



ULTRA ACCESS

Scaffolding - the industry at a crossroads

A word about the current British Scaffolding Industry - and the future

ULTRA ACCESS is one of the British Scaffolding Industry's foremost and leading Scaffolding Consultancies, with decades of experience and a very varied work history, with huge amount of knowledge and experience. We leave this (almost) final word of our thoughts at where the industry is currently and where we see it, both in a positive and negative future.

Scaffolding is easily one-of, if not the most important trade within the UK Construction sector, along with various other sectors...

... it is however seen as a safety-related expense, rather than as a productivity-critically asset - which keeps prices down and stops the natural promotion of the industry that it deserves from the numerous sectors it crucially services.

On top of that, it's a hard job to physically do. Proper "old school" graft, with it staying basically the same for the past 100 years. Carried out in all weathers, in all working conditions, all times of the day, week or year.

Its also a misunderstood industry, with many negatives taking the positive publicity away from the expertise, bravery and technical skill required by the scaffs, and everyone else involved to build some of these fantastic scaffolding structures, and its one of the reasons why its becoming an "old trade", lacking fresh blood and fresh ideas / innovation from joining the industry.

Now at a crossroads... there's 2 way this can go, moving towards and by the early 2050's...

The positive future, where scaffolders are respected for their efforts, wages are increased to align with said efforts, manual handling is made easier, **NASC's** TG and SG working practices are openly embraced throughout the entire industry - not just those wishing to improve standards or those obligated, through trade association membership, System Scaffolding is used more for its speed and ease of use, but Tube and Fitting still utilised for specialist works and there is a real opportunity for sustained career development long after ones "on the tools" careers are over.

... or... the negative future, where the industry working standards and **PRIDE** in the game continues to decline, wages remain stagnant making the industry less attractive due to ever rising living costs, and where System Scaffolding is the only realistic go-to for the majority of scaffolding companies, due to there just simply not being the skilled workforce available to safely and effectively use Tube and Fitting... along with serious health issues caused due to hearing and HAV damage by continued use of Impact Wrenches and Battery-Powered Hand Tools...

Both futures are possible, with only the industry themselves; the governing bodies / trade associations, the company owners and upper management within, along with the most important people within the British Scaffolding Industry - the Scaffolders themselves being the ones to change the industry for the betterment of all.

Change comes from within, but there has to be an appetite for it, and a desire to improve, innovate and evolve, or it will continue on the path it has been and decline into extinction. **ULTRA ACCESS** is hopeful that we can still achieve the positive future that we all seek and deserve. **But only time will tell.**

ULTRA ACCESS
Scaffold Technical Support

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