

ULTRA ACCESS

Improvements to the British Scaffolding Industry

ULTRA ACCESS's final recommendations

ULTRA ACCESS has a number of ideas on how to improve the British Scaffolding Industry - its going to be a cultural shock, and could be "uncomfortable" for many, but ultimately, our view is change / evolve or go extinct... and it really is that simple.

This is how **ULTRA ACCESS** would help improve our fantastic industry (in no particular order):

- Positive industry image marketing: showcasing the positives, the skills, and achievements to the prospective "next generation" of scaffolders, with school-leaver workshops and free-to-attend exhibitions for youngsters under the age of 21 who're looking to move into the industry.
- Substantial improvements to training: updating the content for all 4 of the scaffold training courses; COTS, Part 1, Part 2 and Advanced, removing aspects that are no longer relevant, and adding additional information to help improve safety and working practices.
- Changes to CPD: instead of classroom based refreshers every 5 years, which are both inconvenient for many to attend and are full of "filler" content, these should be moved to online-based yearly refreshers, with costs adjusted (and even lowered) to suit the nature of the learning taking place.
- An overhaul of manual handling: making the physical aspect of the industry more manageable for newer scaffolders starting out, and for "old hands" in the trade who are starting to feel the wear and tear pain of doing scaffolding day-in day-out. A real strive should be made into mechanical lifting aids, winches, cranes, etc and other equipment to bypass the amount of manual handling required and which in turn should also drastically reduce the number of muscular-skeletal issues that plague the scaffolding industry.
- Making NASC's TG, SG (and to a lesser extent, CG) "Guidance", law and legally mandated: instead of the ambiguous "recognised best practice" that it currently is. It should be the legally enforced set of working practices that all scaffolding companies, and the scaffolders themselves work too, without deviation or avoidance.
- Improved pay, wage (and bonus) structures created: to encourage those within the industry to remain, and to encourage younger people to enter the industry.
- Better PPE selected: for the scaffolders to use, suitable for the tasks being carried out, and not just the cheapest - which is usually the case... with more emphasis on hearing and HAV protection, especially as battery operated tools are becoming more and more prevalent.
- Pride and excellence rewarded: scaffolding is currently (almost) solely motivated by money and the "race to the bottom" is a serious threat to both health and safety, but also the mental health / physical wellbeing of the scaffolders... this will always be the case, but there is room for serious improvements and recognition - industry-wide for those scaffolders (and companies) that do take professional pride in the work they produce - a proud workforce is a productive and safe one, after all.

Not an exhaustive list by any means, but a good start to helping the industry survive global modernisation - especially moving into the mid-2000's. **Let's all work together to make scaffolding great again.**

ULTRA ACCESS
Scaffold Technical Support

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