



**Temporary Works  
forum**

Promoting best practice in  
the construction industry.

**TW14.041** (September 2019)

## TEMPORARY WORKS FORUM (TWf)

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 'Temporary Works' is described as:

*“Temporary works can be described as providing an “engineered solution” that is used to support or protect either an existing structure or the permanent works during construction, or to support an item of plant or equipment, or the vertical sides or side-slopes of an excavation during construction operations on site or to provide access. It is used to control stability, strength, deflection, fatigue, geotechnical effects and hydraulic effects within defined limits ...”*

[BS 5975: 2019, Clause 5.1.1.1]

and in this context includes its interaction with the permanent works.

- 1.2 Temporary works is an important aspect of most projects. It can range from a simple trench or beam support to complex structures costing £m. Competent choice, design, use, maintenance and dismantling is essential in order to protect the asset being constructed and to mitigate risks to persons. There have been, and continue to be failures of temporary works.
- 1.3 Against this background, in 2009, an interested and concerned group of senior and experienced engineers and managers considered that there should be a permanent industry-wide interest group to consider this subject and promulgate good practice<sup>1</sup>. TWf was the result of that consideration. Hitherto there had not been any representative body established to consider this important topic.
- 1.4 The intent of TWf is to encourage open discussion of any matter related to temporary works, for the good of the industry overall. The group is open to anyone, individual or corporate, working within the industry and sharing this intent.
- 1.5 TWf has the support of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS).

---

<sup>1</sup> Initiated by Bill Hewlett of Costain and supported by SCOSS (now part of Structural-Safety)



## 2. The Remit

2.1 The TWf **objectives** are given in Appendix A. In general terms they are:

2.2 In respect of temporary works:

- Give authoritative guidance and, when required, professional leadership to the industry.
- Consider aspects of permanent works and interfaces between permanent works and temporary works as are relevant.
- Consider both current practice and likely development.
- Be aware of trends and innovations in design, construction and use.
- Consider whether unacceptable risk exists or might arise in the future and, if believed so, to give warning to relevant bodies.
- Consider whether further research and development appears desirable.
- Encourage others to avoid duplicating work in hand elsewhere.
- Keep a watching brief on international issues.

2.3 This remit is primarily focussed on the UK, whilst drawing also on experiences from overseas.

2.4 TWf will remain impartial and without commercial influence.

## 3. Delivery

3.1 This remit will be delivered by, for example:

- providing a forum for reasoned debate;
- arranging seminars and meetings for opinion formers and experts;
- providing and contributing to education and guidance material;
- seeking close working relationships with others; and
- influencing industry and others.

September 2019

## Issue Record

February 2011	Initial issue ( <b>TW11.026</b> )
September 2014	General editing; Update to letterhead <b>DRAFT</b>
December 2014	2.4 Added; Reissue ( <b>TW14.041</b> )
September 2019	Minor edits (and definition changed to suit the description in BS 5975: 2019)



## **APPENDIX A**

### **TEMPORARY WORKS FORUM (TWf)**

#### **OBJECTIVE CATEGORIES** (See Articles of Association)

[NOTE: These match the criteria for 'Charities']

- 1 The advancement of education.
- 2 The advancement of health or the saving of lives.
- 3 The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science.
- 4 Avoidance of disasters.
- 5 Other matters relating to the safety, economy and use of temporary works.

#### **REALISING THE OBJECTIVES**

##### **1 The advancement of education**

- i) Holding open meetings on technical subjects for the benefit of the construction industry community.
- ii) Issuing guidance notes on technical matters.
- iii) Establishing training templates.
- iv) Encouraging others to develop understandings of temporary works.

##### **2 The saving of lives**

- i) Issuing alerts and advice on technical matters relating to the safety of those who engage in temporary works, or who may be affected by them.
- ii) Promoting research or investigation into matters of safety concern.
- iii) Lobbying for changes or actions where a risk to life is foreseen.

##### **3 The advancement of science**

- i) Through the actions described in 1 and 2, above.
- ii) By encouraging papers and articles in construction industry journals and magazines.

##### **4 Avoidance of disasters**

- i) Learning from the lessons of previous disasters or mishaps and feeding these back into industry.

##### **5 Other matters**

- i) Any other matter considered relevant by the Board.