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MAY 2025

TAMING THE BEAST

How Allen & Foxworthy tackled Blenheim Palace

CISRS SHARPENS UP

Training centres see major changes

CRUCIAL GUIDANCE

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FROM THE EDITOR

There can be no other place to begin this column than with our incredible cover story, which gives us the inside track on Allen & Foxworthy's remarkable project to provide the scaffolding structures to allow roof repairs at Blenheim Palace.

It has been 300 years since anyone has been close to some areas of the ceilings and roofs in the Palace, and the project required only the most expert of designers and scaffolders to safely deliver it. In erecting the scaffold, which was to become known as The Beast, Allen & Foxworthy faced countless conditions and restrictions that required meticulous planning and understanding – not least because there was to be no disruption to the thousands of daily visitors.

Read more about this exceptional project – and see some wonderful photos – on pages 10–12.

Skills like those needed by the scaffolders on this job don't happen by accident, and this issue we look at what CISRS is doing to ensure that current and future generations of scaffolders develop their skills in the most effective, professional training environment possible. CISRS has announced a major programme of reform that is designed to strengthen CISRS, support the training centres, and ensure that young people, including school leavers, have more routes into the industry. CISRS aims to build a modern, responsive training network that meets real-world needs while maintaining the high standards of safety and competence the sector demands. Read more on pages 8–9.

On the subject of quality and standards, on page 14, we briefly review the raft of new guidance documents to have been published by NASC this month – a really invaluable resource and free to download for all members.

On pages 16–17, we have the latest on ScaffEx, including the names of the eclectic combination of stars who will be running the Awards on the final evening. If you haven't entered the Awards, do so now – you have a wonderful chance of picking up a prestigious trophy as well as experiencing the number one night in the scaffolding industry calendar.

There's more on training and education on page 18, plus our usual dose of NASC and industry news on pages 15 and 4–6 respectively.

I hope you enjoy the magazine – and if you're looking at the Blenheim Palace story and you think you've worked on something just as interesting, unusual or challenging, please drop me an email at editor@nasc.org.uk



Nick Campion
Editor

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Allen & Foxworthy

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IMMIGRATION ANNOUNCEMENT PUT HOMES PLAN IN JEOPARDY

One of Labour's key election pledges was to build 1.5 million homes during the five years of the current Parliament. However, the Government's immigration crackdown, as unveiled by Sir Keir Starmer in a White Paper published on 12 May, requires people applying for a UK work visa to have a higher standard of English than the current rules state, among several new restrictions.

Trade bodies have warned this would deter tradespeople from coming to Britain via a skilled worker visa. Rico Wojtulewicz, head of policy at the National Federation of Builders, said tightening visa rules on issues such as language would 'without question' harm the Government's prospects of achieving their flagship housing policy. He told The i Paper that the UK is already short of the required labourers it needs and this risks exacerbating the problem. He added: *"Every little barrier just makes things a little bit harder. This is definitely something that is going to add an extra layer of complexity."*



Rico Wojtulewicz

Wojtulewicz called for the construction industry to be exempted from all of the changes to tighten visa worker rules "until we have a strategic effort across key Government departments to ensure that the industry workforce can sustainably grow through business enablement", he said.

Building Cost Information Service Chief Economist David Crosthwaite said: *'If the Government is serious about delivering 1.5 million homes and boosting national infrastructure delivery, they must seek both short-term and long-term solutions. In the meantime, it is critical that we can access migrant workers where there's a clear economic need, or else risk stalling growth and delivery even further.'*

"Tightening migration rules could increase costs, delay projects, and make it even harder to meet ambitious targets. Workforce decisions need to be grounded in long-term strategy, not short-term political pressure."



Sir Keir Starmer

£2BN PLANS FOR LANDSEC



Developer Landsec is ramping up plans to establish a £2bn residential platform by 2030 as it shifts investment focus away from London offices and into large-scale housing schemes in the capital and Manchester.

The property giant is preparing to start on site from late 2026 across a trio of major residential-led projects that will deliver more than 6,000 homes.

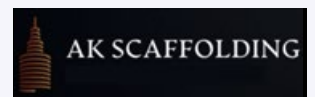
At Finchley Road in north London, enabling works and demolition have already been completed for the first phase of a consented 1,800-home scheme. Detailed planning is in place for the first 600 homes, with a variation decision expected later this year.

In Manchester, Landsec has restructured its agreement with JV partners at the Mayfield site to unlock the potential for around 1,700 homes. In Lewisham, south-east London, a masterplan covering up to 2,800 homes – including student and co-living accommodation – is awaiting planning sign-off.

AK SCAFFOLDING TAKE SCAFFCHAMP BERTH

Scaffmag has revealed that Lancashire-based AK Scaffolding Ltd has claimed the last place in ScaffChamp 2025, the international scaffolding championship set to take place next month. Their participation ensures Britain will once again have a presence in the high-pressure, time-critical event that tests speed, accuracy, and safety in scaffold erection and dismantling.

ScaffChamp, held in Vilnius, Lithuania, will feature teams from across Europe and beyond, all vying for top honours in front of an international audience.



PLANS FOR THREE PRISONS GET THE GO-AHEAD

Plans to build three new prisons as part of a £4.7bn spend will now go ahead after the Treasury signed off on funding, a senior minister has said. Justice secretary Shabana Mahmood said the Treasury would fund in full the building of the prisons, in a bid to create 14,000 extra places by 2031. More cells will also be added at existing prisons.

BUILD UK UPDATES GATEWAY TWO GUIDANCE

Build UK has updated its guide to the validation stage at Gateway Two, which sets out the documents that should be included within an application for Building Control Approval. The May 2025 version confirms the following, in line with the most recent guidance published by the BSR.

- Building Control Approval is not required for building work which consists only of exempt work, work carried out under a Competent Person Scheme, or an emergency repair to an existing HRB.
- For 'staged applications', applicants are advised to contact the BSR prior to submission.
- The 'Description of Proposed Work' document is being used by the BSR as a 'project summary' to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and experience required of the Registered Building Inspector (RBI) when assembling the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT).
- Clarification on what should be included within the Construction Control Plan.
- In the event an application is rejected, the BSR has advised that any new application should reference the previous one to enable the same MDT to be appointed.



The current delays at Gateway Two, which have seen the BSR fail to meet its target of clearing the backlog of applications submitted up to July 2024, is undermining investor confidence and making projects unviable, which will have a significant impact on the Government's target to build 1.5 million new homes by the end of this Parliament. Industry leaders have given Building Safety Minister Alex Norris the clear view that the BSR needs to provide greater clarity on what is expected within applications for Building Control Approval and increase engagement with applicants, share information on why applications are being rejected, and publish regular updates on performance against the statutory timescales.



CABINET OFFICE REINFORCES PAYMENT TERMS

The Cabinet Office has published PPN 021, encouraging contracting authorities to spot check their suppliers to ensure that 30-day payment terms are being implemented throughout the supply chain on public sector contracts with a value over £5 million per annum, as required under the Procurement Act which came into force on 24 February.



From 1 October 2025, contracting authorities should include terms within their contracts to enable them to undertake payment spot checks and request the following information from suppliers at least once every six months:

- A copy of the payment terms for the contract
- Details of procedures for resolving disputed invoices promptly and effectively and evidence that these have been shared with their supply chain
- Evidence of payments made (and time taken to pay) in relation to the contract.
- If it is discovered that a supplier is not complying with the requirement to pay within 30 days, a contracting authority may take a number of actions.

INCREASE IN MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The number of mental health support services available to construction workers has drastically increased, research shows.

Data from a new Chartered Institute of Building report, called Understanding Mental Health in the Built Environment 2025, revealed that more than three-quarters of workers had been encouraged to get involved in support events like Mental Health Awareness Week, and more than half of people surveyed said they had access to a mental health first aider at work if they need help.

Despite the positives, there remains an alarming amount of people struggling with their mental health, including the 28 per cent of survey respondents who revealed they have experienced suicidal thoughts in the past year.

CIOB's report has been backed by Mates in Mind. Sam Downie, Managing Director, said: "Educating all employees and workers across your supply chain to spot the signs of mental ill health, have the confidence to start a conversation about it and be able to signpost further support, is crucial.

"In addition, for those in management positions, it is also important to know how and when to assess and mitigate



PICTURE CREDIT: WOKANDAPIX

the risk of stress. Even though employers have a legal duty of care to protect workers from stress at work by doing a risk assessment and acting on it, almost 70 per cent of respondents in our survey said that their line managers would not know how to undertake stress risk assessments or understand when they may be necessary."

To find out the risk assessment requirements, go to www.hse.gov.uk/stress/risk-assessment.htm

INDUSTRY VIEW

In this new section where each month we ask prominent members of the sector to give their view on an issue affecting the scaffolding sector, we invited one of the industry's most recognised figures, Des Moore, to write the inaugural column.



Des Moore

Many of the scaffolding companies I'm talking to at the moment are busy and thriving – but many are not. This general economic downturn has several causes: the economy in general and, for the construction industry in particular, there are the changes (quite rightly) as a consequence of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report. But whatever the reasons, I see companies struggling with the same problems I've seen in previous downturns and recessions.

It's times like these where you can differentiate between the businesses that have consistently addressed their business plans and processes, and those that have not.

Being on top of your business performance makes you resilient. In general, the scaffolding sector is extremely resilient – we have all managed the historic ups and downs we've been faced with. But you need to work at that – the more emphasis you place on continually reviewing and

improving your operations and processes, the better your business will react to tougher times.

It is so important to plan ahead, always thinking to yourself: "What if I lost some of my key customers tomorrow, or faced a recession?"

It costs businesses more to make sudden, reactive cuts and changes rather than well planned and anticipated ones. If you cut back on equipment, transport, premises or people when things are slow, you'll inevitably need to ramp up those things when the market gets better.

Why give yourself that extra stress and cost?

Make plans to put yourself in the strongest possible position from now. You don't want to make people redundant. I've experienced it, and I've had to do it as a leader. Instead, start looking now at how your business could be more efficient, so that you don't have to make knee-jerk decisions in the future. A few things you could check right now include:

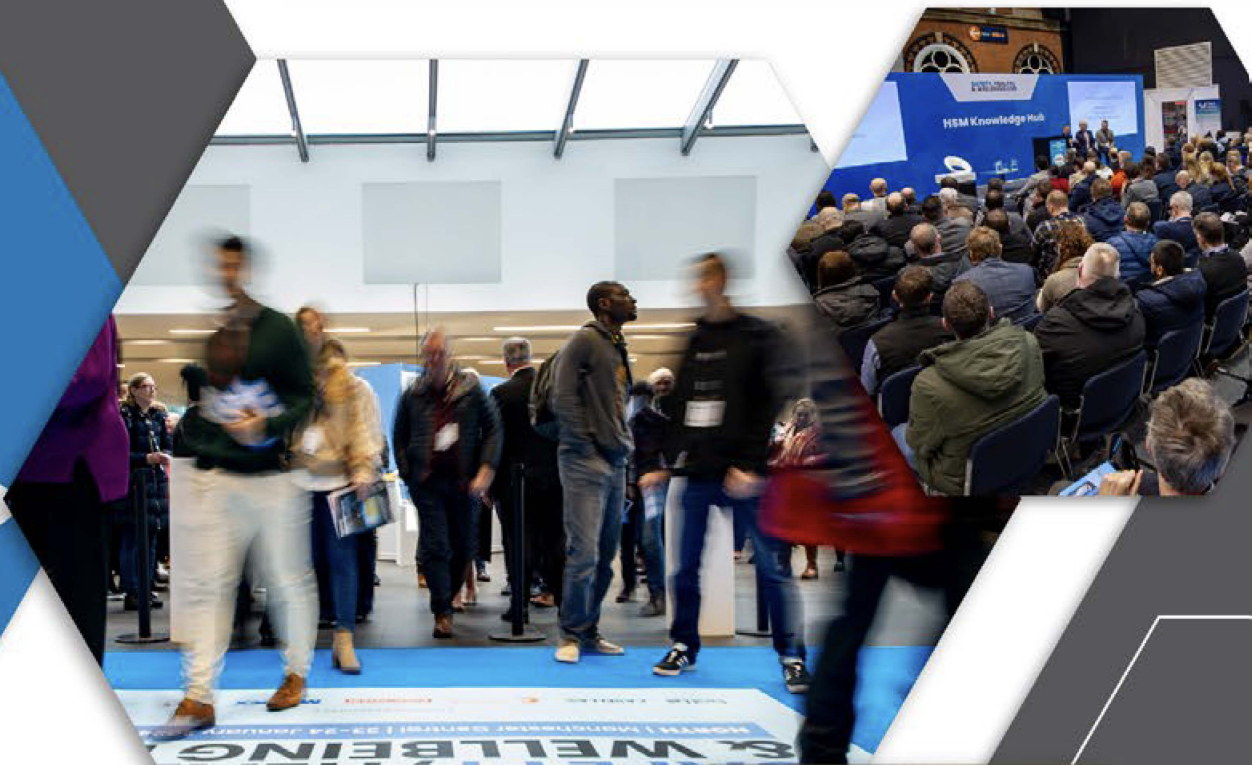
- Do you have a proper budget in place?
- What is your action plan for growth?
- Do you track your pipeline and prospects?
- What plans do you have in place to help you trade profitably during a downturn?

As a NASC member, if you participate in regional meetings or join committees, as I did (and got a lot of value for it) you can benefit from the experience and guidance of others, which could be invaluable as we navigate these times which, in most instances, are short lived.

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REFORMS HERALD NEW ERA FOR CISRS

The Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) has announced the launch of a major programme of reform. These reforms follow an extensive governance review and are essential to ensure that CISRS provision remains fit for the future needs of the industry and can support a new generation of scaffolding professionals, including school leavers and apprentices.

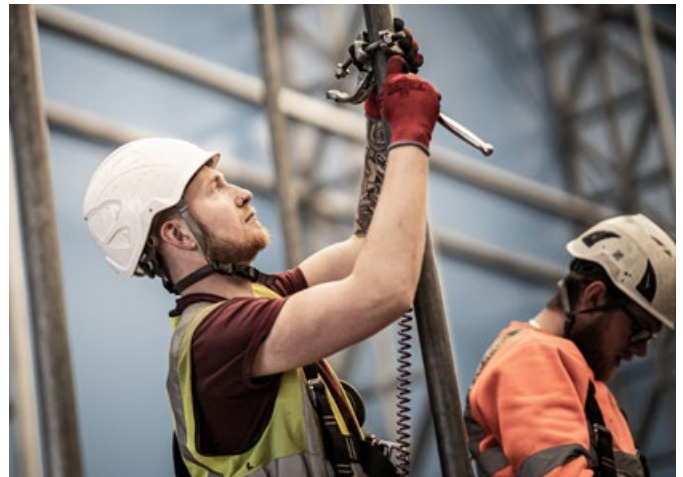
CISRS Chair Wayne Connolly said of the new developments, *"The scaffolding sector needs a training system that is robust, inclusive and can deliver the skilled workforce of tomorrow. This is the start of a progressive programme of change designed to strengthen CISRS, support our centres, and ensure that young people, including school leavers, have more routes into our fantastic industry. We are focused on building a modern, responsive training network that meets real-world needs while maintaining the high standards of safety and competence the sector demands."*

The new programme focuses on strengthening governance, improving the consistency and quality of training delivery and increasing the sector's overall training capacity. A new Quality Committee, reporting directly to the CISRS Board, will oversee training standards, course development, and the management of approved centres. This committee will include representation from employers, educationalists and centres themselves, and will be chaired by an independent specialist.

Connolly said, *"A recent independent perception survey identified clear areas of improvement. Improving on the relatively low Customer Satisfaction scores the research highlighted will be a key metric for establishing future KPIs for CISRS, the centres and trainers."*

New centre spec

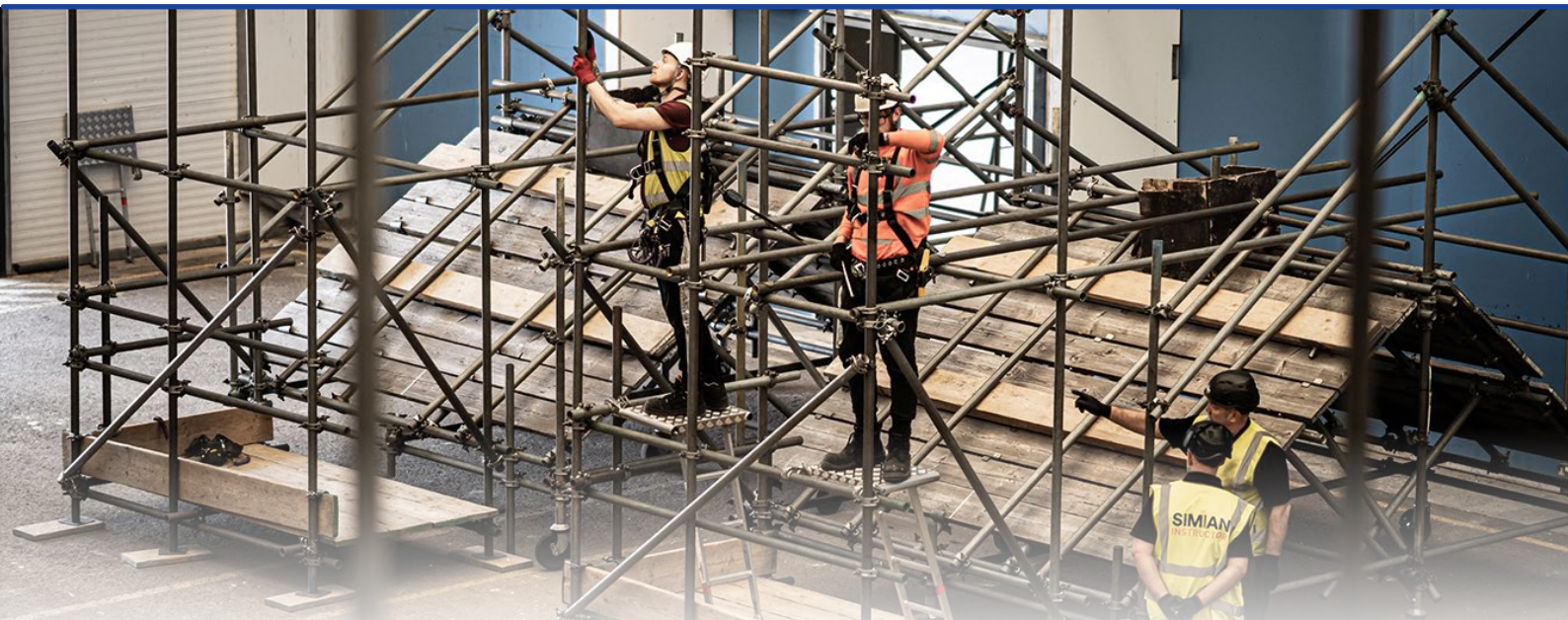
An updated CISRS Centre Specification will take effect on 1 June 2025. The new specification reduces the current five specifications to three, making it easier to understand and for centres (current and future) to be flexible in their approach. Centre height is reduced slightly to a minimum of 8 metres but where 10 metres is required, a mixture of open air and internal training will be permitted. Open air centres will, of course, be more susceptible to weather disruption but protocols will be put in place to maintain the balance between realistic outdoor work, as most scaffolding is erected and dismantled in such conditions, and a complete commitment to safety. CISRS will oversee additional audits and CCTV requirements for these centres.



Wayne Connolly comments: *"You used to need a 10-metre high unit and 70 metre square space - but you try getting that anywhere near the centre of a city. You can't. The result was that people had to travel miles to be trained. Some people don't drive and the trains are not always either convenient or reliable. There has been a real problem getting people where they needed to be. So now we have reduced the height to eight metres and added the outdoor option. Of course, outdoor centres could be hit by bad weather, but scaffolders work outside so poor weather working is part of the job. While it needs to be totally safe to conduct the training, this will present more options to train and more real world conditions."*

As part of its implementation, the CISRS Board has imposed an 18-month moratorium on the approval of any new CISRS open-air centres within mainland UK, unless for pilots. This is to allow existing centres sufficient time to adjust to the new specification.





The increased auditing will include surprise visits for all centres and increased auditing through CCTV as well as further GDPR checks for trainees. These systems are relatively low cost and will be required in 18 months' time.

Unmet needs

All of the changes being made by CISRS are in service of making the training process more efficient, more relevant, to raise capacity and standards, and to address the significant unmet training needs across various UK regions and globally.

The updated centre specification is just the start of CISRS' commitment to modernisation, which will also encompass the digitisation of training and new course options. Measures to digitise training records and improve data collection will be introduced, helping centres to market more effectively and support greater learner engagement.

Governance and Strategic Oversight

CISRS is owned by NASC, and together with Unite the Union, forms the two constituent partners of CISRS. This dual structure ensures that both the employers' and operatives' voices are central to everything CISRS does regarding training and qualifications in the scaffolding industry.

Following last year's comprehensive governance review, CISRS' Board concluded that the current system is flawed. As a result, the organisation has decided to establish a new Quality Committee. This committee will report directly to CISRS' Board and will be responsible for managing and supporting CISRS' relationship with centres, ensuring oversight and continuous improvement of courses, trainers and centre network. As part of that process, ASITO (Access & Scaffolding Industry Training Organisation) will no longer input into CISRS. Instead, the new committee, which will be led by an independent chair, will draw from a select group of employers, educationalists and centres. These individuals will be selected according to a clear set of criteria and a transparent recruitment and selection process.

All legal responsibility for the CISRS course portfolio – including its content, trainer delivery / development centre specifications, and remote digital delivery – rests with CISRS' Board. All training centres will be required to meet CISRS standards and specifications as a condition of their approval.



Data gathering

As part of the new working practices and to start ensuring all trainee data is properly gathered, training centres will receive training from CISRS on the new process to issue cards. Part of this process will require all training to be recorded, including all failures, plus a standard process that will see all passing trainees issued with a card. A centre will then have the choice to issue a certificate, if needed, to the learner if they pass.

Currently centres have recorded only 11,500 email addresses from the 83,000 cards issued, which is not where the numbers need to be. This new data will allow CISRS to help the centres track and improve their marketing ability, to increase learner participation, and through the digitisation programme, allow greater engagement.

Wayne Connelly concludes: *"The CISRS scheme must be robust and have high value. Contractors have understandably been questioning value for money. So we've gone back to the foundations of CISRS and its work with the centres. The centres need contracts that are fair and equitable for all parties. We also needed to simplify the CAP609 booklet, which dictates the courses that are run. We have now condensed 11 CAP booklets into one complete training manual. We have simplified the training centre standards. We are at the start of an important and positive transformation of CISRS, which will benefit the whole industry."*

BLENHEIM PALACE – RAISING THE BEAST

“There are very few tenders that can genuinely excite a scaffolding contractor from the Managing Director all the way through to the scaffolding labourer. However, for the whole team at Allen & Foxworthy, the Blenheim Palace roof and ceiling restoration project did exactly that.”

So says General Manager at Allen & Foxworthy, David Anderson. As long term and proud custodian of the Royal Warrant, the company has an impressive portfolio of projects under its belt already, including work at Windsor Castle and many historical buildings and palaces.

As expected with any structure built in the 1700s, over three centuries of environmental exposure, structural shifts, and aging materials have all taken a toll on the Palace's ceilings. The integrity of the Baroque wall and ceiling artwork is under severe threat and great trust has been put in the hands of Allen & Foxworthy Ltd.



The impressive external scaffolding, nicknamed on site as ‘The Beast’, undeniably catches the eye and

the decision was made by Blenheim Palace to embrace the scaffolding and to not cover with sheeting. They are proud to showcase the craftsmanship of all the trades, including the scaffolding structure erected by Allen & Foxworthy.

Blenheim Palace also requested a very large public viewing gallery was installed at the high-level roof area to allow interested parties to see first hand the very sensitive works being carried out.

David Anderson comments: “We have installed some very technical structures in the past which has held us in good stead for this type of work, but the Blenheim Palace job is extra special. Nobody has been close to the ceilings and roof areas of the Great Hall & Saloon Hall for 300 years, so to be the first to provide access here is a huge privilege.”

Internally, the Saloon and Great Hall room ceilings, which feature some of the Palace's most iconic decorative work, saw the company face a unique challenge of erecting complex scaffolds in the Palace's busiest public spaces, all while keeping operations running safely. This has been





sensitive work, especially considering that the Palace remains open to the public all day. The scaffold team at Allen & Foxworthy has been working through the night to provide protection for the public, as well as erecting the deck for the restoration team to survey the fabric of the building and carry out the essential works.

When Allen & Foxworthy visited the site initially, it was clear that this project would be time consuming and stretch the resources of the business. David Anderson said: *"I am very proud of the way our team have handled this project, which has taken up substantial resources. Alongside Blenheim, we have still delivered on other ongoing projects thanks to both our scaffolders and office operations teams. We must be excited for these projects whilst not overcommitting. It's not all about growing turnover. The scaffolders enjoy working on these interesting projects too."*

With the building relying on publicly-driven income, it was inevitable that local constraints, public entrance demands, and commercial interests added time and obstacles in the erecting of 'The Beast'. Allen & Foxworthy were only permitted to use 7-tonne trucks to transport equipment from a compound 1.5 miles away from the Palace on the other side of the vast estate, navigating delicate root zones and heritage landscaping. These limitations required meticulous planning and a deep understanding of working in sensitive environments.

Every delivery was made outside opening hours, ensuring no disruption to the thousands of visitors daily. One main challenge was the elevation to the north, which spans the main public entrance, used daily and with fire escapes either side that had to be maintained continuously. Careful planning, segregation and safe zones were implemented daily

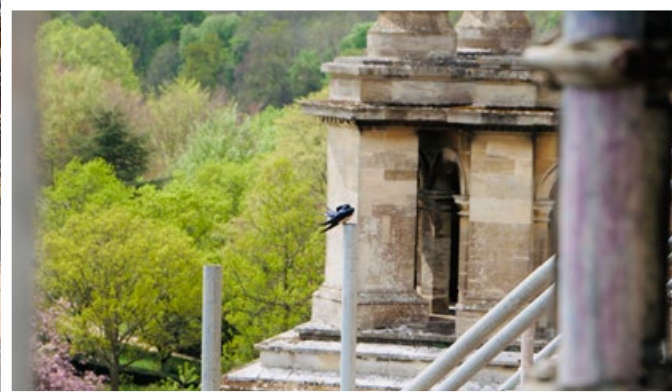


to install the scaffold safely with no disruptions to the daily running of the Palace.

Paul Allen, Managing Director of Allen & Foxworthy, was instrumental in the initial design and planning for this job. He took the initial concept designs from tender documents and with the help and skill of Chris Burch from Scaffolding Designs, they were able to finalise his idea and vision of how to execute the task the best way possible.

Paul said: *"My involvement in this project began many months before we even started on site, providing post-tender budget cost based around concept designs. As time progressed, we thought the original scaffold design needed to incorporate all roofs in one, rather than different roofs. This was a totally different approach to concept designs. Our final design was preferred by four out of the five final main contractors. It is a challenging scaffold to build both in site constraints and complexity."*

Special attention had to be given to Blenheim Palace's unique, old water management system. This dated system has damper collection points in multiple areas, which deal with a huge flow of water from the many outlets situated around the roof. During the design process, consideration had to be given to the best way of dealing with the huge amount of rainwater coming off 2,467m² of temporary roof. A modern box gutter system 300mm x 200mm was installed to keep the rainwater away from existing roof areas. This would be critical to enabling historical works to proceed by dispersing the rainwater to temporary water tanks sited at ground level on the south elevation. As tanks fill, the water is pumped away from the building to the lake or water bowsters to use on the gardens. This was achieved by installing 110m of box gutter at our roof eaves with 14 outlets and 95m of downpipes; these are then collected into 110m of drainage pipe that runs north to south just above existing roof eaves. They then run vertically 20m down the scaffold to two 1600 litre holding tanks.



All of the detailed planning and preparation allowed for beams to be installed in manageable spans, thus allowing the largest spanning roof to be safely erected – along with two 18m high public access staircases and two P22 passenger lifts leading to the viewing gallery.

A specialist DESSA Uni Roof system provided protection over the roof and ceilings which marked the final milestone in this grand restoration. The final design spans an impressive total of 48m. Due to site constraints, it was not possible to build by crane so the parties involved developed a design that allowed the roof to be built by hand. This involved spanning north to south at outer eaves with a 51m complexed box beam with a central support scaffold based in the lightwells. Two complex lines of scaffold were installed either side off the great hall and saloon, which were built off the walls and window sills. These were difficult to access and required extreme skill by the scaffolders.

The original timescale for the observation platform to be built on the roof for the public to view was 12 weeks. Allen & Foxworthy finished it in nine weeks.

The scaffolding is due to remain up for 18–24 months. Members of the public can go up the observation tower from the end of May 2025. If you're in Oxfordshire, don't wait another 300 years – why not pay a visit to see The Beast for yourself?



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CRITICAL NEW GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS RELEASED

NASC has released nine new or revised guidance documents, all of which are now available from the NASC e-portal and NASC website. These documents are some of the most used and valued elements of NASC membership; the organisation continues to ensure they are updated regularly and new areas are covered to keep members ahead of the game.

Among the new documents is EG1 Young Persons. Getting young people into the trade is a hot topic right now as the sector seeks to boost the workforce to deliver the Government's grand plans for housing and infrastructure. This document provides comprehensive guidance for scaffolding and access companies to ensure the safe and compliant employment of 16 and 17 year olds, covering all legal and moral obligations and best practice. This is an area many companies steer clear of because of its potential complexity, but this document will safely walk you through the process.

On the technical side, TG4 Anchorage systems in scaffolding is a hugely important updated document that covers the use of drilled and cast-in anchors used to tie scaffolding to a building or structure. A highly technical document, it is the go-to for any work involved in anchorage systems – and also links in with the guidance offered in both TG20 for tube and fitting scaffolding and TG30 for system scaffolding.

Meanwhile, SG8 RIDDOR is another important document, full of strong guidance and good images to that really help illustrate clearly the points being made. Similarly important is SG28 Timber Frame, which addresses the unique requirements of working with timber frame buildings and those of a similar construction, with a focus on best practice and legal compliance.

SG22 Induction is an invaluable document for those bringing new starters on board, not least because it makes clear a company's obligations regarding fraud and illegal workers.

The full list of documents is:

- TG3 Rubbish chutes
- TG4 Anchorage systems in scaffolding
- CG26 Novation and administration
- SG42 Working over water
- SG8 RIDDOR
- SG22 Induction
- SG28 Timber Frame
- EG1 Young Persons
- CG13 Pre-tender information from client

The prices for these guidance documents for non-members range from £6.55 to £22. Members can download all documents for free as part of their membership.



TG30 PHASE TWO GOES LIVE

NASC has announced that phase two of TG30 is now live and available for the industry to use. TG30 is a suite of guidance and compliance tools developed by NASC specifically for system scaffolding; it provides clear standards and best practices for the design and construction of system scaffolds, complementing TG20 which focuses on tube and fitting scaffolding. Phase two marks a significant milestone for TG30, with the addition of several developments, including:

- TG30 cup, pocket, rosette, and wedge stair tower
- TG30 cup and wedge independent and tied tower scaffolding to complement rosette system.

While TG30 is all about system scaffolding, there are also major benefits from these latest developments for users of

tube and fit in TG20, with stair towers now included as part of the package.

Clive Dickin, NASC's CEO, said: "System staircase towers are a proven, efficient and safe access improvement over ladders, which has resulted in their recognition as the preferred access solution for scaffolding. This new capability within TG20 and the major enhancement of TG30 for phase two will be a game-changer."

TG30 remains free of charge to ePortal subscribers. NASC reported a sharp increase in downloads of TG30 immediately after phase two went live.



MEMBERSHIP TERMINATED

NASC has terminated the membership of two firms, following breaches of NASC's membership requirements.

One full contracting member and one supplier member have failed to maintain the standards required for NASC membership. The contracting member, based in NASC's London & South East region, failed to meet the requirement that 90% of scaffolding operatives are CISRS cardholders.

NASC CEO, Clive Dickin, said, "This is both an extremely difficult and a very simple decision. It's difficult because we don't like to exclude any firm from membership, but it was straightforward because of the high value NASC places on individual competence, as represented by the CISRS card."

NASC OFFERS TG30 GENERIC SELECTIONS CLARIFICATION

NASC has clarified some common misconceptions around the current version of TG30, particularly regarding the use of generic selections for the three current available system types. The current engineering approach is intentionally both conservative and rigorous, with compliance sheet outputs based on the least favourable structural values from the engineering data.

This approach seeks to prescribe the minimum structural properties that a system scaffold must achieve. This ensures that the performance requirements for a system scaffold are clearly defined for each category, establishing the benchmark for TG30 compliance.

NASC says this approach is not intended to encourage or permit the unrestricted mixing of components from different original equipment manufacturers' (OEM) systems. Some OEMs explicitly prohibit such mixing of components, while others may allow it under specific controlled conditions.

In the first instance, scaffolding contractors must consult with the relevant OEM to determine what is permitted when using their system. Where mixing is allowed, this must be in a controlled way: the OEM must provide written authorisation specific to the multiple products being considered.

For further details, please refer to Section 1.8 of the TG30 Operational Guide.

KEN TWORT

NASC regrets to report that Ken Twort, of NASC member Fourways Plant Ltd, has passed away. Fourways' outstanding reputation in and around London since 1984, and Ken's reputation as a committed scaffolding business owner, were clear for all to see. All at NASC offer their deepest condolences to Ken's family, friends and colleagues.



NASC AND NFB FOCUS ON GROWTH THROUGH CONSTRUCTION



NASC and the National Federation of Builders (NFB) joined forces to host a landmark 'Growth Through Construction' parliamentary lunch in the House of Commons.

Speaking at the event, Wayne Connolly, President of NASC, said: "The Government is right to see infrastructure projects and housebuilding as a key part of achieving its ambition to grow the economy. But it needs to understand that building 1.5 million homes, while also getting a lot of other major infrastructure projects off the ground, will require skilled and experienced scaffolders quickly. The house building target alone will require an estimated 40,000 scaffolders."

"Yesterday was the first day of paying the higher rate of employers' NI. And this comes at a time when the Government is demanding we build those 1.5 million homes and yet has shut the door on immigration for construction, while bottlenecks caused by the Building Safety Act are delaying projects, with an estimated 40% still waiting approval well beyond the promised eight to 12 weeks."

"It is great to hear positive words from politicians, but we need the Government to act."

Due to space constraints, we were unable to include our monthly feature '80 Years of NASC'. We will continue with the 1960s in the next issue.

THE WORLD UNDER ONE ROOF

SCAFFEX25

In September, the scaffolding and access world will gather for two days under one roof. And it's free for everyone to join in.

Manchester Central on 11 and 12 September will be the perfect place to meet your scaffolding and access suppliers or customers. Tickets to the exhibition and conference, the largest of its kind ever held in the UK, are available now. To register for a free pass to the two-day conference and exhibition, visit <https://nasc.org.uk/product-category/scaffex-2025/>

Leigh leads Awards presenting team

Also taking place in Manchester at the same time, the Scaffolding Excellence Awards 2025 offer the promise of a night to remember.

This year's Scaffolding Excellence Awards will be hosted by Alex Jones, one of the UK's best-loved presenters and broadcasters, and award-winning broadcaster and author Clare Balding. Clare and Alex will be joined by comedian, actor, writer and social media legend Leigh Francis, who may have sent his most-loved character Keith Lemon on a permanent holiday but will no doubt still manage to bring the house down.



Alex Jones said, "I'm thrilled to have been asked to host these awards. It's always nice to play a part in celebrating the best of an industry as they collect awards or trophies. There is always a positive atmosphere, and I look forward to working with Clare and Leigh on a fabulous event."

Clare Balding said, "Awards nights are always good fun. People are in a celebratory mood and are out to have a special night. I am looking forward to helping NASC and its members enjoy the Scaffolding Excellence Awards 2025 and to make it a night to remember."

Leigh Francis added: "I am looking forward to celebrating the award-winning entries, enjoying the best of the scaffolding industry and having plenty of fun."

Alex, Clare and Leigh will be joined on the night by a host of other celebrity guests. Watch out for more details and announcements in the coming months.

For many people in the scaffolding and access industry, NASC's Scaffolding Excellence Awards are the highlight of the year. Recognising the people and projects that stand apart from the everyday, the awards are a celebration of innovation and engineering and a recognition of all that is brilliant within scaffolding and access.

Clive Dickin, NASC CEO, says, "It's always such a great night. A chance for the industry to get together and have fun. One member recently told me he'd rather be in Manchester for this one night than spend a week on a Greek island. He may be right because this year, it is shaping up to be one of our best events yet."

Open for entry

Open to NASC members, there are nine awards recognising the best people, products and projects of the year. For individuals, there is Apprentice of the Year, while for those at the other end of their career, there is a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Awards also highlight the best product and service of the year, recognising that innovation remains a major force driving the industry forward, extending the scope of what scaffolding and access can achieve, while at the same time improving safety and quality and improving the working lives of scaffolders.

The range, scale and variety of projects is vast, which is reflected in the fact that five awards are dedicated to different types of project with awards for small, medium, large and major projects, as well as a separate award for the best design.



SCAFFEX25
MANCHESTER 11-12 SEPT

Layher

More Possibilities. The Scaffolding System.

Chair of the independent judging panel, James McFadden, CS&A Responsible Engineer at Sellafield, said

"For anyone in the scaffolding and access world, these are the awards that matter. They're recognised as a seal of approval from industry peers. To collect one of these awards in September you will have to beat some impressive projects and people."

"I am looking forward to reading about some fascinating projects and I'm particularly looking forward to a great night celebrating with the fantastic line-up of talent and with all the awards winners."

The awards are open for entries now at nasc.org.uk/awards

To buy a ticket or a table, visit:

<https://nasc.org.uk/product-category/scaffex-2025/>

A MODERN APPROACH FOR CISRS



Paul Napper

The modernisation and digitalisation of scaffolding training remains a core objective for CISRS, with the team busy working through the implementation of a new centre specification and a new contract (see pages 8-9 for more details). These have been shared with the training centres for discussion and consultation.

Paul Napper, Head of Training and Education at NASC, explains the ambition behind the new programme: *"This is essentially about making sure we are doing all we can to bring as many young people as possible into the industry. We have a large shortfall of scaffolders in the UK, with some 1,200 vacancies a week. On top of this the Government wants to see 1.5 million homes built in this parliament. That alone will require an estimated 40,000 scaffolders, which is almost as many as there are CISRS cardholders at the moment. And this is before you look at all the other large infrastructure projects that are planned."*



PICTURE CREDIT: Simian

A digital future

Scaffolding training for the most part relies on physical, hands-on and practical demonstrations and learning by doing. It requires people

to experience using the kit and equipment, to be told and shown how and where to use what tools and the safe way to behave on site. It is essentially an in-person learning experience. But it is not only this. There are elements of the training that can be and are done in a classroom.

And it is these aspects of the training that CISRS is looking to update with a more modern, digital-first approach. The CISRS team is looking at ways to bring this training content to life in new ways via a new digital learning management system (LMS). The team is currently looking at various different providers, with the aim of having the new system in place in 2026.



A CALL FOR CAREERS CONTENT

This month, NASC welcomed new Careers Executive, Rebekah Jardine. A major part of Rebekah's remit over the coming weeks and months will be to undertake a full review of the support materials that are available and how they are used. NASC wants to understand what is working well now and what could be done better, what it needs to do less and what it should be doing more.

As Rebekah explains, *"Over the next few months, we will be undertaking a full review of our Talent Packs, the Scaffolding Careers website and the overall way we support members in terms of careers. This support breaks down into two areas. The first is how we help those we call 'the intrigued', meaning potential entrants into the industry, including school and college leavers and those at the start of a possible career. The second are the people we call 'the influencers', by which we really mean NASC members, training providers and the educators in schools."*

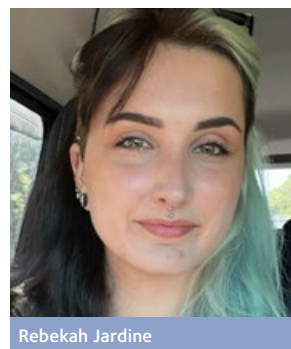
Rebekah explains that NASC is fully committed to developing a comprehensive suite of resources for the intrigued and for those who are just that next step further along and have made the decision to start a career in the industry. *"We want to deliver updated information and guidance on the scaffoldingcareers.com website, with more interactive content such as explainer videos and imagery."*

To do this, we really want to get more collaboration going across the industry. This is where the influencers can help, as we want those working within education to work with us, so we are spreading the right messages about the wide range of opportunities within scaffolding."

There are various ways NASC members can help and get involved in the development of content as this new approach is rolled out. Rebekah continues, *"We want to know how we can best support you with your social value requirements, with recruitment and retention issues, and to more generally understand how you are engaging in the careers space."*

Key to this new approach, she says, is to understand how NASC can do things better to support members with careers. Essentially, she says this boils down to answering a single question, *"What are you currently finding challenging that we can support you with?"*

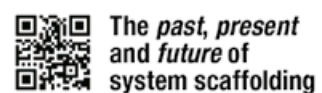
If you are interested in being involved with any of the above, email Rebekah.Jardine@nasc.org.uk



Rebekah Jardine

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