Building Regulations.
- Scaffolding erected to facilitate construction or inspection does not require Building Control approval before erection.
- The Building Safety Act 2022 did not change the legal definition of building work in respect of scaffolding.
- Scaffolding remains subject to its existing statutory duties, including the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and wider health and safety legislation.

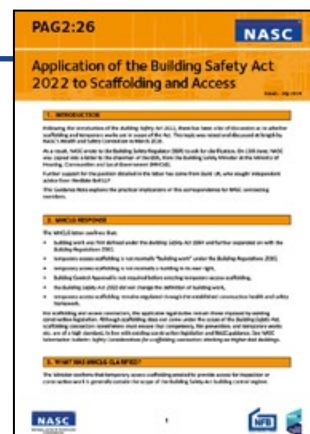
Why the new guidance matters

The guidance addresses a real and immediate problem for members. Several questions in Section 7 of the Common Assessment Standard (CAS) currently require scaffolding contractors to demonstrate arrangements or approvals that, for access scaffolding, are not required by legislation and, in many circumstances, simply cannot be achieved. In practice, this has meant competent contractors being assessed against requirements that do not exist in law, creating an impossible compliance position during CAS audits. The PAG2:2026 Guidance equips members to respond fully, clearly and compliantly.

Furthermore, following discussions with NASC, Build UK has agreed to revise the CAS question set, particularly Section 7, to reflect the clarification provided by MHCLG and ensure the requirements align with the legislation. An updated version of the Common Assessment Standard will be published on 1 November 2026.

Clive Dickin, NASC and CISRS Group CEO, said: *"This correspondence provides welcome clarity regarding the application of the Building Safety Act and Building Regulations to scaffolding and temporary works. Until now, several questions within the Common Assessment Standard have created an impossible compliance position, whereby competent contractors may be assessed against requirements that do not exist in law."*

NASC members can access the full guidance via the member portal.



NASC ADDRESSES ERECTION METHODS MISINFORMATION

NASC has addressed confusion raised by a letter circulated to a number of member companies containing claims regarding the legality of current scaffold erection methods.

However, the legal position remains clear. The Work at Height Regulations 2005 require duty holders to apply the hierarchy of control, giving priority to collective protection over personal protection where it is reasonably practicable to do so. The Regulations do not prescribe a single method of scaffold erection, nor do they mandate the use of any particular product or proprietary system. Equally, neither the Regulations nor HSE identify any single scaffold erection method as the sole means of achieving compliance.

Compliance is achieved through suitable and sufficient risk assessment, competent planning and the implementation of safe systems of work, appropriate to the specific task and circumstances.

NASC SG4 remains the recognised industry guidance for preventing falls in scaffolding operations. First introduced in the mid-1990s, SG4 has continually

evolved to reflect advances in equipment, working methods, research and industry experience. Developed collaboratively with industry and supported by the HSE, it represents established industry good practice and provides a robust framework for achieving compliance with the Work at Height Regulations.

The scaffolding industry undertakes an exceptionally wide range of work across many sectors and environments. No single product or erection method can currently be regarded as a universal solution for every scaffold configuration.

Consequently, SG4 promotes a range of recognised methods and control measures, enabling employers to select the most appropriate safe system of work following a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

NASC does not endorse or promote any individual manufacturer's proprietary product or commercial solution.

NASC will continue to review new technologies and update its guidance where appropriate, ensuring that SG4 remains aligned with legislation, informed by evidence and focused on what matters most – continually improving the safety of those working in the scaffolding industry.



PAY AND HOLIDAY BOOST FROM CIJC PAY RATES

New minimum pay rates for the construction industry have been confirmed under the CIJC Working Rule Agreement. The rates, which applied from 20 July, cover operatives, apprentices, travel allowances, subsistence and sick pay, and holiday entitlement, which is set to increase from January 2027.

- Some of the key minimum hourly rates from 20 July are:
- General Operative: £13.18
 - Skill Rate 2: £15.04
 - Skill Rate 4: £13.30
 - Skill Rate 1: £15.61
 - Skill Rate 3: £14.07
 - Craft Rate: £16.40

Apprentice pay, travel and overnight subsistence allowances all increase, and from 1 January 2027, annual holiday entitlement will increase by four hours, with a further four hours added from 1 January 2028, increasing entitlement to 24 days, plus the usual eight bank holidays.



NFRC LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE FALLS THROUGH FRAGILE ROOFS

The National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) has launched a new safety campaign calling on contractors, clients, designers and building owners to take action on one of the leading causes of fatal and serious injury in construction: falls through fragile roofs and rooflights.

Don't Fall for Fragile: Step Back and Plan urges everyone involved in roofing and construction work to identify fragile roof risks early, plan work properly and stop unsafe shortcuts before someone gets hurt.

To pledge your support and access the free resources, visit nfrf.co.uk/step-back-and-plan



LIGHTHOUSE CHARITY REPORTS UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND

The Lighthouse Charity has published its 2025 Impact Report as the charity sought to meet unprecedented demand for its emotional, physical and financial wellbeing services across the construction community.

Demand grew across all of the charity's services, but most strikingly for its Critical Incident Response Service, which responded to 94 critical incidents – a 42% increase on 2024. The service responds to serious incidents and fatalities both on and off site, ensuring those who have witnessed or been affected receive expert and specialist support. The charity also funded 8,714 counselling sessions, up 51% on the previous year.

Sarah Bolton, CEO of the Lighthouse Charity, said: "Last year we continued with our strategy of increasing awareness of our services and building and supporting our communities. This has been incredibly successful, and we have been able to connect with more people than ever before. As well as supporting 17% more families than in the previous year, we also reached more people through our #MakeltVisible initiative and our Critical Incident Response Service."

If you or someone you know needs support, the Lighthouse Charity's helpline and web chat are available 24/7: contact them here: <http://lighthousecharity.org/free-24-7-support/>

Read the full report here: <https://lighthousecharity.org/reports-accounts/>



NEW HSE FATALITY FIGURES PUBLISHED

The HSE has published its annual work-related fatality statistics, showing 126 workers died in Great Britain in 2025/26 – provisionally the lowest figure outside of the pandemic period. For the first time, the HSE has also published an international comparison across 36 countries, showing Great Britain has one of the lowest work-related fatal injury rates in the world. However, falls from height remain the single most common cause of workplace fatalities, accounting for 31 deaths.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

It is important to be prepared when an HSE inspector calls at your business, and the HSE has issued guidance on how to prepare well.

Their resources will help you prepare by explaining:

- what to expect when an inspector visits your business and how inspections are carried out
- why inspections are an important part of keeping people healthy and safe at work
- how to let workers and their representatives know about information an inspector may provide during a visit.

Read more here: [When a health and safety inspector calls - HSE](#)

HEAVY FINES AFTER MOBILE ACCESS TOWER COLLAPSE

A London construction company and its director have been fined after a light access aluminium tower overturned on Putney High Street, seriously injuring two members of the public.

The tower had been assembled incorrectly and without adequate measures to separate it from members of the public. It was then covered with sheeting, which caught the wind and acted as a sail.

The company, Add Prop Ltd, had previously been served with a Prohibition Notice relating to unsafe work at another site. It was found guilty of breaching the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £7,000 in costs. Company director Atif Riaz was found guilty of an offence under Section 37 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, was fined £1,730 and ordered to pay the same amount in costs.

INDUSTRY VIEW

This month, Scaffolding Insider welcomes Clive Dickin, CEO of NASC and CISRS, to give his view on an issue that may seem niche and technical but, as he argues, actually has huge ramifications for the scaffolding industry as a whole, which is so much more than construction despite how it is sometimes perceived.



The Government's recent clarification that scaffolding and temporary works do not fall within the remit of the Building Safety Act 2022, unless they become a permanent part of a completed building, is welcome news for NASC members. It provides certainty and removes confusion. Perhaps most importantly, it helps ensure that legislation is applied as it was intended.

But this clarification also presents an opportunity to address something much bigger.

For too long, scaffolding has been viewed almost exclusively through the lens of construction. This is understandable: construction remains a significant market for our industry. Every major building project, from housing developments to commercial towers, depends on safe, professionally designed access solutions.

However, recent research among the 20 largest NASC member companies revealed that, on average, just 30% of their turnover comes from traditional construction activity. That statistic demonstrates that modern scaffolding is no longer simply a construction trade. It is a specialist engineering service that supports some of the UK's most important industries, often working behind the scenes on projects that keep the country moving.

Our members help maintain critical energy infrastructure, from offshore platforms battling the conditions of the North Sea to refineries, power stations, nuclear facilities and renewable energy assets that keep homes and businesses supplied with power.

They work across manufacturing, providing complex access solutions inside factories, processing plants and industrial facilities, where production can't stop. They support the aviation sector, erecting intricate scaffolding and access systems inside aircraft hangars that allow engineers to inspect, repair and maintain all forms of aircraft.

They play a vital role in defence, delivering secure access solutions on Ministry of Defence sites, naval dockyards and strategic infrastructure projects where precision, planning and security are paramount. They also help preserve Britain's heritage, providing access to the cathedrals, castles, historic bridges and listed buildings that define our national

landscape, often not for construction or renovation, but for access, maintenance or even for event lighting. Members support rail, highways, ports and utilities, enabling the maintenance and renewal of the infrastructure millions of people rely on every day.

And sometimes their work captures the public imagination in ways few realise. For example, film sets often rely on scaffolding long before the cameras begin rolling. NASC members have provided access solutions for productions at studios across the country, including the extraordinary sets built for Wonka. From blockbuster films and television productions to live events, theatres and major sporting venues, scaffolding quietly underpins some of Britain's most creative industries.

This extraordinary diversity is one of the great strengths of our sector – and it explains why recent discussions around the Building Safety Act have sometimes overlooked the practical reality of what our members do. The legislation was designed to strengthen standards for permanent buildings, particularly higher-risk residential buildings. It was never intended to regulate every temporary access structure erected across every sector of the UK economy.

However, it is important to re-state that this does not, in any way, diminish the industry's commitment to competence. Competence has always been at the heart of NASC membership. Long before the Building Safety Act, our members were investing in training, technical standards, independent auditing and continuous improvement. Wherever a scaffold is erected, it must be designed to a compliant design and then erected and inspected by competent professionals working to the highest standards. That commitment has never depended on legislation.

Construction will always remain central to the scaffolding sector. It is where many of our members began, and it continues to represent a significant proportion of our work. But if this latest clarification encourages the wider industry to see scaffolding as the specialist access engineering profession it truly is, then its impact will extend far beyond the Building Safety Act.

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DEVELOPING PEOPLE, RAISING STANDARDS: ROB BOARDMAN'S FOCUS FOR NASC

Rob Boardman has joined NASC and CISRS as Head of Training and Education, bringing nearly a decade of experience with CISRS-approved centre 3B Training, now Morson Nexus, where he most recently served as Operations Director. As he settles into the role, Rob spoke to Scaffolding Insider about his background, what attracted him to NASC, and the priorities he will be focusing on for members and the wider scaffolding community.

For members who haven't met you yet, can you tell us a little about your background?

My background is rooted in the training sector. I spent most of the last decade at 3B Training, now Morson Nexus, a construction-related health and safety training business that was also a CISRS-approved centre. Most recently, I was Operations Director, and that gave me significant experience of how training centres operate, the pressures they face and the amount of work they put in to deliver our scheme to the highest standard.

What has that experience taught you about the role training centres play in the scaffolding sector?

Training centres play a key role in delivering for our industry. They understand the learners, the employers and the practical realities of delivering high-quality training. We are going to need their expertise to help expand our talent pool and ensure our standards continue to improve.

You have joined NASC and CISRS at a time of change. What kind of opportunity does that present?

I have joined the organisation at an exciting time, with an existing programme of modernisation already under way. That presents a chance to make early progress, while also allowing me to bring my own perspective and help shape what the future will look like. I expect healthy debate about many of the initiatives I'll be working on, and I have no doubt that will help shape a better future for training and education in scaffolding.

What are the main priorities you will be working on over the rest of this year?

One of the key projects is the CISRS Train the Trainer programme. This will be an industry-leading development programme that offers experienced scaffolders a clear route to becoming CISRS trainers. Trainers are the backbone of everything we deliver, and I'm determined that CISRS will not only offer them a high-quality entry point into delivery, but also provide ongoing support throughout their new career.

How do you see CPD developing for scaffolding professionals?

We are an industry of highly skilled people who deserve more opportunities to expand their knowledge and develop their careers. CPD needs to be ongoing and offer genuine opportunities for learning. I will be consulting widely on the



Rob Boardman

details, and I am looking forward to hearing from people across the industry to help shape what ongoing development looks like for our sector.

Technology is also part of the training conversation. What changes can members expect?

There is ongoing work to roll out a new Learner Management System in the coming months. This will bring benefits to training centres, learners and employers, offering new ways of accessing course materials as well as CPD opportunities. It will support the type of access to learning that many other sectors already enjoy, and scaffolding should be no different.

Finally, what message would you like to share with NASC members?

I am here because I want to make our training and education offer to the scaffolding industry better. We have very well-established high standards, and everything we do must continue to drive that forward. There are many stakeholders across our industry who will be key to shaping these ideas, and it is vital that we make the most of the experience we have and the ideas people bring. I am very much looking forward to the work ahead, and I am confident that we will be able to look back in 12 months' time and see a training and education offering that has changed for the better.

SCAFFEX26 CONFERENCE: PRACTICAL IDEAS, HONEST CONVERSATIONS AND WORKABLE SOLUTIONS

With just weeks to go until ScaffEx26, the Conference programme is now complete and promises two days packed with practical advice, real-world experience and honest discussion about the issues shaping the future of the scaffolding and access sector.

Taking place on 10-11 September at Manchester Central, and hosted by journalist Sophie Long, the Conference has been built around one simple objective: giving every delegate ideas they can put into practice immediately, whether they are working on site, managing contracts or running a business.

The programme opens with *Thriving in Uncertainty – Insights from Across the Supply Chain*, a Question Time-style debate bringing together voices from across construction and industry to tackle the commercial realities of the sector. Richard Beresford of the National Federation of Builders, Danny Dwyer of PHD Access, Chris Abbey from Altrad UK and Rob Wright of Lindum Group will discuss everything from fair payment and contract terms to workforce pressures and stronger relationships between contractors and clients. Rather than avoiding difficult subjects, the session is designed to encourage open discussion about what needs to change across the supply chain.

Business growth is another major theme. *What Nobody Tells You About Starting Your Own Scaffolding Firm* brings together people who have built successful businesses themselves. James Brierley of Rose System Scaffolding, Lee Marley, and KAS Scaffolding directors Shane Wood and Adam Millgate, will share honest accounts of the realities behind starting, growing and scaling a scaffolding company, covering everything from financial pressures to company culture and what they wish they had known earlier.

Recruitment and retention remain high on every contractor's agenda, and *The Talent Crisis – Why You Need a Blend of Youth and Experience* looks at how businesses can attract and develop the next generation while making the most of experienced people already in the industry. Danny Clarke of CITB, Donna Mulvihill of Altrad UK, Clive Dickin of NASC and CISRS, Ashley Smith of R.A.S Scaffolding and Dan Wilson of MAR Scaffolding will examine what's working in practice, including widening recruitment into groups often overlooked by the industry.

Day Two shifts the focus firmly onto safety and innovation. *Hiding in Plain Sight – The Hidden Risks of Getting It Wrong* explores hazards that are often underestimated, including fire, dust exposure and contamination. Former HSE inspector Matt Greenly and Alice Thomson of 4-Rail Services will explain why these less visible risks deserve far more attention and how better monitoring and planning can reduce them.

One of the Conference's most anticipated discussions



is *Would You Trust a Scaffolder Trained on a Computer?* The session examines how blended learning, immersive technology and digital training are changing the way scaffolders develop their skills. With contributions from Martin Addison of Video Arts Group, Joanne Walker of the CWIC Scaffolding Academy and other industry leaders, delegates will hear how technology is complementing, rather than replacing, practical experience and helping prepare the workforce for the future.

Technical excellence also runs throughout the programme. Two project showcase sessions will give delegates behind-the-scenes access to award-winning schemes, including the Manchester Town Hall restoration, 25 Canada Square at Canary Wharf and other projects that demonstrate innovative thinking, smart technology and collaborative working. Rather than simply celebrating success, the presentations will focus on lessons learned that can be applied to future contracts.

Scaffex26 concludes with the Scaffolding Excellence Awards on the evening of 11 September, hosted by comedian and broadcaster Dara Ó Briain, providing an opportunity for the industry to celebrate outstanding achievement after two days focused on learning, collaboration and raising standards.

Registration for the ScaffEx26 conference and exhibition remains free, making it the most accessible opportunity this year to hear directly from the people shaping the future of the scaffolding and access industry.

More than an exhibition

The ScaffEx26 exhibition promises to be the biggest showcase of products and services the scaffolding and access industry has ever seen.

With more than 50 exhibitors filling Manchester Central,



visitors will be able to get hands-on with the latest equipment, compare products side by side and speak directly to the people designing, manufacturing and supplying the solutions that keep the industry moving forward. From global brands to specialist manufacturers and service providers, every corner of the sector will be represented.

Visitors can explore the latest developments in both system scaffolding and traditional tube and fitting solutions, with manufacturers and suppliers showcasing new products, components and accessories designed to improve safety, productivity and efficiency. Whether you're investing in a complete system or looking for those small innovations that save time on site, there will be plenty to discover.

The exhibition extends well beyond scaffolding itself. A dedicated transport area will feature specialist scaffold lorries, trucks and fleet solutions, giving contractors the opportunity to see the latest vehicle technology designed specifically for the industry's demanding operational needs. Alongside them will be suppliers of lifting equipment, hoists and powered access systems, demonstrating how integrated access solutions are helping contractors tackle increasingly complex projects.

Safety remains at the heart of the show. Exhibitors will be presenting the newest PPE, fall protection equipment, anchor systems, inspection tools and site safety products, alongside practical accessories that make everyday work safer and more efficient. For many visitors, it's a rare opportunity to compare products from multiple suppliers in one place before making purchasing decisions.

Digital technology has become an increasingly important

part of modern scaffolding businesses, and ScaffEx26 reflects that change. Software developers will be demonstrating everything from scaffold design, inspections and digital handovers to inventory management, workforce planning and project management systems. Whether you're taking your first steps towards digital working or looking to upgrade existing systems, the exhibition offers the chance to see the latest platforms in action and ask questions directly to the experts behind them.

The show is also designed for business owners as much as scaffolders. Recruitment specialists, payroll providers, HR consultants, health and safety advisers, insurance specialists, training organisations and engineering consultancies will all be on hand to discuss the services that help scaffolding companies grow, recruit and operate more effectively. This all makes ScaffEx26 as much a business improvement event as it is a product exhibition.

Adding something completely different to this year's event is a fascinating exhibition celebrating the history of scaffolding. A unique display will chart the industry's evolution over the past 100 years, showcasing historic equipment, photographs and memorabilia that illustrate just how far scaffolding has come.

Visitors will also be able to get an early look at the shortlisted entries for the 2026 Scaffolding Excellence Awards. Before the winners are announced on Friday evening, the exhibition will showcase many of the outstanding projects, innovations and achievements that have earned companies recognition, giving delegates the opportunity to study some of the industry's most impressive work up close.

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of any exhibition isn't something you can display on a stand. ScaffEx26 brings together thousands of contractors, suppliers, designers, manufacturers and clients under one roof, creating countless opportunities to catch up with existing contacts, make new connections and exchange ideas with people from every part of the sector.

Whether you're planning your next investment, searching for new suppliers, exploring new technology or simply curious about what's next for the industry, the ScaffEx26 exhibition offers something for everyone. Combined with the Conference programme and the Scaffolding Excellence Awards, it promises to be two days that no scaffolding professional will want to miss.

Building on 2025 success

A survey after ScaffEx25 found a high level of satisfaction, with 89.1% rating the event Excellent or Good. At the same time, 77% said it met their goal of discovering new products, while 82% said it met their goal of meeting suppliers.

Almost half (49%) of attendees either made a purchase at the show or soon after, while 84% answered 'yes' or 'maybe' when asked if they had discovered a new supplier they plan to do business with. Over half (55%) met their goal of sourcing materials for upcoming projects.

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON THE SCAFFOLDING THAT SUPPORTS THE UK'S ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



Altrad: Heysham 2 Power Station

Altrad plays a key role in supporting EDF's nuclear fleet, including the complex Chargehall Roof Remediation Project at Heysham 2. Valued at £7.5 million (with £1.94 million in scaffolding and access services from Altrad), the project involves replacing a 7,000m² roof to extend the station's operational life by at least 10 years and beyond for defueling and decommissioning.

Scope of Works

- Scaffold designed to withstand seismic activity and 10,000-year wind events.
- Scaffold over 70m in length, 14m wide and up to 74.5m tall.
- 38 lifts high, with 33 boarded out for access and inspection activities.
- Over 350 tonnes of HAKI Universal System scaffold.
- Hoist support structure enabling material and personnel transport to the 74.5m-high roof level.
- Over 220 DESSA 1280mm-deep aluminium beams creating a 31.5m span to support 11 lifts of scaffolding above a radiologically controlled building with a non-load-bearing roof.
- Over 150 750mm-deep aluminium beams supporting up to 12 lifts of scaffolding and bridging numerous obstructions and access routes.



Design and Engineering Approach

Altrad's bespoke scaffold design uses HAKI system scaffold and DESSA aluminium beams, with spans up to 31.5m and leg loadings up to 27 tonnes. The structure has already withstood Storm Éowyn and other named storms without damage and will remain in place for a further year.

The hoist support, seismic dynamic forces, 10,000 year wind case and other loadings mean that there are a significant number of anchors required, including Altrad DESSA shear plates with Hilti anchor bolts, Band & Plate couplers with Hilti anchor bolts, Gravlock couplers attached directly to steelwork with holes cored through cladding and an additional full independent scaffold constructed by rope access trained scaffolders inside the building to provide suitable tie points for the external scaffold structure.



SRK: Inovyn Runcorn Power Station

SRK Scaffolding provided Hughes & Salvidge with access scaffolding, protection scaffolding and asbestos scaffolding enclosures. The project aimed to remove all asbestos-contaminated areas within the power station chimney, precipitators, and E&I workshop. Hughes & Salvidge were assigned to fully demolish all buildings including the stack structure.

Three of the main challenges were:

- Delivering the full demolition of buildings and the stack structure within a live plant area.
- Erecting scaffolding while safely managing the presence of asbestos-containing materials.
- Designing scaffolds for an exposed, high-wind environment.

SRK Scaffolding and their in-house scaffold designer provided a bespoke scaffold design for the chimney stack and the precipitators building, considering all asbestos materials present and to withstand the potential of a high wind loading impact. Design scaffolds were also provided for the protection of all live pipework within a 30m radius of the stack structure, to withstand a measured drop loading should this occur during demolition.

This resulted in:

- Scaffold erected in line with the programme's key performance milestones.
- All asbestos materials removed safely.
- Chimney stack demolished successfully within a live plant area.
- Zero health and safety incidents recorded to date.

A significant highlight of this project was the zero health and safety incidents recorded – a particularly noteworthy achievement given the hazardous materials involved and the complexities of working within a live plant environment.

SRK: Hinkley Point C

A bespoke scaffold-based building was designed and constructed at Hinkley Point C to house low-pressure generator hoods during fabrication. The structure needed to accommodate a large Mammoet gantry crane, requiring an exceptionally large opening and precise tolerances under significant wind loading and tight spatial constraints. Initially conceived as a multi-million-pound steel portal frame, SRK delivered an innovative scaffolding-based alternative at a fraction of the cost and associated carbon.

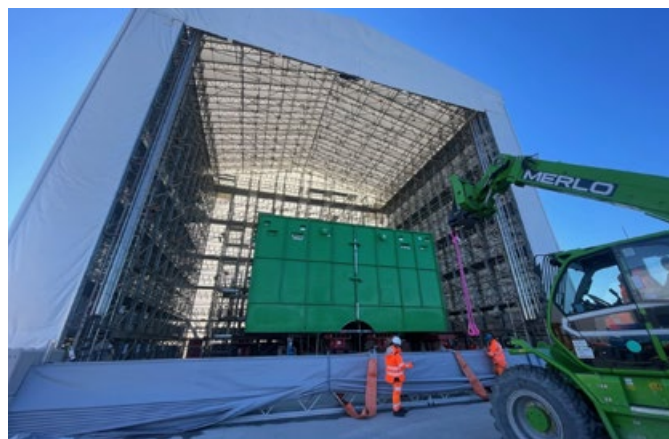
To ensure safe and compliant HAKI System erection, all personnel were trained and regular inspections were conducted in line with hold point and assembly requirements in the A-Accepted drawings. These practices reduced construction risk and supported consistent quality. Hollow drill bits were also used to manage the intricate drilling process required to secure the structure to the slab using 1,280 bolts.

Design and Engineering Innovation

The project required exceptional precision: side supports of 19.24m width with a maximum tolerance of $\pm 10\text{mm}$; plumb deviation of no more than $\pm 2\text{mm}$; vertical alignment within 5mm over the full height; a door head height of 18.3m above the slab, flat to within $\pm 10\text{mm}$; and a maximum allowable deflection under load of $L/600$. The solution represented a significant advance in temporary scaffold structures, including industry-first integrations such as a 19m-wide ASSA ABLOY MegaDoor supported by scaffold.

To achieve these tolerances while avoiding the excessive cost and logistics of structural steel columns, SRK developed a system of bolted steel flitch plates secured to band and plate couplers. Vertical 780mm beams and a bespoke bracing system were used to direct wind loads from the door leaves into the scaffold's ledger level. Since the standard HAKI ledgers could not withstand the compression forces, we supplemented them with horizontal steel tubes between tripods.

Construction faced challenges due to the harsh weather conditions near the sea. To ensure safety, the RAMS (Risk Assessment Method Statement) process was implemented, including the use of an anemometer to monitor wind speeds regularly. Additionally, to reduce working at extreme heights, the roof was constructed on the ground and then lifted into position.





JR Scaffold Services: Cockenzie Power Station Scaffold Project

JR Scaffold Services played a central role in a complex and technically demanding re-insulation and re-cladding project at Cockenzie Power Station in East Lothian. Working for Luddon Construction and Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN), the team delivered bespoke scaffolding solutions to support civil remedial works at the 275kV building in a contract worth £1.6m.

The scaffolding had to allow full access to all corners of the building for the safe removal of asbestos cladding and other harmful materials. For JR Scaffold Services, this meant three years of detailed pre-project planning, followed by 11 months of on-site installation.

Scope of work

The scope included internal and external scaffolding across 15 distinct zones – some up to 23 metres high – within a live power facility. The entire operation was bound to a strict phased power outage schedule, meaning any missed deadlines could have disrupted regional power supplies and incurred financial penalties for the principal contractor. Because of this, every step of the installation and dismantling process had to be carefully planned and rigorously followed.

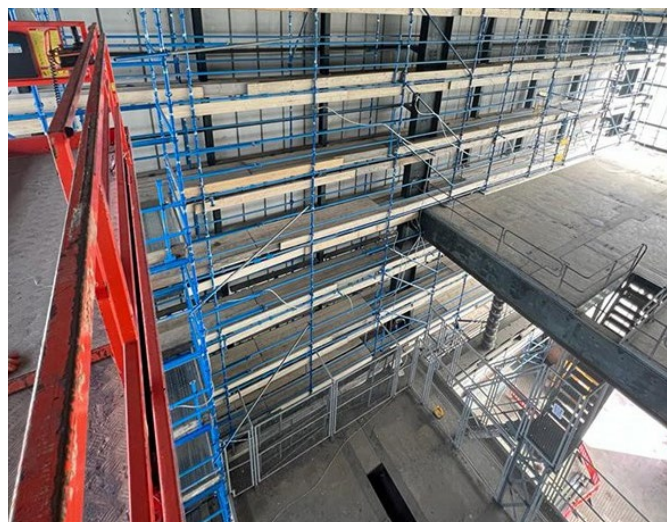
Four highly experienced scaffold operatives and a supervisor were on site daily throughout the project; they erected more than 7,500m² of scaffolding across the 15 zones. The scaffold featured a mix of Cuplok galvanised steel system scaffold and tube and fittings scaffolding – the latter used where intricate designs were required in hard-to-reach areas. A mixture of beams in varying sizes and cantilevers were also part of the project.

It was necessary to purchase two electric scissor lifts with a 22m working lift height, which remained on site throughout the project, especially as no diesel-powered machinery was allowed within the power plant. The material had to be handled below shoulder height and carefully placed on the scissor lift and slowly lifted to its position, ensuring there was no risk of dropping materials near electrical transformers and equipment.

Scaffold designs needed to account for challenging and hard-to-access areas throughout the facility. The scaffolding also had to be adaptable to a range of environments, from ground level to existing steel beams, mezzanines, and cantilevered sections. JR Scaffold Services also had to overcome complications such as obstructive structural steel and contaminated surfaces (e.g. bird and bat guano), which required precise planning, engineering assessments, and agile on-site problem-solving.

Working closely with Luddon Construction, as well as environmental specialists Enviraz Scotland and Pro Industrial Roofing and Cladding, JR Scaffold ensured all considerations were incorporated into the design. Final plans were based on shared input from scaffold supervisors, directors and design engineers. These detailed calculations informed the selection of materials and layout, ensuring full accessibility and safety, while taking into account access points, potential hazards and other site interactions.

The success of the project was measured by its flawless timing. Every section of scaffold had to be completed and dismantled within precise windows to avoid impact on Luddon's budget – or worse, financial implications for SPEN, which could have been passed on to subcontractors through contractual clauses.



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INSIDE THE ENGINE ROOM

Much of NASC's most important work happens quietly, behind the scenes. This is thanks to NASC's network of committees that are responsible for developing, reviewing and maintaining the guidance, standards and processes that members rely on every day.

Made up of people who are actively working across the industry, these committees bring current experience, practical insight, fresh ideas and deep expertise directly into the organisation. This ensures that NASC's work is firmly rooted in the reality of operational life.

The Health and Safety Committee, for example, continually reviews guidance to keep pace with changes in practice and regulation, often establishing working groups of subject experts to update existing material or develop new guidance where gaps are identified.

The depth of expertise across the committees is remarkable. Contractors, suppliers and specialists from across the country come together, often working alongside competitors, united by a shared aim of strengthening both NASC and the wider industry. The quality of the work produced reflects this collaboration. Collectively, the committees form the heart of the organisation's mission – and also act as a proving ground for future leaders.

In 2024, NASC introduced changes to committee governance, including the introduction of formal elections. From that point onwards, committee positions operate on a rotating cycle, with half of the committees holding elections each year. Initially, existing committee members were randomly assigned an election year, with different election years allocated within each committee. This approach was

designed to maintain continuity by ensuring that not all committee members faced election simultaneously. The role of Committee Chairman is voted for by committee members. To ensure balance and effectiveness, committee members must meet relevant experience criteria, with care taken to maintain a mix of contractor and supplier representation and a diversity of perspectives.

This year, elections were held for several committees, with strong levels of interest and engagement. Together, this evolving structure supports transparency, continuity and the ongoing strength of NASC's crucial work.

Who is on the committees and how do you join?

To sit on a committee, you must be employed by a NASC Contracting or Supplier Member. Non-members may occasionally be co-opted onto a committee, but this is rare and typically only occurs where their expertise is required for specific work.

When elections are due, nominations and applications are submitted during a two-week window and where a vote is required, all NASC Contracting and Supplier member organisations receive an email containing the application forms and a link to vote. Each organisation is entitled to one vote.

Outside election periods, you may apply to join a committee. If a vacancy exists and you are a suitable candidate who meets the relevant criteria, you may be appointed. Alternatively, you can stand for election during the formal election process.

The list of current committee members demonstrates the breadth and depth of commitment from individuals and organisations determined to come together to serve the organisation and the industry.

Technical Committee

Colin Murphy

- Chair

James Attridge
Jason Black
Matthew Brewin
Ryan Clegg
Graeme Coote
Stephen Corden
Tony Jenkins
Kevin Fitzpatrick
Ricky Mair
Russ Marlow
Stuart Salmon
Scott Nicholas
Anita Singh
Jan Andresen (co-opted)
Ivik Masek (co-opted)
Martyn Ostcliffe (co-opted)
Steve Prower (co-opted)
Matt Shore (co-opted)



Health & Safety Committee

Alan Harris

- Chair

David Anderson
Lee Marshall
Pat Walsh
Peter Cullen
Roy Rogers
Adrian Rooney
Kate Thomson
Łukasz Rozpiorski
Sebastian Lik
Gary McKee
John Houlihan
Simon Hughes
Kieren Cattanach
Andrew Dallas
Jamie Lyons (co-opted)

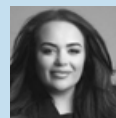


Training and Education Committee

Lydia Stanton

- Chair

Steve Ingle
Steve Fellows
Adam Millgate
Sebastian Lik
Darren Toms
Paul Dicks
Amie Bailey
Sean Pike
Alan Osborne
Donna Mulvihill (co-opted)
Mike Burr (co-opted)
Dave Browne (co-opted)
James Brierley (co-opted)



Contracts Committee**David Brown**

– Chair



Lynn Way

Paul Ash

Andy Thomas

Jay Green

Luke Roberts

Ross Archibald

Doug O'Mahony

Liam Duggan

Simon Russell

Ian Fyall

Membership Standards Committee**Sarah Klieve**

– Chair



Samuel McSpadden

Paul Rich

Jude Phillips

Lee Morrison

Kevin Fitzpatrick

Ashley Rookes

Dave Bowring

Sean Pike

Membership Recruitment and Benefits Committee**Sean Pike**

– Chair



Lynn Way

David Brown

Zack Rowland

Paul Rich

Jamie Angell

Paul Ash

Ashley Rookes

Alan Slater

Public Affairs and ESG Committee**Matthew Cousins**

– Chair



Gary Coote

Chris Hilton

Danny Dwyer

Anthony Houghton

Kate Thomson

Sarah Klieve

Ashley Smith

Katherine Fox

Supplier**Alan Slater**

– Chair



Richard L'Herroux

Matt Thompson

Gary McCulloch

Heath Brown

Simon Russell

Lee Morrison

Andrew Gee

Steve Fellows

Tony Mills

Membership Audit Committee**Lee Rowswell**

– Chair



Martin George

Adam Millgate

Gary Oatway

Daniel Steele

Ben Ekins

Doug O'Mahony

Glynn Burrows

Nicholas Munster

Committee	Number as per Terms of Reference	Current vacancies	Current vacancy types
Contracts	15	5	5
Health & Safety	15	0	0
Membership Standards	10	1	1 Supplier
Membership Audit	10	1	1 Contractor
Technical	15	1	1
Membership Recruitment / Benefits	10	1	1 Contractor
Public Affairs and ESG	10	1	1 Supplier
Supplier	10	0	0
Training & Education	10	0	0

Could you be part of the teams that shape the industry?
 If you are interested in joining a committee, please email committees@nasc.org.uk

BROADER CHANGES

As well as seeing significant changes to the committees, the recent NASC AGM saw other changes to governance arrangements, including the appointment of two new members to the NASC Board, Lee Rowswell Group Director at GKR Scaffolding and Malvern Scaffolding's Managing Director, Steve Fellows.

Members also took the opportunity to recognise

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

Another significant development was the official launch of NASC's new regional structure. The new model introduces 10 locally focused regions, designed to strengthen engagement with members, create more opportunities for collaboration and ensure regional priorities are represented more effectively across the organisation.

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF SCAFFOLDING CAREERS

NASC's Teacher Tours programme continues to gather momentum, with the latest event in Wales bringing careers professionals face to face with the modern scaffolding industry.

Hosted by CWIC Scaffolding Academy in Swansea and delivered in partnership with Centregreat Engineering and CITB, the event welcomed 17 attendees – a mix of careers advisers and Jobcentre work coaches who support individuals across schools, unemployed adults and prison settings. That breadth meant the day reached professionals who influence career decisions at multiple stages of a person's journey into employment.

Each partner brought a different perspective on the industry. CWIC opened the session with an introduction to the academy, its partnership with the University and its work alongside employers to develop the future workforce. They then explained how the scaffolding apprenticeship works, the training journey, the qualifications learners achieve and the support available throughout the programme.

Centregreat Engineering then gave an insight into the industry itself, demonstrating how integral scaffolding is to almost every area of construction and infrastructure. By showcasing the variety of projects scaffolders work on and the professionalism of the sector, the presentation helped challenge some of the common misconceptions that still surround scaffolding.

CITB rounded off the presentations by explaining the support available to employers, including grants, funding and recruitment initiatives, giving careers professionals a clearer picture of the pathways available to individuals entering the sector and how employers can access financial support to recruit, train and retain staff.

In feedback afterwards, Careers Wales Careers Adviser Debbie James rated the event as very good and very valuable, with her knowledge increasing from 1 out of 5 to 4 out of 5. She particularly valued the introductions to the academy, CITB and Centregreat, and said the visit highlighted the range of opportunities available across different locations, as well as the intensity and



professionalism of scaffolding training. The visit changed perceptions of the sector and gave her greater confidence to explain

scaffolding roles and pathways to clients. She added: *"This was a very enjoyable visit with lots of information to take away to clients. I will definitely be interested in the Teacher Tours initiative visiting my school, to speak to pupils to continue their understanding of an interesting sector."*

Teacher Tours invite educators, careers advisers and employability professionals into NASC member workplaces to see first-hand what the scaffolding and access sector looks like today. The better informed these professionals are, the more likely they are to recommend scaffolding as a career to the people they support.

With an ongoing skills shortage, events like this are an important part of the long-term solution.

If your organisation is interested in hosting a Teacher Tour, contact: enquiries@nasc.org.uk or call 020 7822 7400

HANDS-ON SESSION INTRODUCES YOUNG PEOPLE TO SCAFFOLDING CAREERS

NASC worked with TRAD Scaffolding Co Ltd to deliver a Scaffolding Careers Insight Session at Morgan Sindall's Nine Elms project in London, giving four young people an interactive introduction to the industry and the skills needed to work safely on site.

The session was designed to combine practical experience with careers information, showing participants the variety of roles available across scaffolding while reinforcing the importance of safety, equipment knowledge and site awareness.

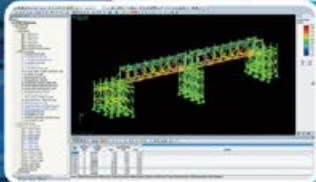
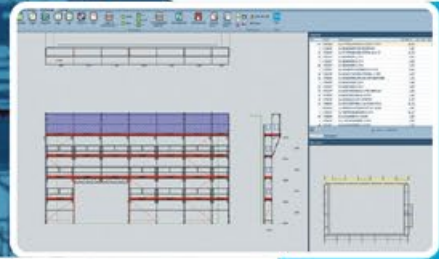
Industry specialists from Spanset, TRAD Scaffolding Co Ltd, Ensise and NASC led a series of demonstrations throughout the day.



The format allowed each participant to receive individual support and ask questions throughout the day. The blend of practical demonstrations and interactive learning gave attendees a clearer understanding of scaffolding, the importance of safety and the wide range of career opportunities available. The event also highlighted the value of collaboration between employers, industry bodies and training specialists in inspiring the next generation of scaffolders.

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