

ULTRA ACCESS

The History of Scaffolding.

Its older than you might imagine...

Scaffolding is an old industry.

One of the oldest, with evidence of primitive "scaffolds" utilised thousands of years ago to paint the interiors and ceilings within numerous cave-networks used as dwellings by neolithic man.

We're talking many thousands of years ago, mind.

Yes, they were essentially just large tree branches and trunks lashed together with animal hair and vines, but the principle was the same: a structure created for peoples to work on and complete their craft - sound familiar...?

Some examples of early scaffolding...



Scaffolding has been an integral part of global building and construction work for several thousand years.

Even the Great Pyramids of Egypt had an early version of scaffolding around parts of it to help build maybe the most magnificent structures on the planet.

There's evidence of scaffolding used in parts of ancient Rome, Greece and even as far a field as China and South America, back when some of the colossal ancient wonders of the world were built.

Scaffolding from around antiquity started as timber logs lashed with rope/hemp/cloth or hammered with iron nails together to build basic 'skeletons' that would be lapped with flat timber boards for Stone Masons, Painters, Thatchers, Metalsmith's and even Artists to use as a platform to apply their skills and there it stayed, humbly as wood on wood, until World War II.

In the 1950's: After WWII, London and other parts of the country, including Coventry were nigh-on destroyed by Nazi Germany and its elite air force - The Luftwaffe, huge rebuilding projects were planned and there was an apparent need for a more modern, stronger and practical type of scaffolding to be invented. (Though there is some evidence of it being used even earlier than that.)
Thus: "Tube and Fitting" was born.

Starting off as basic pipes and clamps, with wooden planks to work from, it was groundbreaking in its day and many of these places could not have been rebuilt without it.

In modern times, scaffolding has become the most important part of the construction sector, with hundreds of thousands of tons being transported, erected, dismantled and modified around the world everyday.

Many other trades are almost now solely dependant on scaffolding to be able to work themselves - This simple, yet incredibly complex idea has become the access/egress and general safety tool of choice for the entirety of global construction.

The British Scaffolding Industry also requires its operatives to be fully qualified and trained under (CITB-backed) CISRS certifications, but for now it's not a legal requirement.