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SEPTEMBER 2025

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FROM THE EDITOR

Even though I've been writing about ScaffEx25 for months in this magazine, revealing a bit more each time about how big and ambitious the show was going to be, I still couldn't have anticipated the impact of actually arriving at Manchester Central on Thursday 11 September. I passed numerous adverts and flags showing the ScaffEx logo and joined a large crowd of visitors queuing and keen to get into the event once the ribbon was cut.

Belfast last year was excellent – a brand new idea done very well. But this year was remarkable. The sheer scale of the ambition was one thing but to be able to actually pull it off was entirely another. I take my hat off to all the teams who made this happen, across the conference, exhibition and awards.

Around 2,400 people came to the event in the end, and it felt busy and lively both days. The exhibitors certainly played their part, with stands full of enthusiastic staff and various scaffolding challenges and special offers to attract visitors. As you might expect from scaffold manufacturers, the stands were large and impressive!

The Conference was also a significant step up from last year, with some brilliant speakers, and chaired excellently by two consummate professionals in Nina Hossain and Sophie Long. I spoke to them both and heard how much they had enjoyed the experience and learning about the industry. On the Friday, the show welcomed another journalist, this time from BBC Breakfast, who broadcast a number of times from Manchester Central, as well as interviewing a number of people, from an apprentice to the CEO. Being live on BBC Breakfast was another sign of just what an impact the show made.

The Awards dinner was certainly a night to remember, and none of us will ever look at Leigh Francis in quite the same way again. But the main story of the night was the winners, who celebrated in front of a room packed with 870 guests. The standard was so high this year, that all those shortlisted had reason for celebration, and the winners were on top of the world. Read more about the event on pages 8–13, and do come next year as ScaffEx26 is due to be bigger and better than ever.

While ScaffEx25 does rather dominate this issue, please don't miss the feature on page 15 about working near power lines. UK Power Networks told me that the number of people in our industry being killed or injured by overhead lines is on the increase, which is worrying.

I hope you enjoy the magazine.



Nick Campion
Editor

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GATWICK'S SECOND RUNWAY APPROVED

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander has approved plans for a second runway at London Gatwick Airport, as the Government looks for economic growth opportunities.

The £2.2bn privately-financed project involves moving the current Northern Runway 12 metres to bring it into regular use, as well as other developments, including extending the size of terminals.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves said the plans would create 'thousands of jobs and billions in investment'. Gatwick currently handles about 280,000 flights a year. It says the plan would allow that number to rise to around 389,000 by the late 2030s.

Reeves said the second Gatwick runway was part of the Government's plan to 'get Britain building again'.

London Gatwick is Europe's busiest single-runway airport with more than 40 million passengers using it every year. The airport says that passenger numbers could rise to up to 80 million. The second runway would be used for short-haul flights, with capacity also freed up for more long-haul services from the main runway.

Construction will take place alongside the operational main runway and terminals, requiring phased works to maintain airport operations throughout the build. Up to 3,200 workers will be on site at peak construction, according to Alexander's decision letter.



SUBCONTRACTORS' CLASS ACTION OVER ISG

Subcontractors left nursing huge losses from the

collapse of ISG are preparing class actions against the Government after the Project Bank Accounts system failed to protect their cash.

ISG's collapse in September 2024 left more than £1.1bn of debts. Subcontractors on MoJ prison projects were among those left unpaid for completed work, despite operating under PBAs and Whitehall insisting that their cash was ringfenced.

Instead, funds were included in ISG's insolvency estate under UK rules, leaving subcontractors high and dry.

Fintech platform ProjectPay, led by entrepreneur Louise Stewart, is co-ordinating the actions which are expected to be lodged with the court before Christmas. It is expected that the action will be expanded to all ISG subcontractors that remain unpaid, which is at least 500 firms.

Stewart said: "PBAs only protect money already in the account. They fail to stop payments being captured by insolvency administrators. Small businesses, families and taxpayers have all been let down and misled."



FIRST REGULATOR APPROVALS FOR VISTRY

Vistry has been granted its first Gateway 2 approvals from the Building Safety Regulator for the next two phases of Acton Gardens in West London. Construction will now start early next year on 236 new high-quality homes.

In total, the 52-acre scheme is delivering 3,463 new homes alongside a multi-use community centre, nursery, medical centre, sports and play facilities and 500,000ft² of public space.

Nick Churcher, Managing Director for Vistry West London, said: "These are our first approvals under the new regime, and to achieve them on a single project speaks volumes about our collaborative approach and commitment to building safety."



WEX PLEDGE

There are almost a million young people in the UK who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and in her speech to the Labour Party Conference, the Chancellor Rachel Reeves laid out a plan to change this. That plan included a pledge to get all NEETs into paid work, full-time education or an apprenticeship.

NASC supports this announcement as it sits well with its own commitment, in combination with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), to get NASC members to pledge work experience placements.

The Work Experience Pledge (WEX Pledge), launched in partnership with DWP, will create 5,000 structured work experience placements by 2026 across the scaffolding and access sector. Open to jobseekers of all ages and backgrounds, the programme will showcase the breadth of opportunities available, from hands-on site work and yard operations to design, estimating, administration, finance and manufacturing.

By empowering NASC members, suppliers and designers to pledge placements of varying length and type, the initiative will build stronger recruitment pipelines and position scaffolding as a modern, rewarding career of choice.

For more information, visit [scaffoldingcareers.com](https://www.scaffoldingcareers.com)

SCAFFEX TREBLES VISITOR NUMBERS

ScaffEx25 drew around 2,400 visitors to Manchester Central earlier this month – more than three times the turnout seen at last year's event in Belfast.

The two-day showcase brought together contractors, suppliers, trainers, and industry leaders from across the scaffolding and access sector. Delegates travelled from at least 19 countries, underlining the event's growing international appeal.

Organisers say the step up in scale created a real buzz on the exhibition floor, with product launches, live demonstrations, and conference sessions running alongside the Scaffolding Excellence Awards.

Clive Dickin, Group CEO of NASC and CISRS, said the growth marked an important moment for the industry:

"We are delighted with these numbers and the diversity of delegates. Of course, we want to get even more people



attending next year and we'll be working hard to make ScaffEx26 even bigger and better with new ideas and innovations to attract even more of the scaffolding and access community from around the world."

The surge in attendance is being seen as a sign of the sector's appetite for a dedicated platform to share ideas, showcase innovation and celebrate achievements.

APPRENTICES TO LEAD UK ENTRANTS AT SCAFFCHAMP

Scaffmag is reporting that a team of young scaffolders from Scotland and Northern Ireland are set to represent the region at the international competition ScaffChamp in Lithuania next year.



The all-apprentice squad, aged between 16 and 21, will compete at the event in what organisers say is a first for the industry.

I-Scaff Director Ross Brown is spearheading the initiative following discussions at ScaffEx about attracting young people to the scaffolding trade. He is now seeking sponsorship to cover travel costs and equipment for the team.

WILMOTT DIXON FOR DARLINGTON

Willmott Dixon has been picked as construction partner for a major regeneration drive across Darlington town centre. The contractor is teaming up with Cityheart, Space Architects, Identity Consult and others after Darlington Borough Council confirmed the line-up for a long-term partnership to transform three key sites at East Street, Commercial Street and Kendrew Street.



The consortium will now work with the council to map out detailed development proposals, with plans due to go before Cabinet early next year.

Willmott Dixon already has a strong track record in Darlington, currently delivering the station upgrade with a 600-space multi-storey car park.

AI USE EXPLODES

A survey by the Association for Project Management (APM) and research company Censuswide found that 75% of project professionals working in the construction sector say that their organisation now uses artificial intelligence (AI) in projects, compared to 15% only two years ago. In addition, 25% said that their organisation was planning to adopt AI to project management functions.

A similar APM survey in 2023 found that 63% of project managers in construction said their organisation was not using AI and had no plans to introduce it. In 2025, not a single respondent said that their organisation was not using AI.

APM also found that 82% of those working on projects in construction are using AI more frequently than they anticipated five years ago, with just 18% who say they are using it less frequently than anticipated.

PILOSIO AND JMAC JOIN FORCES

Pilosio UK has announced a new partnership with JMAC Group Hire & Sales and Creator Scaffold Designs and Temporary Works Consultants Ltd, in a move aimed at

strengthening support for contractors and engineers across the country. The agreement was unveiled at ScaffEx25.

Under the partnership, Pilosio's scaffolding and access systems will be distributed through JMAC Group Hire & Sales' established UK network. Creator Scaffold Designs will provide technical expertise and design support, offering contractors a fully integrated service.

The companies said the collaboration combines product innovation, distribution strength and engineering capability, with the aim of delivering smoother and more efficient project outcomes.



BROWN TO BUILD UK



Build UK has confirmed the appointment of Paul Brown, Chief Executive of John Sisk & Son, as its new Chair. Build UK has also appointed two new Board members – Skanska's President and CEO Katy Dowding, and Lee Rowsell from GKR Scaffolding. Lee played a prominent role at the recent ScaffEx Conference and GKR Scaffolding is a member of NASC.

Previously Vice Chair of Build UK after joining the Board in 2022, Paul Brown brings more than 25 years of leadership experience to the role. He is a civil engineer with a deep commitment to the power of construction to change lives and create a better future, and his election by members reflects Build UK's central role in driving forward the industry priorities that support all sectors within UK construction.



Paul Brown

LEACH'S AND DEWALT EYE NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Leach's has announced a new partnership with power tool giant DeWalt, aimed at developing products designed specifically for the scaffolding sector.

The collaboration will see exclusive scaffolder kits and impact wrenches tailored to industry needs made available through Leach's. Both companies say the move is intended to deliver reliable, affordable and high-quality tools to scaffolders, addressing long-standing calls for equipment designed around the demands of the trade.

While scaffolders have long relied on adapting general construction tools for their work, this marks one of the first occasions a major power tool brand has invested directly in creating scaffolding-specific solutions.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION BOOST

As the new academic year gets underway, firms involved in building accommodation to house the growing number of students in the UK are becoming busier.

The value of project starts on student accommodation schemes rose to £849 million in the three months to July, double the value in the same period a year earlier, according to recent Glenigan data. In all, student homes accounted for 7% of total housing projects getting underway.

INDUSTRY VIEW

Jon Stone, Commercial Director at Malvern Scaffolding, wonders if scaffolding contractors are doing main contractors' work for them.

This year, more than ever, we are finding ourselves managing certain clients' jobs for them in the face of a growing level of ineffectiveness when it comes to understanding scaffolding and how it needs to be programmed into the broader project picture. In order to maintain our own productivity, we are getting more deeply involved than ever and I imagine other sub-contractors are the same – but is there a danger that this becomes the norm? A danger of embedding this mission creep through necessity?

The necessity for us to be not only involved, but involved as proactively as possible, is greater than ever. Often sites don't seem capable of looking more than two days ahead, whereas when we win a scheme we allocate its likely resource requirements 12 weeks in advance. So when they tell us with only 24 hrs notice that they're not actually



Jon Stone

ready to do what had been planned, what do we do with all these scaffs? Conversely, on housing sites, extra brickie gangs suddenly turn up, but we're not informed. We're not telepathic. Is there a site management skills shortage, I wonder?

Thinking about estimating: obviously the more detailed the scaffold schedule, the more accurate the tender price. We still receive schedules that have been cut and pasted from previous schemes because planners can't be bothered, or are scared of, picking up the phone to discuss exactly what they need. In their defence, there's also a lack of information coming from architects these days. On at least half of our projects this year, I've had issues because the architect has not done the work properly, or the client has not specced it properly. Is this another skills issue?

I'm just pointing out some of the hurdles that are raised by the very people we are trying to help!

Thankfully some of the companies we work with have recognised that scaffolding usually goes over budget – principally because they'd previously not invested enough time into determining exactly what they need. We sit down with them and discuss their schedule and programme so we can fully understand their requirements, and they can fully understand the best scaffolding solution and the likely price. This sort of collaboration needs to be commonplace throughout the industry.



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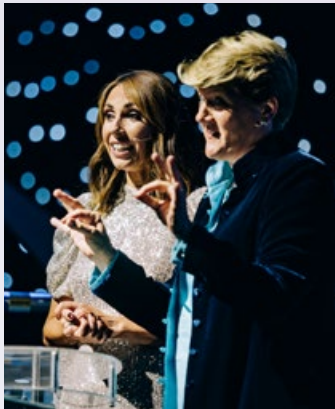
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CELEBRATING THE EXCEPTIONAL

SCAFFOLDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS SPOTLIGHT PERSONAL AND PROJECT BRILLIANCE

The scaffolding and access industry came together on Friday 12 September to celebrate achievement, innovation and success at the Scaffolding Excellence Awards 2025. At a star-studded event held at Manchester Central to mark the end of ScaffEx25, celebrities, scaffolders, suppliers, contractors and guests from around the world came together to reward the projects, products and individuals who have excelled across the industry.



Co-hosted by Alex Jones and Clare Balding, with unique contributions from Leigh Francis, Mike Tindall and Manchester legend Shaun Ryder, the event was a glamorous celebration of the industry.

The biggest winner on the night was Allen & Foxworthy, who scooped two awards for its remarkable work on Blenheim Palace, taking

both Design of the Year and Project of the Year – Large.

The judges called the Blenheim Palace Roof Restoration ‘the project of a lifetime’ and praised Allen & Foxworthy’s ‘innovation, creativity and problem-solving on a job that demanded genuine out-of-the-box thinking.’



Other winners included JMAC’s Rhys Bennet, who was named Apprentice of the Year, and Benchmark Scaffolding’s Rob West, who was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The judges said, “Rob has played a transformative role in shaping industry standards, safety culture, workforce development, and innovation. Through his commitment to safety, professionalism, and technical excellence, he’s earned Benchmark a reputation as a nationally respected provider trusted by clients in the commercial, rail, infrastructure, and heritage sectors. He has also made contributions beyond the business, shaping industry thinking and empowering others to drive improvements across scaffolding.”

Clive Dickin, Group CEO, NASC and CISRS, said: “The Scaffolding Excellence Awards is always a brilliant night. It’s a great opportunity for the industry to get together and celebrate the achievements of the brilliant people in the industry. The winning projects are remarkable examples of what this industry can and does achieve every day. Well done to all the winners and anyone highly commended.”





Apprentice of the Year

Sponsored by
CISRS

Winner:
Rhys Bennett, JMAC

Runner up:
John Stokes from Shield Services Group

WINNERS!



Service of the Year

Sponsored by
NASC Insurance Services

Winner:
Leach's



Product of the Year

Sponsored by
Step-Up Scaffold UK

Winner:
Staht

Project of the Year - Small

Sponsored by
Southern Hoist Services

Winner:
Proplant Scaffolding

Highly commended:
Malvern Scaffolding

Proplant:

"We are unbelievably proud and thankful to win the Project of the Year (Small). What a brilliant few days at ScaffEx and what a great night it was!"



Design of the Year

Sponsored by
Worldwide Scaffold and Access

Winner:
Allen & Foxworthy

Allen & Foxworthy:

"Thank you NASC for one of the greatest evenings of our company's life. We were ecstatic just being nominated so you can imagine how our whole team felt winning twice. The competition was so high, which is what you expect from NASC contractors."



Project of the Year - Medium

Sponsored by
JR Scaffold Services

Winner:

Rose System Scaffolding

Highly commended:
Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding



Project of the Year - Large

Sponsored by
Trad UK

Winner:

Allen & Foxworthy

Highly commended:
Inner City Scaffolding



Project of the Year - Major

Sponsored by
AT-PAC

Winner:

ISS



Lifetime Achievement

Sponsored by
Leach's

Winner:

Rob West, Benchmark Scaffolding



Benchmark Scaffolding:

"We are very proud that Benchmark Scaffolding's Managing Director and Co-Founder, Robert West, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award 2025, one of the highest honours in our industry. With over 40 years of dedication, leadership and innovation, Rob has redefined what it means to lead with integrity and purpose. From championing workforce development, apprenticeships, safety innovation, and fairness in pay, his impact has been transformative. We're proud to be part of an organisation that values people first, embraces innovation, and delivers on its promise to set the standards, every day."

Scaffolding Excellence AWARDS

THE WINNERS 2025



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SCAFFEX25: A TOWERING TRIUMPH

ScaffEx25, held at Manchester Central on 11-12 September, marked a landmark moment for the scaffolding and access sector. Hosted by NASC, the two-day exhibition and conference brought together over 100 exhibitors, thousands of professionals, and a dynamic programme of launches, demos, and keynote sessions — all under one roof.

Now in its second year, ScaffEx has quickly become the industry's flagship event. This year's theme, The Future of Scaffolding, reflected the sector's growing appetite for innovation, collaboration and transformation. From cutting-edge safety tools to digital platforms and international partnerships, the event showcased the scaffolding world at its most forward-thinking.

The conference was opened by Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett and hosted by broadcasters Nina Hossain and Sophie Long.

Meanwhile, one of the most anticipated announcements was the latest update in scaffolding technical guidance TG30, and there was also the launch of a new International Federation of Scaffolding Associations, aimed at deepening global collaboration. NASC also unveiled RISE, a new industry charity, and pledged to create 5,000 work placements for young people and career changers.

The Demo Zone featured nine live sessions, including VR headset experiences for students, showcasing new pathways into the trade. A dedicated Careers Hub highlighted the sector's commitment to attracting fresh talent and addressing the skills gap.

The event culminated in the Scaffolding Excellence Awards, a sold-out gala dinner hosted by Clare Balding, Alex Jones, and Leigh Francis, with celebrity guests Mike Tindall MBE and Shaun Ryder.



NASC CEO Clive Dickin summed up the spirit of the event: *"ScaffEx25 isn't just about what's on display. It's about where we're heading as a sector. There's never been a more important time for scaffolding to show what it stands for: innovation, opportunity, and professionalism".*

JMAC Group commented: *"A fantastic week in Manchester with the team, connecting with clients, suppliers, and industry leaders, while showcasing the very best of JMAC."*

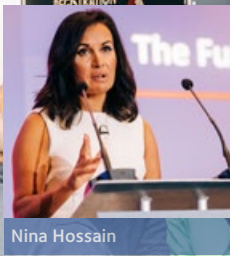
"We're still reminiscing on the highlights – from our CEO, Luis McCarthy, taking to the stage to deliver a powerful keynote on Leadership in Action and the future of safety in scaffolding, to live demonstrations of the FlyDeck system with our partners Pilosio and Pilosio UK's approved designers Creator Scaffold Designs and Temporary Works Consultants Ltd."

"And to top it all off, our apprentice Rhys Bennett was awarded Apprentice of the Year at the Scaffolding Excellence Awards – a proud moment for Rhys and the entire JMAC team."





Andy Moss



Nina Hossain



Wayne Connolly



Sean Pike



Paul Dennett



Luis McCarthy

SCAFFEX25 CONFERENCE: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SCAFFOLDING

The conference began with a welcome from Sean Pike from principal sponsor Layher, who spoke sincerely about the value of collaboration, before NASC President Wayne Connolly reflected on the importance of having a standalone scaffolding exhibition and conference and what an amazing opportunity it was for dialogue between all parts of the sector. He called the event an opportunity to shape the future and a platform for collaboration.

Paul Dennett, Salford City Mayor, spoke about how scaffolding and access are central to the delivery of our national priorities. He spoke of the respect he had for the challenging work that NASC members execute with professionalism and pride. He said the sector deserves recognition, investment and respect. He spoke with considerable knowledge of the challenges the industry faces such as the skills gap and how hard recruitment has been not only for scaffolding but for construction as a whole. He recalled how his dad did an apprenticeship at 16, work that gave him purpose and pride, and this left him believing in the life-changing power of apprenticeships. In November he will launch Build Salford to address skills shortages in the area.

The next session saw a conversation between Lee Rowsell from GKR, and Alan Harris from Pro-Fix Access – two vastly different companies, one with seven men and turning over £1.2 million, and the other with 300 men and turning over £45 million. They spoke about the different challenges of running their very different businesses. In fact the challenges were very similar, with the differences really about scale, not approach.

David Bezant from Leach's spoke about the value of having simple and effective marketing strategies, and how statistics show that people are much more likely to buy from you if they trust you and have a relationship with you.

Other sessions included JMAC's Luis McCarthy on reputation management, Trevor Steven and Matt Hartill on mental health and wellbeing, and a full session on AI in scaffolding businesses. CIOB's Eddie Tuttle spoke about regulation and what the industry must do to help

the regulator to help them. He acknowledged the clear problems in regulation at the moment, and noted that the skills shortage applies to regulators too. He also spoke of the importance of getting better information into schools to get young people into the sector because young people simply don't know enough about all the different roles in the industry.

On Day 2 Andy Moss from City and Guilds spoke about the skills gap and how it is huge and growing. We need 250,000 extra workers in construction alone by 2030, but construction is still not attracting people enough, especially women. There is an urgent need to work with schools, those not in education, employment or training, and the prison population. Andy spoke about an impressive new prison training model that is running successfully at the moment.

David Crowley from SARNZ in New Zealand spoke about the importance of helping young people with soft skills such as communication, understanding purpose, people skills, problem solving and leadership.

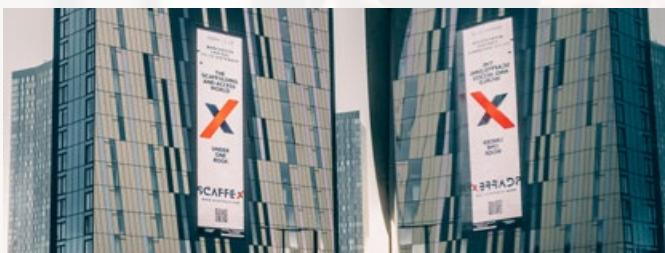
Andrew Hockey from ECITB spoke about the scaffolding demand in engineering construction, which has much wider regional differences than regular construction, depending on what the industry focus is in particular areas. He noted that more than 35% of scaffolders in the sector are over 50 and will be looking to retire in the next decade, so although demand in this sector is steady, there is still a potential skills gap.

NASC's Rebekah Jardine spoke about the importance of having national strategies to tackle a national problem, and she spoke about NASC's new partnership with the DWP to launch the work experience pledge. She spoke frankly about NASC's offer, which is good but much more could be done, and she is determined to lead that change.

There was an excellent panel discussion that brought together a group of scaffolders from MDs to trainees. In a wide-ranging and fascinating discussion, the panel spoke about the importance of training and career progression throughout an employee's life, especially at 50 plus as this is the route to getting off the tools when the physical demands of the job may start to become too much. All the panellists agreed that things aren't changing quickly enough regarding getting young people into scaffolding.

Further presentations were made around education, training and CISRS, and also around the buyer's perspective of procurement.

All sessions were hosted expertly by journalists and presenters Nina Hossain and Sophie Long.



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DON'T GO OUT WITH A BANG

Every year, people are killed or seriously injured when they come into contact with high voltage electricity. Due to the very nature of the work, scaffolders are among the most at-risk groups. It only takes one mistake, one fraction of a second for a worker to be killed or seriously injured.

Worryingly, there have been 45 scaffolding incidents in 2025 and the numbers are increasing.

UK Power Networks (UKPN), the country's biggest electricity distributor, is encouraging all scaffolding and access companies to raise the awareness in their teams of the precautions that should be taken. UKPN's campaign, 'Look out, Look up' is aimed at cutting the risk of injury and fatality. The organisation points out that wires can be on wooden poles as well as metal pylons and carry voltages

from 230 volts (domestic supply) up to 400,000 volts. Depending on the voltage, the wires will be at different heights above the ground. Overhead power lines should be 5.2 metres (17 feet) above the ground. However, live equipment fitted on poles may be as low as 4.3 metres (14 feet).

Employers must identify electrical hazards and detail the risk and controls in their RAMS, and ensure all of their scaffolding team – including subcontractors

and casual workers – are fully briefed to ensure their safety.

Identifying the proximity of overhead lines should always be a top priority, including an awareness of the way that brighter days can reduce visibility of lines.

Another common reason for accidents is distraction: this could be tiredness after working long hours, rushing to get the job done or taking shortcuts around safety. No matter how urgent the job, safety guidelines must never be ignored or compromised.

UKPN offers the following advice to any scaffolding contractors:

- Check – when surveying the area, look up and around for overhead power lines, and identify any hazards
- Contact UK Power Networks for copies of plans showing where power lines are situated and mark this information on site plans
- Assess your safe working clearances to overhead power lines. If in doubt, contact the electricity network operator
- If you are erecting scaffolding, always contact UK Power Networks for advice on shrouding or disconnections before starting work
- Ensure everyone working on site, visitors, contractors and casual workers are aware of the location and voltages of the overhead power lines before starting work and remind them to check, look up and around for power lines
- Use spotlights or lighting equipment when working in poor visibility
- Find out the maximum height of any equipment and machinery that may be used on site when all parts of the machinery are fully extended

What's the danger?

Power lines carry high-voltage electrical currents. Contact with these lines can result in severe injury or death. Metal scaffolding is highly conductive. Even without direct contact, electrical current can arc from a power line to a nearby scaffold, especially in humid conditions, creating invisible danger zones.

- Clearly signpost the dangers with high visibility warning notices
- Keep overhead power lines in view when moving plant and equipment
- Restrict access to work near overhead power lines using barriers
- Ensure RAMS controls are obeyed, eg carry all equipment horizontally when working near power lines

UKPN has made presentations and animations to help convey the message, which companies can access, and also produces a range of products, such as stickers and air fresheners, that can be used in lorry cabs and on site to help remind workers of the dangers. Go to <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/safety-equipment/advice/safety-leaflets-resources-and-downloads> for more information

Although injuries and fatalities from scaffolding near power lines are thankfully rare, they are not non-existent. Recent occurrences include:

- A trainee scaffolder was handling a 6.4 m scaffold tube, which came into contact with an 11 kV overhead power line, resulting in a fatal electric shock. The investigation revealed there was no site-specific risk assessment. The company was prosecuted under the Health and Safety at Work Act.
- A worker in Swindon was erecting scaffolding that came into contact with 33 kV overhead power lines. The worker sustained devastating injuries with amputations of both arms and feet, severe burns, and was put into an induced coma. The company was fined £80,000, and the director received a suspended prison sentence.
- A scaffolding subcontractor in Hull moved poles near power cables; one scaffolding tube caught an 11 kV overhead line, causing burns to the worker's leg and foot. The site's muddy condition meant materials were moved by hand, with inadequate warning controls for overhead hazards. The company was fined £333,333.

NASC Guidance

NASC has published guidance for working around overhead power sources. SG5 covers all the issues in detail, including:

- Legal obligations
- Risk management
- Overall management of the activity
- Signage
- Key safety advice
- Emergency procedures



GLOBAL SCAFFOLDING SECTOR UNITES BEHIND IASA

One of the most significant international developments in scaffolding and access over the past half-century has been unveiled with the formation of the International Access and Scaffolding Association (IASA). The inaugural meeting took place at ScaffEx25 in Manchester.

The new association brings together the leading trade bodies from the United Kingdom, Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia, Australia, the United States and Canada, uniting under one banner to represent the scaffolding and access industry on the global stage.

For the first time, the sector has a single international voice dedicated to ensuring scaffolding and access is recognised as a vital enabler of construction, infrastructure and industrial projects worldwide.

IASA has identified five key areas of collective action to transform the global scaffolding and access sector:

- Improving the image of scaffolding – repositioning the industry as a professional, skilled and essential trade.
- Developing global talent – creating pathways to attract, train and retain the next generation of scaffolding professionals.
- Driving innovation – sharing best practice, advancing technology and embracing sustainable solutions.
- Strengthening compliance – raising standards of safety, quality and professionalism worldwide.
- Standardising training – establishing consistent, high-quality training approaches to support global workforce mobility.



Speaking on behalf of IASA, Wayne Connolly, President of NASC, said: *“The formation of IASA marks a turning point for our industry. For the first time, the world’s leading scaffolding and access associations are working together with a united purpose: to champion our sector, elevate standards and secure its rightful recognition as critical to the success of projects everywhere.”*

By combining knowledge, expertise and influence, IASA will act as a hub for collaboration across continents, fostering stronger relationships between industry leaders, contractors, educators, regulators and clients.

The International Access and Scaffolding Association will now begin outreach to other nations, encouraging them to engage in this unprecedented opportunity to advance the sector collectively. To find out more, go to www.iasa.info

TIME TO RISE

NASC has launched RISE – Restart in Scaffolding Employment, a new UK-registered charity giving people a second chance. RISE offers life-changing opportunities to those who have faced major setbacks, whether that is time in prison, addiction, long-term unemployment or any other tough break.

The charity has a fundamental belief in second chances and in work with purpose, and believes that scaffolding – an industry in urgent need of skilled workers – can be the platform that people need to restart their lives.

RISE is launching with 80 fully funded apprenticeships in 2025 to mark NASC’s 80th anniversary, declaring its ambitions reach far beyond just training, with a focus on long-term transformation.

RISE helps people with challenging pasts restart their lives through scaffolding apprenticeships. The programme provides:

- Fully funded training
- Tools and PPE
- Travel and subsistence support
- On-the-job placements
- 1:1 mentoring
- Wraparound wellbeing and housing support



RISE works with individuals who have:

- Been through the criminal justice system
- Faced addiction or mental health challenges
- Experienced long-term unemployment
- Lost direction but want to change

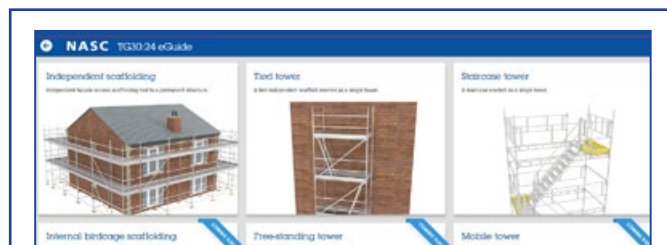
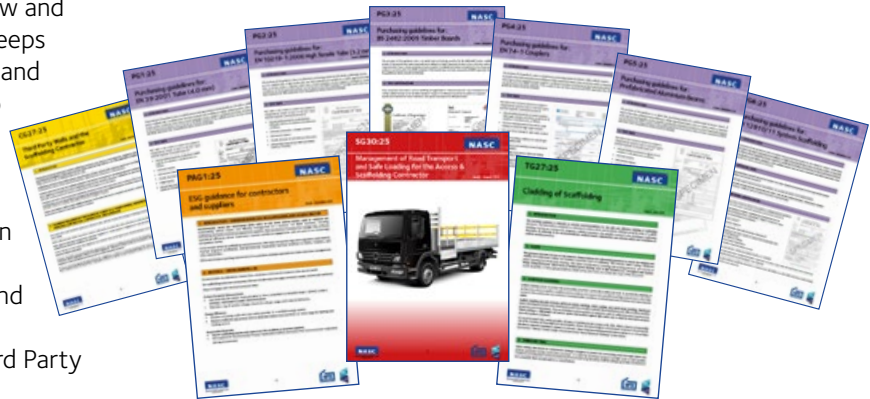
Collaboration is at the heart of the RISE project, and the charity is open to working with partner organisations keen to achieve similar goals. The charity is already collaborating with:

- Probation services
- Youth offending teams
- Rehabilitation charities like St Giles Trust and The Forward Trust
- CITB and accredited training providers
- Scaffolding employers across the UK

CRUCIAL NEW AND UPDATED DOCUMENTS LAUNCHED

At the start of October, NASC will release a raft of new and updated guidance to the industry. NASC constantly keeps abreast of industry developments and best practices and therefore updates its guidance whenever required, so scaffolding companies can keep delivering to the highest standards of quality and safety.

For example, SG30 Management of Transport & Safe Loading for the Scaffolding Contractor has grown by six pages with further detailed and invaluable information, while NASC has also responded to demand and changing practices by developing new guidance such as TG27-Cladding of Scaffolding and CG27-Third Party Walls and the Scaffolding Contractor.



Latest TG30 released

The latest version of TG30 was launched in the Demo Zone at ScaffEx25, with the Guidance now available from the NASC website, and carrying a 30% discount when bought with TG20. TG30 represents a significant advancement for system scaffolding, providing the same level of guidance and support as TG20 does for tube and fitting scaffolding.

The update includes nine manufacturer full systems and 11 manufacturer stair tower systems; it also includes birdcages, and free standing and mobile towers.

Find out more at <https://nasc.org.uk/information/tg30/>

The full list of new and updated documents is:

- SG30:25 Management of Transport & Safe Loading for the Scaffolding Contractor (updated)
- TG27:25 Cladding of Scaffolding (new)
- CG27:25 Third Party Walls and the Scaffolding Contractor (new)
- PAG1:25 ESG Guidance for Contractors and Suppliers (new)
- PG1:25 Purchasing Guidance EN39 2001 Tube 4mm (updated)
- PG2:25 Purchasing Guidelines for EN10219 Tube 3.2mm (updated)
- PG3:25 Purchasing Guidance BS2482 2009 Timber Boards (updated)
- PG4:25 Purchasing Guidance EN74 1 Couplers (updated)
- PG5:25 Purchasing Guidelines for Prefabricated Aluminium Beams (updated)
- PG6:25 Purchasing Guidance EN12810 11 System Scaffold (updated)

These documents will go live on the NASC website and ePortal on Friday 10 October.

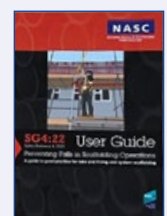
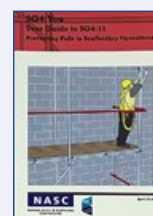
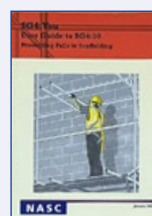
80 YEARS OF NASC: The 2000s

NASC Guidance that started in the 1990s became firmly established in 2000s, including SG4 and TG20, which are now NASC's flagship guidance.

There was a sea change in 2000 when SG4:93 Risk Assessment and Risk Control Guidance on the Provision and Use of Safety Harnesses became SG4:00 The Use of Fall Arrest Equipment Whilst Erecting, Altering & Dismantling Scaffolding, requiring scaffolders to wear harnesses at all times while working at height. The first SG4 User Guide (A6 pocket sized booklet) was also produced, with SG4 re-issued in 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2022 (see image).

In the late 2000s, NASC wrote TG20:08 A guide to good practice for scaffolding with tubes and fittings to enable the scaffolding industry to comply with the new European standard BS EN12811. Subsequently, in 2011, the old British Standard for Scaffolding BS 5973 was revoked.

NASC's TG20 was revised in 2013, and again in 2021. TG20 is firmly established and provides the standard for tube & and fitting scaffolding in the UK.



MAJOR TRAINING GOVERNANCE OVERHAUL

NASC has announced the creation of a new independent Sector Representative Organisation (SRO), the CISRS Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) Ltd, marking the most significant reform to the governance of scaffolding and access training in decades.

The move follows a comprehensive governance review announced in late 2024 and the subsequent closure of the Access and Scaffolding Industry Training Organisation (ASITO), with the new structure designed to deliver enhanced accountability, industry-led oversight, and the highest standards of training quality.

CISRS's Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) Ltd, together with the Standard Setting Bodies (CITB and ECITB) will be at the heart of this transformation. CISRSQAC Ltd will guide the development of all new CISRS courses and oversee the quality of the programme, ensuring that training remains robust, relevant and responsive to industry needs.

David Wooff has just been appointed as independent Chair and will bring impartial leadership to the organisation. Importantly, the CISRSQAC Ltd will be employer led with trade union involvement, ensuring that course design and quality assurance are grounded in the real-world needs of both businesses and the workforce.

To guarantee broad representation, key industry stakeholders such as the ECITB, CITB, Unite the Union and the Scaffolding Association will participate directly. Training centre representations from across the UK and overseas will also sit on the SRO, ensuring that delivery standards are consistent and internationally recognised.

This new governance model involves robust controls, including in respect of conflicts of interest involving NASC, CISRS and CISRSQAC Ltd being group companies. CISRSQAC



PICTURE CREDIT: Simian Risk

Ltd's responsibilities will include:

- Monitoring training centre performance and compliance with CISRS requirements
- Advising on the development of new CISRS courses
- Supporting fairness and consistency in assessment and certification
- Responding to evolving industry practice and regulation
- Providing research-led, evidence-based recommendations



The CISRSQAC Ltd will meet at least three times per year, providing regular reports and an annual review. This ensures that training standards remain at the highest level, reinforcing the scheme's position as the most robust and respected in the industry.

5,000 WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS PLEDGED

NASC, in collaboration with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), has announced a bold new initiative to deliver 5,000 scaffolding work experience placements across the UK in 2026.

This landmark programme was formally launched at ScaffEx25, and aims to address the critical skills shortage in the construction sector by offering thousands of individuals meaningful work experience within the scaffolding industry.

Placements will be available through NASC member companies in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland,



and supported by local DWP offices. Roles will range from hands-on site work to administrative, estimating and office-based functions, thus demonstrating the diverse career opportunities within the sector.

The initiative is designed to support jobseekers, veterans, rehabilitated offenders and career changers, helping participants gain essential skills and a clear route into long-term employment.

"This is a practical and immediate response to one of the construction sector's most pressing issues," said a NASC spokesperson. "By launching this programme at ScaffEx25 and calling on our members to get involved, we're creating a clear and inclusive pathway into the industry while strengthening its future workforce."

NASC is now calling on its members to pledge placements ahead of the official programme rollout in 2026. NASC tells companies that by pledging, they will help tackle the skills shortage, strengthen their community and inspire the next generation – all with minimal risk and maximum impact. There will be no obligation on any company to hire anyone, just to give the opportunity to showcase the industry and spark new careers.

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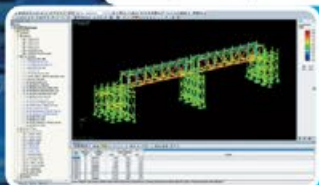
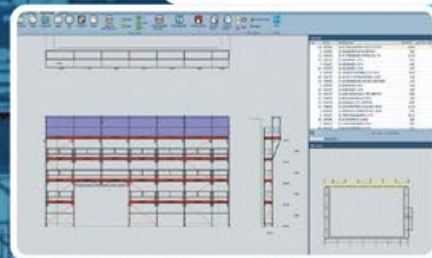
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