

NASC

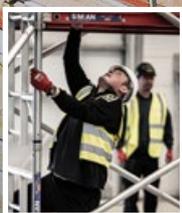
Scaffolding Insider

THE VOICE OF ACCESS AND SCAFFOLDING

MARCH 2026

THE BUILDING IS IN CHARGE

Listed buildings special



CITB CLARITY

The facts about recent changes

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

New legislation is here: act now

SCAFFEX26

MANCHESTER 10-11 SEPT

Layher 

More Possibilities. The Scaffolding System.

**ONE SECTOR.
TWO DAYS.
FREE TO ATTEND.**

REGISTER NOW.

SCAFFEX26

MANCHESTER 10-11 SEPT



SCAFFEX26.COM

FROM THE EDITOR

Plenty of you reading this will know just how challenging it can be to work on listed buildings. A complex, detailed, iterative process, any project like this always begins with severe restraints and requires ingenuity, patience and disciplined engineering to make it possible without compromise to quality, safety or the precious fabric of the building. On pages 12-15, you can read about three projects, covering a range of sizes and applications, that all required a high level of expertise and care.

Technically-demanding projects like these are often the ones that clients and contractors feel they need to reach for NASC members in order to deliver a solution. NASC members undoubtedly carry a strong reputation – rightly so, considering the rigour of the audit process – and NASC itself is continuing its work to enhance the name of NASC and its members in the broader industry. One such development is NASC becoming a Prescribed Organisation to the CITB. The role of the Prescribed Organisations is to present the CITB Levy Proposals to their Levy paying members and seek their views on them. Now NASC has a seat at the table and can directly represent members to the CITB on the Levy. See the news pages for more information.

With a growth in membership, the NASC team has grown too, as has its committee structure. Again, all the information you need is on the news pages (pp4-6).

There have been some significant developments both in the industry and in business at large in the last month or so, and we bring you two expert articles to help you make sense of them. On page 9, read about the Employment Rights Act: the changes that are already law and you must abide by, as well as changes still to come. And on page 10, cut through the noise around the CITB's recent announcements about what training it will fund, and how that interacts with CISRS courses.

It is a busy time and only set to get busier. I hope this edition tells you all you need to know! Until next month...

I hope you enjoy the issue.



Nick Campion
Editor

CONTENTS

From the Editor	3
NASC News	4
Industry News Round-up	7
Industry View: Danny Clarke	8
News Feature: Employment Rights Act	9
Feature: CISRS and CITB	11
Feature: Listed Buildings	12
Training & Education	19

Cover photo:

Courtesy of K Scaffolding.

Insert photo:

Courtesy of Simian Ltd.

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.

NASC ACHIEVES PRESCRIBED ORGANISATION STATUS WITH CITB

NASC is marking the very significant achievement of becoming a Prescribed Organisation to the CITB. The role of the Prescribed Organisations is to present the CITB Levy Proposals to their Levy paying members and seek their views on them. Responses are collated and the prescribed organisation then decides whether it supports the Levy Proposals or not on behalf of its Levy paying members.

Clive Dickin, Group CEO of NASC and CISRS, commented: *“We are delighted to announce that NASC has been recognised as a CITB Prescribed Organisation, a formal acknowledgement of our standing as the principal trade body for the scaffolding and access sector.”*

“This status means that NASC now has an official role in the CITB Levy consensus process, giving our members a recognised and collective voice on how training funding is directed across the construction industry. It is a responsibility we take seriously and one we will fulfil with the same commitment to raising standards that underpins everything we do.”

“For our members, this is further evidence that NASC’s influence extends well beyond guidance and auditing. We are at the table where decisions that shape the future of skills and training in this industry are made, and we will continue to ensure that the scaffolding and access sector is properly represented.”



Approved Training Organisation Status

NASC TEAM GROWS



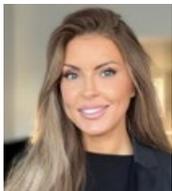
Faizan Rashid

NASC continues to grow, evolve and modernise and has been evolving and growing its team in order to meet members’ needs.

With the arrival of a dedicated Head of Operations, Nickie Battersby, at the end of 2025, the membership, quality and operations functions all underwent a major review, resulting in an update to the team structure. As a result, NASC has announced the promotion of Dylan Birch to the newly created position of Team Leader for Service Standards and has appointed Alexis Amoo, Zara Norwood and Faizan Rashid as Service Standards Executives.



Dylan Birch



Kate King

NASC also welcomes a new Marketing Manager in Kate King, who joins following a wide-ranging career including spells in marketing and media relations with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and Greater Manchester Police.

SAFETY DAY ANNOUNCED

Following a successful inaugural event in 2025, NASC has announced the return of the Summer Safety Day. The 2026 event will be held on Wednesday 10 June at the Construction College Midlands. As well as the launch of the 2026 Safety Report, there will be a series of live demonstrations focusing on a range of issues. Details of the demonstrations on the day, timings and other logistics will be released in the coming weeks.

TOP FIVE:

EG1 EMPLOYING YOUNG PERSONS IN A SCAFFOLDING AND ACCESS COMPANY

1. Young persons can work in scaffolding, but only in low risk, strictly controlled environments

EG1 states that young people *“are not permitted to undertake work that is deemed too hazardous”* and may only work in yards, offices, or at ground level on sites with *“strict controls in place and with the client/principal contractor’s permission and supervision”*.

2. Employers must carry out young person specific risk assessments and comply with all legal requirements.

EG1 emphasises compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act and requires a risk assessment that considers *“their lack of experience and potential vulnerability”*.

3. Robust training, induction, and PPE provision are essential.

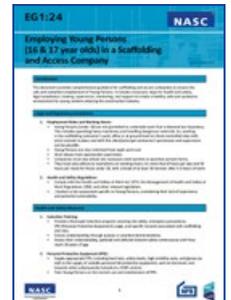
Young persons must receive thorough induction training covering safety, emergency procedures, PPE, and hazards. EG1 notes the need to *“assess their understanding, aptitude and attitude... continuously until they reach 18 years of age”*.

4. Close supervision and mentoring are mandatory.

Young workers must *“always be supervised by experienced and appropriately qualified staff”* and supported through a buddy or mentoring system to ensure safe learning and development.

5. Employers must support wellbeing and maintain open communication.

The guidance stresses promoting a positive environment and ensuring young persons know who to contact with concerns. It highlights the need to *“establish clear channels for young employees to provide feedback and report any issues”*.



REGIONAL STRUCTURE REINFORCED IN RESPONSE TO GROWTH



NASC has appointed a number of new regional chairs and vice chairs, as the organisation continues to grow its regional structure in response to substantial membership growth across the UK and Ireland with core membership up 40% since 2023.

The expansion of regional representation reflects NASC's ongoing commitment to ensuring that members have a strong, locally-connected voice. Regional meetings regularly attract more than 100 delegates, a figure that speaks to the depth of engagement across the membership and to the value that members place on the knowledge sharing, input and community that NASC's regional activity provides.

The newly appointed chairs and vice chairs are as follows:

London and South-East

Chair: David Evans, MR Scaffolding
Vice Chair: Martin George, CCS Scaffolding.

West Midlands

Chair: Steve Fellows, Malvern Scaffolding
Vice Chair: Sam McSpadden, Phoenix Group.

East Midlands

Vice Chair: Jay Love, Access 2.

North-West

Chair: Roy Rodgers, Enigma Industrial Services
Vice Chair: Kyle Whittle, KW Scaffolding.

Wales

Chair: David Anderson, Allen and Foxworthy
Vice Chair: Kate Thomson, Thomson Scaffolding

Ireland

Chair: Robert Andrews, Advanced NI Scaffolding

They join existing chairs and vice chairs:

East Midlands

Chair: Lisa Rooney, Midland Scaffolding Services.

North-East

Chair: Darren Maratty, Interlink Scaffolding.

South-West

Chair: Dave Battison, Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding
Vice Chair: Lizzie Bennett, Blencowe Scaffolding.

Scotland

Chair: Ronnie Charters, RDA Scaffolding
Vice Chair: Mark Skinner, City Access Scaffolding

NASC has also thanked Michael Lloyd of LTC Scaffolding Ltd, who is stepping down as South-East regional chair after giving eight years of valued service to NASC and its members.

Clive Dickin, Group CEO of NASC and CISRS, said: "Our regions are at the heart of NASC and the regional chairs and vice chairs are fundamental to how we serve members on the ground.

"They are the connection between NASC and the businesses and people that make up our membership, and I am delighted to welcome this new group into their roles. The calibre of those elected is excellent and I look forward to working with them all."

NASC members who would like to come along to a regional meeting can find all the details on the NASC website here <https://nasc.org.uk/ems-event-calendar.html>

NASC ADDRESSES APS

On 11 March, NASC was invited by the Association for Project Safety (APS) - a professional body dedicated to eliminating deaths, reducing injury and tackling ill-health associated with construction - to hold a webinar which was delivered by Dennis Braithwaite, NASC Technical Manager, and entitled 'Safe Steps: Scaffolding Essentials'.

This was aimed to assist clients, principal contractors and project management teams to better understand how scaffolding and access should be successfully and practically

provided and maintained, prior to and throughout a contract.

The webinar generated a lot of interest, with 436 members signing up to attend. The presentation was followed by a lot of relevant and searching questions, which extended well beyond the scheduled run time. Feedback was very positive and it is hoped events like this continue to expand NASC's profile and standing within the construction industry.

Find out more about APS at www.aps.org.uk



SCAFFEX26 – DOING THE BUSINESS

ScaffEx25 was a huge success for exhibitors: alongside word-of-mouth reports about some firms doing six-figure deals on the exhibition floor, there was hard data from the post-event delegate survey showing that half of those attending purchased something or did a deal of some kind at the show or very shortly after. So, as well as being a great opportunity to find out what the industry is up to and to meet your entire scaffolding and access supply chain over two days in one location, ScaffEx is also a great chance to get business done.

Adrian Brine, Partnerships Manager at Citation, a compliance firm specialising in HR, employment law and health & safety, comments: *“ScaffEx25 was a fabulous event. It was a good growth from ScaffEx24, which was also good. It was a good decision to have it run over two days. We did a lot of business at the show and had a lot of fun. We have already registered for ScaffEx26.”*

Carl Morse, Managing Director at protective sheeting manufacturer ITP added: *“We were not at ScaffEx24, but we watched it closely and knew we had to be at last year’s show and it was great.”* He is looking forward to heading back to Manchester Central for ScaffEx26, where he is also lined up to speak at a session on fire safety at the conference.

With the exhibition in 2026 due to be 35% bigger than the 2025 version, space is already selling out. Head of

Business Development for NASC and ScaffEx, Richard Cree, comments: *“We are now almost at capacity. Something like 86% of the available space is now sold or reserved. If you want to take part and speak to a whole raft of existing and potential new customers in one go, you are probably better speaking to the team sooner rather than later.”*

Also returning for 2026 will be the ScaffEx Conference, this time focused on the theme of Skills, Safety and Success. Following feedback from 2025, the ambition is to make the sessions shorter and to focus on practical takeaways for scaffolders and those running scaffolding firms.

There will be project showcases exploring the lessons learned, innovations and breakthroughs made on several award-winning projects, as well as a look at the various entry routes into a career in scaffolding, both from employers looking to plug a talent shortage and employees looking to start or build on their career.

Hosted once again by former BBC journalist Sophie Long, confirmed speakers so far include Richard Beresford, CEO, NFB; Rob Wright, Director of Health and Safety, Lindum Group; Chris Abbey, Senior Vice President HSE UKI & Nordics, Altrad; Lee Marley, founder and CEO, Lee Marley Group; Adam Millgate and Shane Wood from KAS Scaffolding; Dan Wilson, Director, MAR Scaffolding; and Joanne Walker, from the CWIC Scaffolding Academy.

£718 BILLION PIPELINE UPDATE

The National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA) has published the first update of the Infrastructure Pipeline, which now details 734 projects covering £718 billion of public and private sector investment over the next decade. This is up from a total of £530 billion when the pipeline was first published last summer.

The updated pipeline also includes an estimate of future workforce demand: an annual average workforce of between 629,000 and 706,000 over the next five years.

Projects included in the pipeline have a cost of £25 million or above for economic infrastructure and £15 million or above for social infrastructure. NISTA is committed to updating the pipeline twice a year.



National Infrastructure
& Service Transformation
Authority

STEEL COSTS HEAD UPWARDS

Contractors are bracing for a fresh wave of cost inflation after the Government unveiled a hardline steel strategy designed to curb imports and boost domestic production.

Ministers have set out plans to cut steel import quotas by 60% from July and impose a 50% tariff on material brought in above those limits – a move aimed at shielding UK producers but set to ripple through the construction supply chain.

The strategy also sets a target for UK steel to meet up to 50% of domestic demand, up from around 30% today, backed by up to £2.5bn of investment support.

While the policy is being pitched as critical for national security and infrastructure resilience, contractors and fabricators say it risks pushing up the cost of building projects across the board. The warning comes as many contractors are already dealing with tight margins and volatile material pricing.

MORE IMPROVEMENT PLANS FROM THE BSR

The Building Safety Regular (BSR) has introduced a Remediation Improvement Plan to speed up the processing of Gateway Two applications for remediation projects. It has also set a deadline of 30 April 2026 to clear the majority of remaining remediation applications from 2024.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has issued its latest data release for all the remediation programmes for residential buildings 11 metres and over in England. By the end of January 2026, remediation work had been completed on 36% of the 4,191 buildings identified, with work underway on a further 16%. Almost half (46%) of the 2,355 buildings 18 metres and over have now had remediation work completed.

YOUNGER WORKFORCE

Fresh site scan data of skills card-carrying workers shows the workforce is getting younger and better qualified, which appears to offer some hope in a long-term bleak picture in recent years around an ageing site workforce.

The figures from the Construction Skills Certification Scheme reveal that more than one in four CSCS cards is held by workers under 30. It is a rare positive indicator that the industry is successfully attracting young talent after years of concern about an ageing workforce timebomb.

The figures mark an 8% rise in the share of younger workers entering the industry over four years, suggesting construction may be attracting more early-career entrants than widely believed.



HUGE FUNDING ROUND FOR KEWAZO

Robotics company Kewazo has completed a new funding round, with total funding now reaching \$35 million. Kewazo's lifting robot Liftbot is already deployed at more than 20 industrial sites in North America and Europe, including refineries, petrochemical plants, chemical complexes, and power facilities.

Liftbot is designed to replace cranes and manual handling, improving safety and efficiency while bringing greater schedule predictability.



PICTURE CREDITS: kewazo

SEVEN NEW TOWNS GIVE HOMES BOOST

Ministers have unveiled seven proposed new towns that could deliver up to 200,000 homes in a fresh attempt to get the Government's 1.5 million homes target back on track.

They are:

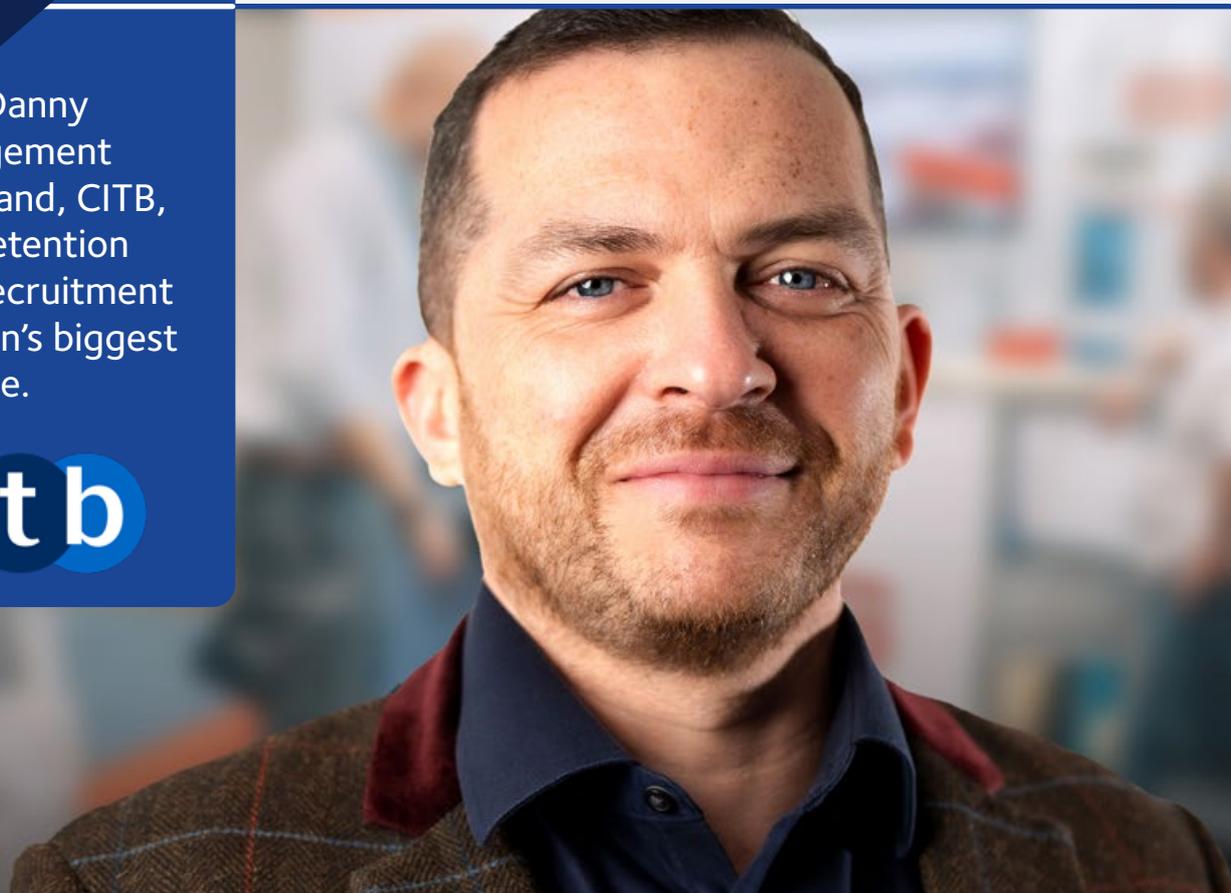
- Tempsford, Bedfordshire – up to 40,000 homes centred on a new East West Rail station linking Oxford, Cambridge, Milton Keynes and London
- Crews Hill and Chase Park, Enfield – up to 21,000 homes aimed at easing London's housing pressure
- Leeds South Bank – up to 20,000 homes tied to £2.1bn transport investment
- Manchester Victoria North – at least 15,000 homes with new Metrolink connections
- Thamesmead, Greenwich – up to 15,000 homes supported by the proposed DLR extension
- Brabazon and West Innovation Arc, South Gloucestershire – up to 40,000 homes linked to advanced engineering and research hubs
- Milton Keynes expansion – around 40,000 homes as part of a 'renewed town' growth strategy

Housing Secretary Steve Reed said: "People want real change – homes they can afford, local infrastructure that works, and good jobs in thriving communities. Our next generation of new towns marks a turning point in how we build for the future."



Steve Reed

This month, Danny Clarke, Engagement Director England, CITB, argues that retention rather than recruitment is construction's biggest skills challenge.



Retention Is the Real Skills Challenge

I'm thinking back to ScaffEx25 and walking into the opening sessions of the Conference: the energy in the room was unmistakable. The audience was full of people who genuinely care about the future of scaffolding and access - people who want to understand where the industry is heading and how technology, training and skills must evolve. That kind of engagement is exactly why in person events matter. They give us an honest and immediate view of the challenges the industry faces and, just as importantly, how willing people are to tackle them together.

For years, construction has focused heavily on attracting new entrants - and of course it must continue to do so. However, the evidence increasingly shows that retention is the bigger issue. UK research consistently highlights a widening gap between the number of people entering construction training and those who go on to sustained employment. CITB's own evaluation of retention initiatives shows that employer engagement, clear progression, and early work readiness are critical factors in keeping people in the industry beyond their initial qualification.

This challenge is only becoming more urgent. Industry forecasts - as you will often read in this very magazine - suggest the UK will need hundreds of thousands of additional construction workers over the next decade, driven by housing targets, infrastructure investment and the transition to net zero. At the same time, the workforce is ageing rapidly, with a significant proportion of experienced workers expected to retire in the coming years. Simply recruiting more people without improving retention is not a sustainable solution.

What does make a difference is helping people see a future

in the industry. Research into recruitment and retention shows that workers are far more likely to stay when they understand their career options, feel that they are invested in, and can see clear progression routes. That aligns closely with what we hear on the ground: people don't just want a job, they want a career.

Events like ScaffEx play a vital role here. They allow new entrants, career changers and experienced professionals alike to see what modern construction looks like - innovative, technical and full of opportunity. They also challenge outdated perceptions that still influence far too many young people through schools, careers advice, the media, society at large and even family expectations. Too often, construction is viewed through a lens that no longer reflects reality - but these misconceptions about pay, conditions and progression remain a significant barrier to recruitment.

The message we need to communicate more clearly is that construction, including scaffolding, offers something few industries can: a visible, lasting legacy. So on top of all of the other benefits of working in the construction industry - pay, progression, interest, camaraderie - the buildings and structures we work on shape everyday life. Research into workforce motivation consistently shows that pride, purpose and contribution matter just as much as pay when it comes to long term retention.

If we want to close the skills gap, the focus must be on work ready training, strong employer commitment and clear career pathways. The industry already knows many of the answers; the challenge now is consistency and follow through. Looking ahead, the next 20 years of construction can genuinely be innovative, exciting and rewarding - but only if we commit to keeping the people who choose to build that future with us.

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT 2025 – JUST THE BEGINNING

Employment Law specialist Gray Rigge writes: Employment Right Act 2025 (ERA) marked a significant shift in employment law, introducing wide-ranging reforms, with many focused on strengthening worker protection. While bite-size headlines have dominated the progress of the Act through Parliament, the real challenge for employers over the course of the next two years will be understanding the emerging detail (there are a number of consultations on these details still in progress) and implementing the changes that have already become law.

Early impacts have been felt around reforming Trade Union law, by repealing restrictions put in place by the previous Government and easing arrangements around taking industrial action, including the process of balloting, the ballot result mandate, the notice period to employers before action, picketing, and protections against dismissal for individuals taking industrial action. From April, further changes simplify the process of trade union recognition.

One change causing significant concern to employers comes into effect in April: Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) from day one. The current three waiting days before eligibility will be removed, so SSP will be paid from the first full day of sickness. Additionally, to qualify for SSP employees must currently earn at least at or above the Lower Earnings Limit (LEL), currently £125 per week. That requirement is to be scrapped, meaning more employees will qualify, mainly for a lower amount than the 2026/27 SSP weekly flat rate of £123.25. The Trades Union Congress says that female employees are the majority of those earning below the LEL and will therefore be the main beneficiary, with around 830,000 eligible for SSP for the first time. Employers should review their absence reporting, absence recording, and self-certificating arrangements.

There are also changes to eligibility for existing benefits from April. The 26-week service requirement for paternity leave is scrapped, and it becomes a day one right. Unpaid parental leave also becomes a day one right, with the one year's service requirement being scrapped.

A Fair Work Agency is established – a new investigation and enforcement body outside the Employment Tribunal system. It is intended to offer a focus for workers and employees to seek assistance and to enforce certain employment rights and duties, e.g. statutory minimum wage, gangmaster licensing.

Although the reduction in service to six months to bring claims before the Employment Tribunal for unfair dismissal takes effect from January 2027, note that it is service at the point the legislation takes effect which counts. In other words, new starters on and after 1 July 2026 will qualify. The current cap on compensation for unfair dismissal will be scrapped, which in practice will have limited effect. Adapting may not be straightforward; employers should review their



Gray Rigge

contractual probationary periods, induction arrangements, and performance monitoring of new employees.

A change in October increases the employer's duty to prevent sexual harassment. Currently employers are simply required to take 'reasonable steps' to prevent sexual harassment; this becomes the higher requirement of 'all reasonable steps.'

By the time the current consultations on detail are finalised, the possibilities for potential claims to the Employment Tribunal will have significantly increased. There will also be an increase in unfair dismissal claims resulting from the reduction of qualifying service to make a claim, from two years to six months.

There are no plans to increase the capacity of the Employment Tribunal Service or of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS), who play a leading role as gatekeepers to new claims and resolving disputes prior to hearing.

There is a record backlog in employment tribunals; at the end of 2025, there were over 61,000 open cases. The delays are likely to get worse unless significant reforms are introduced soon, which seems unlikely. Should an employer receive a tribunal claim, they would be best to prepare the key elements of their case soon after the tribunal notify formal acceptance of a claim.

Employers need to note all employment law changes, adapt policies and procedures accordingly, and ensure line managers appreciate any new obligations.

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

TG30 delivers the future of system scaffolding design and compliance in a dedicated online portal.

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

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

TG30 THE FUTURE OF
SYSTEM SCAFFOLDING



FIND OUT HOW TG30 WORKS FOR YOU AT [NASC.ORG.UK](https://www.nasc.org.uk)

CUTTING THROUGH THE CONFUSION

UNDERSTANDING CHANGES TO CISRS TRAINING AND CITB GRANTS

With recent updates to CITB funding structures, many NASC members – and the industry at large – are asking which scaffolding courses remain grant-supported and how other training may now be funded. The good news is that core CISRS training continues to be fully supported through the CITB grant scheme, ensuring scaffolding competence remains protected within the industry. **Paul Napper**, Head of Training and Education at NASC, writes:

Core CISRS training

CITB continues to provide achievement grants for CISRS-accredited scaffolding training. Supported courses include:

- COTS
- BASE
- Tube and Fitting Scaffolder courses:
 - Part 1
 - Part 2
 - Advanced Scaffolder
- Systems scaffolder training modules
- Scaffold Inspection courses
- Supervisor and Management courses
- Refresher training

Grants are achievement-based, meaning funding is paid once a learner successfully completes the course and receives their CISRS card. Current grant levels include:

Course	CITB Grant
COTS	£60
BASE	£240
SSPTS (Systems product training)	£140
Scaffolder Part 1	£500
Scaffolder Part 2	£500
Advanced Scaffolder	£500
Basic Scaffold Inspection	£140
Advanced Scaffold Inspection	£140
Supervisor / Manager course	£240
Supervisor / Manager Refresher	£120
Scaffolder / Advanced Refresher	£120

How employers access CITB grants

Employers can access grant funding by following a simple process:

1. Ensure the company is registered with CITB.
2. Book training through a CISRS-recognised training provider.
3. The delegate successfully completes the course.
4. The employer claims the grant from CITB Online Portal (many training providers assist with this process).

Employers should retain supporting documentation, as CITB may request verification during audits. If there are any issues when claiming grants, please contact your Engagement Advisor who can be found here:

<https://www.citb.co.uk/about-citb/what-we-do/citb-in-your-local-area/>

Changes to wider CITB training funding

CITB has introduced changes affecting other types of construction training. Many short courses not linked to

recognised competence frameworks are no longer funded through the traditional grants scheme. These courses are now supported through Employer Networks. This begins in April 2026 as Employer Networks funding has been fully allocated for the 2025/26 financial year.

Employer Networks (SMEs)

Employer Networks are now available to:

- Micro employers: 1–9 employees
- Small employers: 10–49 employees
- Medium employers: 50–249 employees

Funding works through match funding, typically covering 50% of training costs, alongside fixed contributions for certain health and safety courses.

Annual funding caps apply:

Employer size	Annual funding cap
● Micro (1–9 employees)	£1,500
● Small (10–49 employees)	£2,000
● Medium (50–249 employees)	£4,500

This system allows employers to access funding for a wider range of training, but requires collaboration with an Employer Network and shared investment. To utilise this funding, the training has to be booked through your local Engagement Adviser ahead of the training taking place.

New funding arrangements for large employers

Employers with 250 or more employees will no longer access training through Employer Networks. Instead, CITB has introduced an interim Large Employer Fund, providing:

- Up to £18,000 per employer
- Funding for any eligible training
- A requirement for a training plan or evidence of training needs
- An Expression of Interest submission

Applications must be in by 30 June 2026 and training must be completed by 31 March 2027.

This funding aims to support larger organisations in planning structured workforce development. The Expression of Interest form will shortly be available.

What this means for the scaffolding sector

For scaffolding employers and training managers, the key message is clear. CISRS training remains stable, funded and central to industry competence. The CITB grants scheme continues to support the full scaffolder training pathway, ensuring companies can maintain workforce safety and meet industry standards. However, employers should take a more strategic approach when planning non-CISRS training.

Working closely with CISRS-recognised training providers and CITB advisers will help ensure companies maximise available funding while maintaining safe and competent scaffolding operations.

NASC is producing guidance for members on funding routes available – this will be available on the website. Employers who would like guidance on CISRS training routes or CITB funding can also speak directly with a CITB adviser in their region.



WHEN THE BUILDING CALLS THE SHOTS

Working on listed buildings rarely begins with a clear solution. Each of the projects in this article started with severe constraints - restricted foundations, fragile historic fabric, unknown voids, live environments - and required the scaffold to adapt to the building in the minutest detail and to the tightest specifications. These projects, all on listed buildings, demanded ingenuity, patience and disciplined engineering to make progress possible without compromising on effectiveness and safety.

K Scaffolding

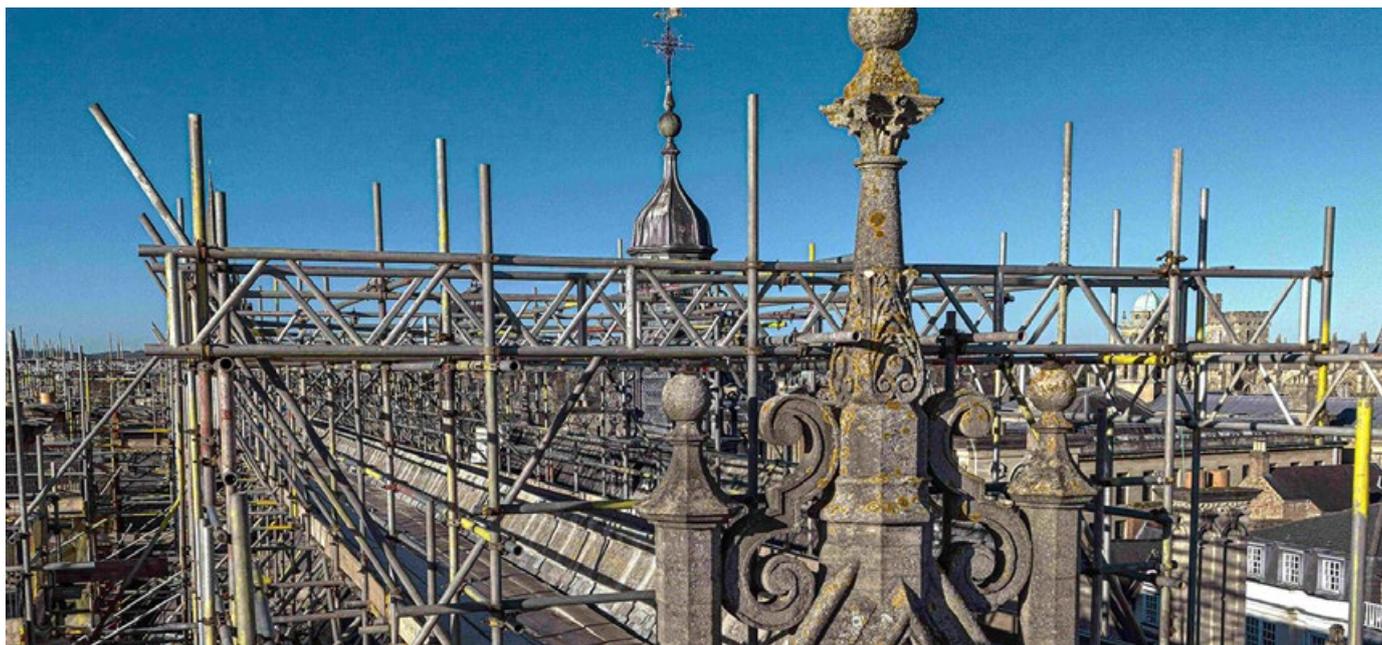
Examination Schools, University of Oxford (Grade II Listed)

K Scaffolding delivered a highly complex, bespoke scaffolding solution at the University of Oxford's Grade II listed Examination Schools.

The University required scaffold access to facilitate essential roof repairs on both sides of the ridge. One elevation could not be founded from either the ground or the roof, removing all conventional access options and immediately redefining the project's technical approach. This constraint became the catalyst for an innovative solution that pushed the boundaries of scaffold engineering while preserving the historic structure.

Engineering Innovation and Design Development

Early design reviews involving the client, structural engineers and designers identified that initial concepts exceeded permissible truss loadings. The large-span loads posed



unacceptable risk to both the building's structural integrity and the programme.

In response, K Scaffolding developed a progressive working-platform strategy, restricting platform lengths to the spacing between roof trusses. This allowed the platform to be moved methodically along the scaffold, maintaining safe load distribution while providing uninterrupted access. Crucially, this solution avoided intrusive structural interventions and preserved the historic fabric of the building.

As works progressed, further challenges emerged. Stone ridges exceeded safe manual handling limits, and roof tiles required removal two metres below the ridge. The scaffold design was rapidly adapted, raising the cantilever beam by two metres. This significant redesign required an additional 450 man-hours and exemplified K Scaffolding's commitment to safety, innovation and quality without compromise.

Delivery

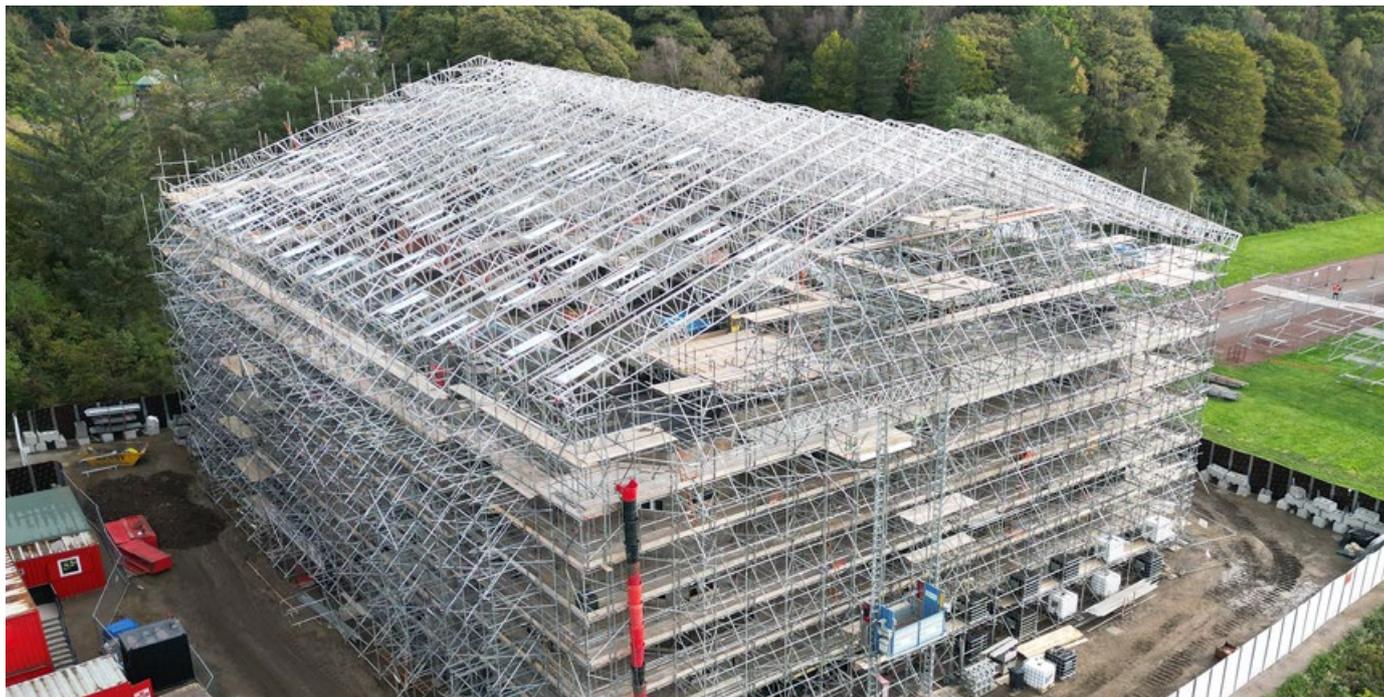
The scale of the project was substantial and included:

- 3,600 installation hours
- 1,800 dismantling hours
- A dedicated team of eight operatives working nine-hour days
- 130 tonnes of steel, 4,500 fittings, and 2,500 boards

Working closely with Beards, the University of Oxford, structural engineers, and specialist designers, K Scaffolding fostered a collaborative environment that enabled rapid, informed decision-making in a live academic setting where safety and minimal disruption were paramount.

All works complied with NASC Safety Guidance SG4:22 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations and were supported by fully boarded lifts, Scaff Steps for all operatives, a two-metre exclusion zone with Chapter 8 barriers, and a secure Heras-fenced materials compound. This project demonstrates that innovation and safety are mutually reinforcing principles at the core of K Scaffolding's culture.





Connolly Scaffolding Haigh Hall, Wigan (Grade II Listed)

Connolly Scaffolding delivered a comprehensive internal and external scaffolding solution at Haigh Hall, a Grade II listed country house in Wigan. The project was one of the company's most technically demanding builds to date, requiring innovative engineering, meticulous planning and close collaboration to preserve the building's heritage significance and original aesthetics.

Technical challenges

Due to the Grade II listed status and English Heritage requirements, no physical ties into the structure were permitted. Connolly adopted a Buttressed Restraint and Ballast Support system, using over 100 IBC ballast tanks to provide the required kentledge while ensuring the building's integrity remained uncompromised.

A key element of the project was the construction of the Altrix Roof System. The scale of the structure introduced multiple engineering challenges, including the need for buttress supports that tripled the overall scaffold length. Load transference required precise engineering to maintain stability.

Additional complexity arose from unknown hidden voids, basement alcoves, and below-ground services, making ballast positioning a significant challenge. Due to Haigh Hall's exposed location, the scaffold also had to withstand substantial wind loads from all directions. Connolly addressed this through an elaborate spine beam arrangement that transferred loads at the roof apex and prevented structural buckling.

Internally, scaffolding had to be installed without imposing any loads on original fixtures, ornate mouldings, plasterwork or décor. Bespoke scaffold designs were developed to centralise loads while maintaining safe access and preserving

the building's aesthetics.

The basement areas presented further challenges, with a complex network of tunnels, walkways and small rooms. Through close collaboration with the Principal Contractor, suitable areas for back-propping were identified to ensure safety, stability, and access.

Outcome

The success of the project was driven by a fully integrated team approach, from Construction Director through to on-site supervisors and operatives. Collaboration with Buckley Design Solutions was instrumental in translating complex design concepts into practical, safe and effective scaffold solutions.





Crossway Scaffolding

Trinity Building, Halifax (Grade II Listed)

Crossway Scaffolding delivered a major refurbishment scaffold at Trinity Building, Halifax, a project that involved the installation of over 20,000 square metres of Plettac Metrix System Scaffold over a nine-month period.

In partnership with TRAD UK, Crossway invested over £1 million in the purchase of system scaffolding specifically for this project. Crossway retained SIMIAN RISK to provide independent scaffold inspections. SIMIAN conducted monthly audits covering scaffold activities, documentation and compliance with multiple design drawings. In addition, Crossway's Contract Manager carried out weekly scaffold inspections on behalf of the client, ensuring ongoing compliance and quality assurance.

Design Innovation and Technical Challenges

The original enquiry included 73 scaffold drawings and was competitively tendered against five other NASC companies. System scaffolding was selected for its speed of erection and dismantling.

Following contract award, Crossway redesigned the scaffold internally and removed up to 2,000 metres of beams by utilising bracing, improving efficiency while maintaining structural integrity.

The external scaffold supported the removal and replacement of a 50-year-old glazing system. A fully designed and tested 350-metre NIKO rail was installed around the building perimeter to support glass panels weighing up to half a tonne each. The design incorporated a 2.5-metre-wide scaffold walkway, decked with 18mm ply, allowing safe transfer of glazing to multiple hoist locations.



The scaffold was wrapped with 2.2-metre FR Powerclad sheeting to eliminate gaps and provide weather protection. Shielding work areas from wind, rain and debris ensured a safer working environment. The roof was encapsulated using 4-metre-wide FR shrinkwrap, fully covering the scaffold width and extending onto the roof.

Sustainable approach

With its yard located just four miles from site, Crossway implemented Just-In-Time deliveries to reduce carbon emissions. Steel decks were used in place of timber boards to improve durability and sustainability.

The project supported social value through the employment of five apprentices, three of whom live within 15 minutes of the site. Regular monthly commercial meetings with the client ensure transparency, alignment and effective management of variations. Long-standing collaboration with TRAD UK, supported by frequent senior visits and over 25 years of partnership, underpinned the project's successful delivery.

FALL PROTECTION REIMAGINED: FOLDABLE GUARDRAILS

Scafom-rux technician, Bas van Kouwen explains how the foldable Permanent Advanced Guardrail (PAG) offers scaffolders a safer, faster, and more ergonomic way to achieve continuous edge protection on UK and global construction sites.

Across construction sites in the UK, scaffolders face a familiar challenge: before moving to the next scaffold level, guardrails must be installed manually to ensure edge protection. The real test lies in carrying out this process in a way that is time-efficient, ergonomically sound, and fully aligned with the highest safety standards. To meet this challenge, Scafom-rux has developed the foldable Permanent Advanced Guardrail (PAG), a solution that not only ensures continuous collective protection but also sets new benchmarks for efficiency on construction sites.

Built-in protection: New approaches to safer scaffolds

Working at height remains one of the most hazardous activities in construction. Scaffolders are particularly exposed during the erection and dismantling of platforms, when fall protection can be incomplete or temporarily removed. Over the years, various solutions have emerged: temporary advanced guardrails, manufacturer-specific installation procedures and step-by-step assembly methods designed to maintain continuous protection. While these approaches improve overall safety, they often involve heavy additional components, repeated handling, and compromises between speed and practicality on busy sites.

The Permanent Advanced Guardrail (PAG) takes a different approach. Drawing on standards such as the German TRBS 2121 and UK guidance like the NASC recommendations for continuous edge protection, Scafom-rux developed a foldable, permanent guardrail that stays in place as scaffolders advance to the next scaffold level. "The idea was simple," explains Bas van Kouwen. "If the guardrail is already there when you climb up to the next level, no extra fall protection



Scafom-rux technician, Bas van Kouwen explains, how having protection installed from the start changes the entire mindset around the job.

measures are needed. It's safer for the operatives and makes the erection and dismantling process faster and more predictable."

How the PAG works: Safety meets simplicity

The PAG replaces two conventional ledgers with a single foldable unit. Two telescopic tubes slide into each other, creating a compact, lightweight assembly that is far easier to handle. Installation is quick and straightforward: the PAG is put into position from the scaffold level below, so when scaffolders reach the next level, the guardrail is already in place. "Scaffolders can climb with confidence," says van Kouwen. "It's really compact, easy to handle, and easy to install."

By embedding the guardrail directly into the scaffold, the PAG ensures continuous edge protection during both erection and dismantling phases. The system supports EN 12811 and EN 13374 standards for temporary edge protection and aligns with UK guidance, including SG4 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations, helping construction sites to consistently comply with all relevant safety requirements.



PAGs are installed from the level below, ready in place when scaffolders reach the next level..



Rockcastle FM deployed Scafom-rux RINGSCAFF with PAGs at the James Clow Building in Belfast to support façade and fire-safety remediation.



uous edge protection, move safely between levels, and complete the work efficiently despite challenging coastal conditions.

“The guardrails are in place before you step up.”

Another recent application demonstrates the PAG’s effectiveness in a high-density urban environment. At the James Clow Building in the heart of Belfast city centre, Rockcastle FM used the Scafom-rux RINGSCAFF system with PAGs to support extensive façade and fire safety remediation works. The city-centre location, ongoing occupancy, and high-profile setting demanded a scaffold solution that could provide continuous edge protection while ensuring safe, phased access to balconies, façade panels, and fireproofing installations across the multi-storey structure.

“Seeing the guardrails in place before you step up changes the way you think about scaffold assembly,” says Bas van Kouwen. “It’s not just about speed, it’s about confidence and protecting everyone on site.”

With safety and efficiency increasingly taking centre stage on UK construction sites, solutions like the Permanent Advanced Guardrail (PAG) are set to become a benchmark for modern scaffold solutions. To try the PAG or to get more technical specifications and installation guides, and project examples, contact your local Scafom-rux representative or visit the company website www.scafom-rux.uk.

Assembly time reduced by up to 70 per cent

“It’s safer, quicker, and less physically demanding,” states van Kouwen on the PAG’s foldable design’s productivity benefits. Compared to traditional guardrail installation, including scaffolder’s steps, the PAG can reduce time spent on edge protection by up to 70 per cent. On busy inner-city projects, this translates into fewer delays, smoother co-ordination with other trades, and reduced bottlenecks at critical points in the scaffold. Importantly, scaffolders are no longer forced to juggle heavy components while exposed at height, which reduces both fatigue and injury risk.

Compatible design for efficient material use on site

The PAG integrates fully with the RINGSCAFF modular scaffolding system, so scaffolders do not need to replace existing components. Standard toe boards remain in use, and previously required ledgers can be repurposed elsewhere on site. This not only makes scaffold erection quicker and easier, but also enables more efficient use of materials across a wide range of projects, whether building new scaffolds or retrofitting and upgrading existing structures.

Users of the PAG consistently report positive experiences and particularly emphasize the easier handling, faster assembly, and reduced physical strain. One notable example for the PAG’s practical benefits comes from a historic distillery project on the west coast of Northern Ireland, where Devine Scaffolding Services Ltd installed a fully engineered RINGSCAFF scaffold with PAGs to provide safe roof access for replacement works. The site demanded careful planning due to its heritage sensitivity and live operational environment, but the PAG allowed scaffolders to maintain contin-



On this coastal site, PAG allowed scaffolders to maintain continuous edge protection, move safely between levels, and complete the work efficiently despite challenging conditions.

PAG

PERMANENT ADVANCED GUARDRAIL

FOR RINGSCAFF



Work easy.
Stay safe.



One system.
Total safety.



Strong
and stable.



70% faster.
Every time.



See how...
Scan QR code!

BUILT FOR SPEED.
ENGINEERED FOR SAFETY.

Talk to our team today!



0113 898 0104



UKenquiries@scafom-rux.com

STRONGER. TOGETHER.

 **scafom-rux**

PROGRAMME TO BOOST NUMBER OF TRAINERS



Paul Napper



As the scaffolding industry continues to raise standards, the demand for skilled, credible trainers has never been greater. To support centres in meeting growing industry need while maintaining high-quality delivery, CISRS is exploring the introduction of a formal Train the Trainer programme. This initiative aims to provide a structured, accessible pathway for experienced scaffolders to move into training roles, strengthening capacity

across the network and ensuring consistent, modern teaching standards for the future. NASC's and CISRS' Head of Training and Education, Paul Napper, writes:

As the scaffolding industry continues to professionalise and strengthen standards of training delivery, CISRS is exploring the development of a formal Train the Trainer (TTT) programme for scaffolding trainers. High-quality training depends on knowledgeable, credible trainers who can demonstrate technical competence while delivering engaging, effective learning in both classroom and practical environments. While many excellent trainers currently operate across the CISRS centre network, there are growing pressures that highlight the need for a more structured, scalable and quality-assured approach to developing future trainers.

The scaffolding industry is facing a clear and immediate challenge: centres need more trainers.

Demand for skilled scaffolders continues to increase, yet the ability of centres to expand training provision is being restricted by limited trainer capacity and significant bottlenecks in the current approval process.

At present:

- The pathway to becoming a trainer is lengthy, inconsistent and difficult to access
- It is not realistic for a working scaffolder to step away from industry for extended periods (often up to 18 months)

to complete the current informal process

- Heavy reliance on shadowing existing trainers risks repeating outdated or poor practice, rather than promoting modern, high-quality delivery methods
 - There is limited structured Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for trainers, meaning skills are not consistently refreshed or enhanced over time.
- These issues are collectively constraining the growth of the training network and limiting the industry's ability to meet demand.

What the programme aims to achieve

The proposed TTT programme is designed to:

- Increase the number of qualified trainers across CISRS centres in a practical and accessible way
- Remove current bottlenecks by replacing informal, time-intensive routes with a structured and efficient pathway
- Enable experienced scaffolders to transition into training roles without leaving industry for prolonged periods
- Ensure all new trainers are equipped with modern teaching, communication and assessment skills
- Eliminate the risk of poor practice being inherited through unstructured shadowing
- Introduce a clear framework for ongoing CPD, ensuring trainers continuously develop and maintain high standards
- Strengthen quality assurance through both digital and physical auditing of trainers and delivery
- Improve consistency, quality and confidence across all CISRS training centres.

This programme is not only about entry into training - it is about raising standards, increasing capacity and future-proofing the instructor workforce.

As such, we are now consulting with the training centres to question the need for a formal programme, the entry criteria for trainers, the structure, the cost and investment, and any ongoing requirements.

The objective is clear: to create a consistent, high-quality and practical route into training that enables centres to expand while maintaining - and enhancing - CISRS standards.

NEW CISRS SHORT COURSES

CISRS is introducing a new range of short courses, designed specifically to support cardholders in developing practical skills, enhancing safety and broadening on-site capability.

Mobile Access Towers

Build your knowledge of light access systems with this practical course, covering the safe erection, alteration, movement, use, inspection and dismantling of prefabricated aluminium access towers. You'll also gain a clear understanding of relevant Health, Safety & Welfare legislation and how to identify and manage common hazards on site.

Available to cardholders holding a Labourer card or above.

Fall Arrest Inspection Training

Strengthen your understanding of fall protection systems and take responsibility for safety-critical equipment. This course

equips you with the knowledge to correctly use, inspect and maintain harnesses, lanyards and fall arrest equipment in line with NASC guidance SG16, helping to ensure compliance and improve the safety of your team.

Available to cardholders holding a Labourer card or above.

Installation and Testing of Scaffold Anchorage Systems

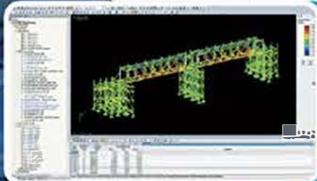
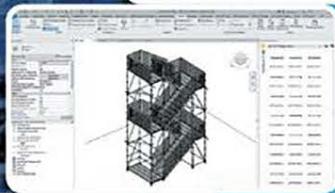
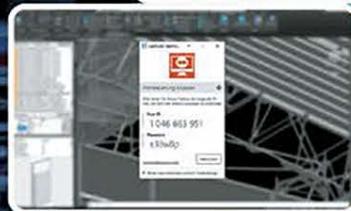
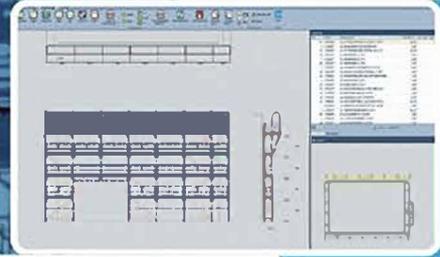
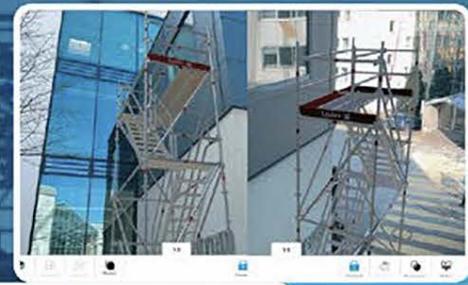
Advance your technical capability with specialist training in scaffold anchorage. This course builds your competence in the safe selection, installation, and testing of anchors in line with NASC guidance TG4, TG20, TG30 and BS 8539. You'll learn how to assess tie duties, understand load types, carry out testing using calibrated equipment, and accurately record and interpret results - ensuring scaffold stability and structural integrity on every project.

Available to cardholders holding a Part 1 card or above.

Contact enquiries@cisrs.org.uk for more details.

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