

ULTRA ACCESS

Scaffolding Recommendation: CISRS Advanced Card

Is having a “scaffolding gold card” worth it?

Within scaffolding in the UK, there's 4 (maybe 5, if you include CSCS) different card types in Tube and Fitting one can get.

- **COTS** (Scaffold Labourer), **Part 1** (Trainee Scaffolder), **Part 2** (Basic Scaffolder) and **Gold Card** (Advanced Scaffolder).

System Scaffolding training has a similar, but not exact carding system.

And with maybe 80% of all scaffold builds are Tube and Fitting in Britain, we'll concentrate on that for this publication.



CISRS is the: Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme - the singular recognised training body within the British Scaffold Industry.

This is the organisation that sets the training rosters per year, etc and issues a scaffolder/operative their cards on successfully completing their training course.

Question: So why bother to upgrade your training (and card type) transitioning from a Part 2/Basic Scaffolder to an Advanced Scaffolder?

Answer: Well, there's several reasons...

1. Your pay should increase, and this “should” depending in the sub-discipline you are working in will become a “would” if you are working on trade union-backed / “Blue Book” jobs, with these projects having strict pay grades across the board for various scaffold card types.
2. It's the “final” step to take as a scaffolder, and as well as it clearly showing your commitment to personal development, there is also still a certain level of prestige in becoming an Advanced Scaffolder, even still in 2025.
3. Possibly, if there are “lay-offs” on site, you might have a better chance of avoiding the chop, if you are on comparable wages to the Part 2's working alongside you and you are of similar abilities as them.
4. It could help one move into a Scaffold Foreman position, or even into some kind of office-based management/supervision role, more so then if you just had a Basic card.

Having a “Gold Card” does however have additional responsibilities expected for the scaffolder who has, one associated with it.

You would probably also be expected to “lead” whilst being on site, and take charge of/read and understand any scaffold designs, when they are produced, to name a few...



An example of an Advanced Scaffolder “Gold Card”

All in all, it's the personal choice of the Basic Scaffolder if they want to complete the training to become an Advanced Scaffolder, it can (and does) open doors and opportunities for career advancement, **and Ultra Access does indeed recommend** (as long as you are confident in taking on extra responsibility) **that every Part 2 aims to get their Advanced Card** at some point in their careers.