

Additional terms, definitions and abbreviated terms can also be found in BS 5974-1:2024 clause 3.

Term	Definition
ALARP	As low as reasonably practicable requires that risk reduction measures be implemented to the extent that the cost and effort of further reduction are not grossly disproportionate to the benefit gained.
Angle of repose	The steepest angle to the horizontal that a heaped granular soil will stand in stated condition. The safe angle that ground conditions can be excavated without mechanical support or soil stabilization with no risk of collapse.
Appointed person (AP)	The person nominated (typically by the employing organization) to plan and to have overall control of the lifting operations.
Appointment letter	A document that formally invites an individual to accept a specific position, in which their roles and responsibilities are outlined.
Approval in principle	A document that outlines the concept for the design of a structure.
Audit	A systematic and independent examination to determine whether activities comply with the defined process and intent of the temporary works procedure.
Axial force	Any force acting directly on the centre axis of an object, such as a beam or column. May be in compression or tension.
Back propping	Propping installed at levels below the slab that supports the falsework, to distribute the load on the uppermost slab to suitable supports, such as lower slabs or foundations.
Backfill	Loose material, such as rocks, soil, or aggregate, used to cover over a pipe in a trench or fill an excavation.
Base plate	A rigid plate used for spreading the load in a standard, raker or other load-bearing member over a greater area.
Beam bearer	A structural horizontal member that resists loads applied laterally to its axis, transferring loads to vertical members, such as props and columns.
Blinding	A layer of lean concrete on soil to prevent local degradation and provide a clean workplace for construction work.
Bracing	A component placed diagonally to strengthen a framework, providing lateral stability.
British Standard	A specification of recommended procedure, quality of output, terminology, and other details, in a particular field, drawn up and published by the British Standards Institution (BSI). British Standards are not legislation and do not have to be complied with. They might be regarded as examples of 'good practice' and can be used as evidence in court, to say that by following a British Standard you are doing everything reasonable.
Buildability	The extent to which the design of a building facilitates ease of construction, subject to the overall requirements for the completed building.
Characteristic	A distinguishing quality of a thing.
Characteristic strength	The point at which a tested member will normally fail.
Checklist	A document that lists activities that need to be inspected and/or tested.
Client	The organization or person for which/whom a construction project is carried out.

Terms and definitions

Term	Definition
Cohesion	A measure of the shear strength of a (cohesive) soil. Its ability to 'remain' or 'stick' together.
Cohesive soil	Soil that exhibits cohesion, typically having a considerable proportion of clayey materials. Bonding between the very small particles results from their lamellar shape and being densely packed, restricting the movement of air and water. Cohesive soils tend to lose their internal strength following excavation.
Compaction	The packing together of particles of soil, by rolling, ramming, or vibrating, results in a decrease in air voids and an increase in the density of the soil.
Competent organization	An organization with sufficient skills, knowledge, and experience of specific tasks to be carried out that can demonstrate good organizational ability in terms of its approach to the wellbeing of people affected by the work it carries out.
Competent person	Someone with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience (and organizational capability) of the specific tasks to be carried out, and the risks which the work will entail, to enable them to carry out their duties in relation to the project recognize their limitations and take appropriate action in order to prevent harm to those carrying out construction work, or those affected by the work.
Consequence of failure risk (CFR)	Risk associated with the consequence of failure of the temporary works come from the location of the temporary works, and what might be affected by the failure.
Constructability	The optimum use of construction knowledge and experience in planning, design, and procurement and field operations to achieve overall project objectives.
Construction work	The carrying out of any building, civil engineering or engineering construction work, including: - the construction, alteration, conversion, fitting out, commissioning, renovation, repair, upkeep, redecoration, or other maintenance (including cleaning which involves the use of water or an abrasive at high pressure, or the use of corrosive or toxic substances), de-commissioning, demolition or dismantling of a structure. - the preparation for an intended structure, including site clearance, exploration, investigation (but not site survey) and excavation (but not pre-construction archaeological investigations), and the clearance or preparation of the site or structure for use or occupation at its conclusion. - the assembly on site of prefabricated elements to form a structure or the disassembly on site of the prefabricated elements which, immediately before such disassembly, formed a structure. - the removal of a structure, or of any product or waste resulting from demolition or dismantling of a structure, or from disassembly of prefabricated elements which immediately before such disassembly formed such a structure the installation, commissioning, maintenance, repair or removal of mechanical, electrical, gas, compressed air, hydraulic, telecommunications, computer or similar services that are normally fixed within or to a structure.
Contractor	Anyone (including a non-domestic client) who, in the course or furtherance of a business, carries out, manages or controls construction work.

Term	Definition
Control measures	Actions and/or activities that are taken to prevent, eliminate or reduce the likelihood of an identified hazard happening.
Design	This includes the specification of articles and/or components (e.g., shoring for excavation) or substances (e.g., cement) relating to a structure, and calculations prepared for the purpose of a design.
Design brief	A document that includes all data and requirements relevant to the design of the temporary works.
Design certificate	A certificate issued by the designer to indicate that the design is satisfactory and conforms to the design brief, and, where provided, the design statement.
Design check	An evaluation of the design to determine whether it conforms to the design brief and, if applicable, design statement, and whether it is adequate to provide a safe 'engineered solution'.
Design check certificate	A certificate for Category 2 and 3 designs (and potentially required by the organization for Category 1 designs) that confirms the design conforms to the design brief, states the standards/technical literature used; and lists any constraints to loading conditions imposed. It should be signed by the temporary works design checker and temporary works designer.
Design review	An evaluation of the design deliverables to make sure they comply with the requirements set out in the design brief.
Design statement	A document prepared by the designer outlining the design requirements, means by which the design will be developed, assumptions, method of analysis, other controls, and potential to affect / impact operational infrastructure.
Designated individual (DI)	A senior person in an organization with responsibility for establishing, implementing, and maintaining a procedure for the control of temporary works for that organization.
Dynamic wind pressure	The transformation of wind to dynamic energy when it is stopped by a surface. The pressure acting on the surface transforms to a force.
Effective length	Used in determining buckling resistance of a column (or beam) under compression.
Effective wind pressure	The force exerted on a structure by the wind, considering the air density and wind velocity per unit area of the structure.
Elastic limit	The maximum stress a material can withstand before being permanently deformed.
ERIC	An acronym used to identify a hierarchy for control measures for the design process to eliminate or mitigate risks (eliminate, reduce, inform, control, or eliminate, reduce, reduce, isolate, control).
Eurocodes	A set of harmonized technical rules developed by the European Committee for Standardization for the structural design of construction works in the European Union.
Execution risk	Risks associated with the construction, use and removal of the temporary works relate to such aspects as workmanship, materials, experience, and manner of use.
Factor of safety	The ratio of failure load to the maximum working load.

Terms and definitions

Term	Definition
Falsework	A temporary structure used to support a permanent structure under construction until such time as the permanent structure is self- supporting.
Fill	Material used to raise the level of an area, e.g., ash, rubble.
Force	An external agent with magnitude and direction capable of changing the state of rest or motion of a body.
Formation	The surface of the ground in its final shape, before concreting, but after earthworks.
Formwork	The mould into which concrete is poured to form a required shape of given dimensions. May be temporary or partly/wholly permanent.
Foundation	A construction for transmitting forces to the supporting ground.
Granular soil	Soil that predominantly has relatively large angular grains, such as sands and gravels, whose strength is determined by the matrix being held together under its own weight (or applied load).
Ground	The soil, rock, and fill existing in place before the execution of construction works.
Ground anchor	Temporary or permanent device installed at ground level which, when loaded, exerts pressure on a cone of the ground that surrounds its length, providing good resistance to movement. Permanent ground anchors can be up to 70m in length, with a capacity of more than 3,000 kN.
Ground bearing pressure	The ultimate (unfactored) capacity the ground can withstand against a load without exceeding the maximum allowable settlement.
Groundwater	Water contained within, or flowing through, the pores and fabric of soil and fissures in rock. Groundwater is water that has infiltrated the ground surface and penetrated to the underlying strata and in particular, the water that is contained in the soil or rocks below the water table.
Guidance	Information and instruction on how to apply the requirements within standards or procedures. Guidance is consensual information that originates from any one of several different professional organizations and provides technical information about safe practices and procedures.
Hold point	A stage in the temporary works process where no further progress is to be made until the necessary permit or action has been completed.
Hydrostatic pressure	The pressure exerted by water due to the force of gravity, proportional to its depth.
Implementation plan	A document (or set of documents) that covers the erection/assembly, use, unloading and dismantling of the temporary works, including which inspections, checks, hold points, permits and certifications are required. This may consist of the method statement, task- specific risk assessment, inspection and test plan, checklists, and other certification.
Implementation risk class	Implementation risk is formed from a combination of execution risk and consequence of failure risk. It may be set out as very low, low, medium or high.
Inspection	An examination by a competent person to make sure that the (temporary) works meets a specified standard, and to identify any risks that are present and decide on the measures required to control those risks.

Term	Definition
Inspection and test plan	The documented planning of inspections, tests, checks, and surveys to ensure the correct implementation of a process, including temporary works installations.
Kentledge	Material placed on a structure to provide stability by the action of its dead weight.
Lacing	A component placed horizontally to strengthen a framework, providing lateral stability.
Lateral restraint	Internal or external structures used to prevent lateral/horizontal movement of a structure against horizontal forces.
Lateral stability	The application of lateral force-resisting systems to prevent lateral movement in the event of lateral loads such as wind, concrete pressure, kinetic energy from construction operations.
Limit-state design	A reliability-based design process that accounts for uncertainties associated with strength properties and applied loads.
Load path	How the loads on the structure are transferred through the structure.
Made ground	Typically used to refer to an area of ground that has been filled, for example with debris or rubble, as opposed to ground in a natural state.
Newton	The unit of force, 1 N is the amount of force required to produce an acceleration of one metre per second squared on a mass of one kilogram.
Node point	The point at which two or more components connect to transfer forces.
Non-cohesive soil (or cohesion-less soil)	A soil that does not exhibit cohesion (see 'Granular soil').
Overburden	Refers to any of the following: ▪ Loose, inferior quality material overlying rock in a quarry. ▪ Term for weight of soil when calculating pressure. ▪ Layers of earth and rock that must be removed to get to formation level.
Peat	The surface organic layer of soil consisting of partly decomposed organic matter in the region of 20% to 60%, depending on which authority's definition is used. Peat is structurally weak for loading.
Peer review	A review of the (temporary) works carried out by independent person(s), separate from a design check.
Permanent works	Parts of a construction that will be used and remain in position for a long time.
Permanent works designer	The designer of the permanent works, engaged by either the client or a contractor.
Permissible stress	The stress that can be sustained safely by a structural material for the particular condition of service or loading.
Permit to load (or bring into use)	A signed statement which releases a hold point. It indicates that: ▪ the temporary works process has been followed. ▪ The temporary works have been inspected, and the 'as installed' temporary works comply with the design ▪ any modifications to the temporary works have been approved by the

Terms and definitions

Term	Definition
	designer. The water, ground and environmental conditions and use are as envisaged by the design.
Permit to proceed	A certificate that authorizes the release of any hold point, as usually identified on the inspection and test plan, issued by the principal contractor's temporary works coordinator or temporary works supervisor
Permit to unload (also permit to strike, permit to dismantle, permit to take out of use)	A signed statement which releases a hold point. It indicates that: - the temporary works have been inspected, and the 'as installed' temporary works remain compliant with the design - any modifications to the temporary works during use have been approved by the designer. - A documented safe system of work is in place and has been implemented for the dismantling of any temporary works. - The temporary works are no longer required to be in place and are ready to be removed.
Policy	The intentions and direction of an organization, as formally expressed by its top management.
Pressure	The force applied to a surface divided by the surface area.
Principal contractor (PC)	The contractor appointed under the CDM Regulations 5(1)(b) to perform the specified duties in regulations 12 to 14.
Principal designer (PD)	The designer appointed under the CDM Regulations 5(1)(b) to perform the specified duties in regulations 12 to 14.
Procedure, Protocol	A specified way to conduct an activity or a process.
Process	A set of inter-related or interacting activities that transform inputs into outputs.
Prop	A compression member used as a temporary support.
Publicly available specification (PAS)	A standardization document that closely resembles a British Standard in structure and format, but which has a different development model.
Rate of rise	Average placing speed of the concrete vertically up the formwork in metres per hour, taken as the average over the pour.
Record	A document stating results achieved or providing evidence of activities performed.
Re-propping	Props installed before the falsework is removed to transfer loads to the lower slab or foundation once falsework is dismantled.
Residual risks	Any risks which have not been designed out by the temporary works designer. The significant residual risks are those risks that are not likely to be obvious to a competent contractor or are unusual or are likely to be difficult to manage effectively – must be identified by the designer. The temporary works designer must communicate the significant residual risks.
Risk	The likelihood of a hazard being realized that could cause an adverse event, together with a measurement of its possible severity.
Robustness	The ability of a structure to withstand events such as fire, explosions, impact,

Term	Definition
	or the consequences of human error, without being damaged to extent disproportionate to the original cause.
Safe system of work (SSOW)	A formal procedure that results from systematic examination of a task to identify all the hazards. It defines safe methods to make sure that hazards are eliminated or risks minimized. Safe systems of work are developed by considering the people, substances and equipment involved in carrying out a task or activity, identifying all foreseeable hazards and assessing the risks, and then seeking to minimize or eliminate those risks by providing a formal framework for workers to follow. In construction, the process for producing this formal procedure normally involves a risk assessment followed by the safe method being defined within a method statement. The key points of the safe system of work are briefed to the operatives in the form of a toolbox talk.
Safe working load	The maximum unfactored load that can be safely resisted by an item of proprietary equipment.
Settlement	The downward movement of the soil because of compression or compaction, or of a building, or other structure supported by that soil.
Shear force	Load acting across a beam near its support.
Shear stress	The shear force per unit area, expressed in (say) N/mm ² .
Significant risks	The significant risks are not necessarily those that involve the greatest risks but those which are not likely to be obvious, are unusual, unexpected, or difficult to manage on this occasion.
Soffit	The underside surface of a concrete member or slab.
Soil	The mineral material that results from the weathering of rock or decay of vegetation.
Standard	A document that sets out how policy objectives are to be delivered and defines the mandatory requirements associated with specific activities and tasks.
Standard solution	A suitable arrangement for which the basic design work has been carried out and checked, which may be presented in a table, for which no further calculations are required.
Strut	A member in compression.
Sub-contractor	A contractor employed by another contractor to carry out or manage construction work.
Subgrade	The upper part of the soil, natural or constructed, supports the loads transmitted by the overlying structure of a road, runway, or similar hard surface.
Sway	Horizontal displacement of a structure in relation to the bottom, under the application of a vertical load
Sway bracing	Bracing place to counter the horizontal displacement of the top of a structure in relation to its bottom.
Temporary works	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.

Terms and definitions

Term	Definition
Temporary works Coordinator (TWC)	A competent person with responsibility for the co-ordination of all activities related to the temporary works.
Temporary works design check categories	A set of four categories that relate to the level of independence for the design check. The categories are 0, 1, 2 and 3. The higher the number, the more independent the designer checker must be from the designer.
Temporary works design checker (TWDC)	An independent competent person appointed to carry out a design check.
Temporary works designer (TWD)	The designer of the specified temporary work or an identified part of it. The temporary works designer includes any individual or engineering design consultancy who specifies, alters a design, or specifies a particular method of work or material and who assumes the responsibilities, as a designer, under the CDM Regulations 2015.
Temporary works lead design checker	A competent designer, appointed when more than one design checker is involved, with the responsibility for making sure that: ▪ The design check has considered overall structural robustness at all stages. ▪ all interfaces and interactions between designers have been adequately covered.
Temporary works lead designer	A competent designer, appointed when there is more than one temporary works designer, with the responsibility for making sure that: ▪ The overall design is structurally robust at all stages; and ▪ all interfaces between designers have been adequately considered.
Temporary works manager	A senior temporary works professional (usually a qualified engineer) who oversees the management of design, design checking, implementation, loading, maintenance, unloading and removal for large, complex engineering projects. Usually manages several temporary works coordinators.
Temporary works register (TWR)	Usually in the format of a spreadsheet, the register is used to list all temporary works for a project and to continually monitor the progress of each item. It acts as an aide-memoire to help classify, categorize, design, design check and implement temporary works.
Temporary works supervisor (TWS)	A competent person who is responsible for, and assists, the temporary works coordinator.
Tensile force	The stretching forces on a component made up of tensile stress and tensile strain contracting the cross-section and elongating the component.
TG20/TG30	National Access and Scaffolding Confederation (NASC) publication that provides recognized standard configurations of tube and fitting and system scaffolds that have been structurally designed and for which additional bespoke design is not required.
Third party	A party, independent of a project, whose procedures must be followed and whose approval must be obtained, when temporary works proposals affect their assets, users, or land ownership.
Tie duty	The capacity that connections must achieve between ties and the permanent structure.
Timber grade	The physical and mechanical properties of timber assessed (graded) under

Term	Definition
stress and strength class	European Harmonized Standards (EN) criteria for bending stress, bending stiffness and density.
Top restraint	A method by which the stability of falsework is provided by surrounding permanent works or specifically designed temporary works.
Wind factor	A means of assessing wind exposure for temporary works, considering wind velocity, topographical factors, distance from the shoreline, altitude, probability factor, and duration of use for the temporary works.
Works records	All relevant documents that relate to the design, design checking, residual risks, inspection, testing, permitting, erection, safe use, maintenance, dismantling of all items of significant temporary works.