

Newsletter



Autumn 2025

Welcome to Our Autumn 2025 Newsletter!

This edition is full of updates from the Pragmatic team, along with key news from across construction, utilities, and training. As ever, our focus is on People, Knowledge, and Performance - helping you stay informed and ahead.

People

Advancing Your Career in Construction
First Aid in Construction

Knowledge

Section 74 Street Works Act
Important Updates on CITB Grants & Funding

Performance

How Trained Staff Reduce Downtime
Digital Safety & Site Efficiency



www.pragmatic-consulting.co.uk



Pragmatic

Welcome to the Autumn Pragmatic Newsletter!

We're pleased to share the latest edition of our newsletter, bringing you key updates from across the construction and utilities training sector. In this issue, you'll find important news on CITB funding changes, practical insights on how training can reduce downtime, and tips to help you advance your career with the right qualifications.

We've also included our latest open course dates for this quarter, along with a couple of highlights from recent developments in the industry that impact performance and people on site.

Thank you for reading.

The Pragmatic Consulting Team

Celebrating 12 Years of Pragmatic Consulting



A Journey of Growth, Learning, and Purpose

This summer marks a proud milestone for Pragmatic Consulting Ltd – 12 years since our Managing Director, Jo Niblett, left the corporate world to build a business with one mission: to make training in the utilities and construction sectors more inclusive, pragmatic, and impactful.

From Small Beginnings

Pragmatic Consulting started at Jo's dining room table in 2013. Listening to site teams about the gaps in training, Jo set out to deliver courses differently - flexible, relevant, and focused on real-world needs.

What began with one or two delegates soon grew into a thriving training centre, becoming EUSR-approved and trusted by major clients like Murphy. Today, Pragmatic Consulting delivers a wide range of courses nationwide, from EUSR and CSCS to SHEA and safety training.

Growth and Milestones

Over the past 12 years, we have:

- Grown from a one-person start-up into a respected national training provider
- Delivered training to hundreds of companies across utilities and construction
- Built a dedicated team, including Senior Operations Manager Vicky Jones, who has strengthened our operations and client support.
- Adapted through challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, developing new ways to deliver training when it was needed most.

People First

At the heart of Pragmatic Consulting's success are its people — from the committed team who deliver training, to supportive family, friends, colleagues, and clients who share our passion for raising standards.

"Running your own business is one of the hardest and most rewarding things you can do," says Jo. "I am truly blessed to have a team and clients who share the same vision for safer, more effective training."

Looking Ahead

As we celebrate 12 years, our mission remains clear: to deliver training that makes worksites safer, more compliant, and more productive.

Thank you to every client, delegate, partner, and supporter who has been part of our journey. Here's to the next chapter.

Pragmatic Consulting Joins the Confederation of Roofing Contractors

We're proud to share that Pragmatic Consulting Ltd is now an associate member of the Confederation of Roofing Contractors (CORC) – one of the most trusted associations representing roofing professionals across the UK.



People

Advancing Your Career in Construction: Training and Certification Pathways

The UK construction industry is changing fast. New technologies, higher safety standards, and greener building methods mean the skills needed today are not the same as yesterday. Whether you're just starting out or aiming for leadership, the right training and certifications can transform your career.

Why Training Matters

With skills shortages across construction and utilities, trained workers are in high demand. In fact, many roles require certification just to get on site.

Essential qualifications include:

- CSCS or SHEA cards – for site access
- Health & Safety training – for compliance
- Specialist skills – like First Aid, Working at Height, or Asbestos Awareness

Pathways to Progress

1. Entry-Level – Getting Started

- Health & Safety Awareness
- CSCS Green Labourer Card
- SHEA Schemes (Water, Gas, Power)

2. Mid-Level – Building Skills

- NRSWA (Street Works)
- First Aid at Work
- Manual Handling & Working at Height

3. Advanced – Leadership & Management

- SSSTS / SMSTS (Supervisor & Site Manager Safety Training)
- NEBOSH / IOSH Health & Safety
- NVQs in Construction Management

The Benefits

For employers: safer sites, stronger teams, and better project outcomes. For workers: higher earning potential, greater security, and clearer progression.

First Aid in Construction: Protecting People, Not Just Ticking Boxes

On a construction site, accidents can happen in seconds – from slips and sprains to more serious incidents involving machinery, working at height, or hazardous materials. That's why first aid training isn't just about compliance, it's about people.

Why It Matters

Under the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981, employers must provide adequate first aid cover. For construction – a high-risk industry – this usually means more than just one trained person.

Two main courses are recognised:

- Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) – 1 day; suited to lower-risk roles.
- First Aid at Work (FAW) – 3 days; essential for high-risk environments like construction sites.

Most sites will require at least one FAW-trained person on duty at all times.

People First, Compliance Second

While legal compliance is important, the real reason for training is simple: people's lives and wellbeing.

Good first aid provision means:

- ✓ Faster response to injuries
- ✓ Reduced downtime on site
- ✓ Greater confidence and morale among workers
- ✓ Safer, more supportive workplaces

Why It Matters

First aid training isn't just a requirement. It's a commitment to protecting colleagues, supporting teams, and ensuring everyone goes home safely.

At Pragmatic Consulting, we believe investing in people's safety is the strongest foundation any project can have.

Section 74 Street Works Act: What Contractors Need to Know

If you're a contractor working on public highways, Section 74 of the New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) is a rule you can't afford to ignore. Put simply: if your roadworks overrun, you could face daily fines.

What Is Section 74?

Section 74 gives highway authorities the power to charge utility companies and contractors for street works that take longer than the agreed duration, unless there's a valid reason. The aim is simple; reduce disruption for road users and keep towns and cities moving.

Why Do Overrun Fines Exist?

Before Section 74, there was little incentive to complete work quickly, and projects often dragged on. The legislation introduced daily charges to encourage better planning and efficiency; protecting drivers, local businesses, and the public from unnecessary delays.

How Does It Work?

- **Notification** – Contractors must give advance notice of the works and expected timescale.
- **Agreed Duration** – The authority sets the permitted window.
- **Monitoring** – If work overruns, the authority checks whether there's a valid reason (bad weather, safety concerns, technical issues).
- **Charges** – If the delay is unjustified, daily fines apply.

The rate depends on the type of road and length of delay.

What Do Fines Look Like?

Costs vary, but major routes and longer delays attract higher penalties. Quieter roads and short overruns are typically charged at lower rates.

Are There Exemptions?

Not all delays trigger a fine. Emergency works, severe weather, or urgent public safety measures may provide grounds for exemption.

The bottom line: understand your Section 74 obligations and keep projects on track — it saves money, time, and disruption for everyone.

Important Updates on CITB Grants & Funding

CITB has announced changes to how employers can access grants and funding, with a focus on making support simpler and easier to use. These updates will be phased in during 2025 and are designed to help construction businesses upskill their workforce more efficiently.

What's Changing?

- **Simplified processes** – CITB is streamlining how employers apply for and claim funding.
- **More flexibility** – Support will be available through both direct grants and local Employer Networks.
- **Ongoing support** – The aim remains to ensure that businesses of all sizes can continue to train, develop, and retain skilled workers.

What This Means for Training

At Pragmatic Consulting, many of our training programmes remain eligible for CITB grants and Employer Network funding, helping to reduce costs for employers.

Our eligible courses include:

- **CITB Site Safety Plus Courses** – SSSTS, SMSTS, and refresher training
- **Street Works (NRSWA)** – for operatives and supervisors
- **EUSR-Approved Training** – Cat & Genny, SHEA, and Utility Safety
- **First Aid at Work** – tailored for construction and utilities

Importantly, we've also seen **100% of our courses funded through Employer Networks**, including those not traditionally grant-eligible. This has covered training such as NG Person, NG Competent Person, CDAE, PC Rep, Impressed Voltages, HSG47 HV Subs, and CDM.

Why It Matters

These changes mean employers can still access vital support to keep their teams trained, safe, and compliant. Whether you need health & safety, compliance, or specialist utility training, there are funding routes available to help offset the costs.

For guidance on eligible courses and upcoming training dates, please get in touch with our team.

Performance

How Trained Staff Reduce Downtime and Boost Performance

In construction and utilities, downtime is more than an inconvenience; it directly impacts project performance, costs, and deadlines. One of the most effective ways to minimise disruption is ensuring staff are fully trained and competent for the work they carry out.

Why Training Improves Performance

- **Fewer Mistakes:** Skilled workers are less likely to make costly errors, reducing rework and delays.
- **Improved Safety:** Training reduces the risk of incidents, keeping projects on track and avoiding stoppages caused by accidents or investigations.
- **Efficiency Gains:** Staff with the right knowledge can complete tasks quicker and to a higher standard, ensuring smoother project delivery.

The Cost of Downtime

According to industry studies, unplanned downtime can cost contractors thousands of pounds per day. Whether it's caused by safety breaches, equipment misuse, or lack of compliance, the financial and reputational impact is significant.

Training That Makes the Difference

At Pragmatic Consulting, our courses are designed to keep teams site-ready, safe, and efficient. This includes:

- **Health & Safety Training** – CSCS, SHEA, First Aid
- **Specialist Skills Training** – NRSWA, Cat & Genny, Utility Safety
- **Leadership & Compliance** – SSSTS, SMSTS, CDM

Well-trained teams don't just reduce downtime; they boost overall site performance, improve client satisfaction, and strengthen your business reputation.

Performance on site depends on preparation. Investing in training means fewer stoppages, smoother workflows, and projects delivered on time.

Talk to us about upcoming training dates and keep your workforce performing at its best.

Performance Spotlight: Digital Safety & Site Efficiency - The Rise of Mobile-First Technologies



As construction sites become increasingly mobile and complex, digital safety tools are revolutionising how performance, compliance, and productivity are managed on the ground.

According to industry sources, UK construction is undergoing a shift toward mobile-first project management platforms, placing powerful tools right in workers' pockets:

Key Advantages:

- **Real-time oversight:** Field teams can submit updates, report incidents, and access documents instantly—no more delays or paperwork bottlenecks.
- **Safety + compliance in the moment:** Digital checklists, safety alerts, and incident trackers keep compliance accurate and auditable.
- **Smarter decision-making:** Site managers get live dashboards showing attendance, training status, and safety performance—spotting issues before they escalate.

These tools aren't just for administration; they drive tangible performance gains. With real-time data available, teams operate smarter, responses are faster, and downtime is minimised.

In short, mobile-first safety tech is transforming site efficiency by integrating safety and performance seamlessly into real-time workflows.

Advantage	Why It Improves Performance
Instant data access	Faster decisions, fewer delays
Cloud-based compliance	Stronger safety culture, audit-ready
Real-time oversight	Smarter planning, predictable outcomes

As the industry embraces mobile-first technology, the integration of safety and performance is becoming seamless—helping contractors deliver projects more efficiently than ever.

Open Courses

Our courses are designed to support skill development, ensure compliance with industry standards, and provide practical knowledge that can be applied on the job.

Below are details of some of our most popular open courses available in the coming months. These courses can be booked online and are open to individuals and teams.

Courses are available at a variety of locations, depending on course requirements: Stoneleigh Park (SP), Wakefield (W), Trafford Park (TP), or Online (O)

CITB Accredited Training Courses

Below are details of some of our most popular CITB-accredited courses, designed to support professionals in the construction industry.

Course	Location	Next available dates	Cost
CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS)	Online or Wakefield 5 Days	October 13th - 17th (W) October 20th - 24th (O) November 10th - 14th (O)	£427
CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme Refresher (SMSTS-R)	Online or Wakefield 2 Days	October 22nd - 23rd	£325
CITB Temporary Works Co-Ordinator Training Course (TWCTC)	Online 2 Days	September 8th - 9th October 13th - 14th November 20th - 21st	£410
CITB Temporary Works Supervisor Training Course (TWSTC)	Online 1 Day	November 19th	£265
CITB Site Supervisor Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS)	Online 2 Days	October 9th - 10th October 20th - 21st November 6th - 7th November 20th - 21st	£267
CITB Health and Safety Awareness (HSA)	Online 1 Day	September 2nd October 9th November 5th	£117
CITB Site Environmental Awareness Training Scheme (SEATS)	Online 1 Day	September 3rd September 11th	£187

This is not an exhaustive list of dates, you will find more dates available to book on our website.

Utility & Construction Training Courses

Our Utility Construction training courses cover essential areas such as excavation, installation, and reinstatement, offering practical and theoretical instruction to enhance workplace competence.

Course	Location	Next available dates	Cost
BESC AME Overhead Lines	Stoneleigh Park or Trafford Park 1 Day	September 4th (TP)	£355
BESC AME Substation	Stoneleigh Park 1 Day	September 12th September 26th October 10th October 24th November 7th	£355
EUSR Category 1 - Locate Utility Services & HSG47	Stoneleigh Park or Trafford Park 1 Day	September 2nd (SP) October 15th (TP) October 24th (TP) October 29th (SP)	£200 £170
EUSR Category 2 - Implement Safe (Digging) Excavating Practices	Stoneleigh Park 1 Day	September 3rd October 30th	£285
EUSR HSG47 - Avoiding Dangers Underground Services - HV Substations	Trafford Park 2 Days	September 29th - 30th October 30th - 31st November 20th - 21st	£345
EUSR Safe Control of Mains Connection - Water (SCMC Water)	Online Half Day	October 3rd October 31st November 28th	£240
EUSR Approved Abrasive Wheels - Mounting and Practical Use of Equipment	Stoneleigh Park 1 Day	September 17th October 2nd October 28th November 5th	£250
EUSR Approved Manual Handling	Stoneleigh Park or Trafford Park Half Day	September 8th (TP) September 16th (SP) September 29th (TP) October 1st (SP)	£80
EUSR Endorsed Butt Fusion Welding	Stoneleigh Park 2 Days	September 15th - 16th October 7th - 8th November 26th - 27th	£695
EUSR Endorsed Electro Fusion Welding	Stoneleigh Park 2 Days	September 24th - 25th October 15th - 16th November 18th - 19th	£445
EUSR Endorsed Gas Detection and Personal Gas Monitor Training	Stoneleigh Park Half Day	September 26th October 17th November 20th	£136

Open Courses

City & Guilds Confined Space Training Courses

Confined space training courses tailored to meet the needs of professionals across various industries.

Course	Location	Next available dates	Cost
City & Guilds 6160-09 - Working in Medium Risk, Entrant & Entry Controller Confined Spaces	Stoneleigh Park 2 Days	September 16th - 17th October 15th - 16th November 12th - 13th	£435
City & Guilds 6160-01 Working in Low Risk Confined Spaces	Stoneleigh Park 1 Day	November 6th	£280

Streetworks / NRSWA Training Courses

Our comprehensive range of Streetworks training courses covers key areas such as excavation, reinstatement, and traffic management,

Course	Location	Next available dates	Cost
NRSWA Signing Lighting and Guarding (Operatives)	Stoneleigh 1 Day	September 11th October 7th November 12th	£235 £185
NRSWA Signing Lighting and Guarding (Supervisor)	Stoneleigh 1 Day	September 11th October 7th November 12th	£235 £185
NRSWA Signing Lighting and Guarding Reassessment	Stoneleigh or Trafford Park Half Day	September 12th (SP) September 15th (TP) October 3rd (TP) October 10th (SP) November 3rd (TP)	£160
NRSWA Operatives Reassessment Course	Stoneleigh or Trafford Park 2 Days	September 9th - 10th (SP) September 18th - 19th (TP) October 8th - 9th (SP) October 13th - 14th (TP) November 10th - 11th (SP)	£325
NRSWA Supervisors Reassessment Course	Stoneleigh, Trafford Park or Wakefield 2 Days	September 9th - 10th (SP) September 18th - 19th (TP) October 8th - 9th (SP) October 13th - 14th (TP) November 10th - 11th (SP)	£325
NRSWA Location and Avoidance of Underground Apparatus (LA Old Unit 1)	Stoneleigh or Trafford Park 1 Day	September 30th (SP) October 16th (TP) October 27th (TP) November 7th (TP)	£185

EUSR SHEA Passport

The EUSR SHEA training courses focus on raising awareness of key health, safety, and environmental issues, helping delegates understand their responsibilities while working on-site or in operational environments.

Course	Location	Next available dates	Cost
EUSR SHEA Water	Online 1 Day	September 16th September 30th October 29th November 27th	£195
EUSR SHEA Water Renewal	Online Half Day	September 17th October 24th November 7th	£155
EUSR SHEA Gas	Online 1 Day	September 4th September 8th September 22nd September 26th September 29th	£195
EUSR SHEA Gas Renewal	Online Half Day	September 5th September 26th October 3rd November 7th	£155
EUSR SHEA Power	Online 1 Day	September 9th September 23rd October 2nd October 7th October 4th	£195
EUSR SHEA Power Renewal	Online Half Day	September 17th October 10th November 21st	£155
EUSR SHEA Cross Country Pipelines	Online 1 Day	September 24th October 21st	£215
EUSR SHEA Drains & Sewers	Online 1 Day	October 9th	£195
EUSR SHEA Waste	Online 1 Day	September 12th	£195
EUSR SHEA Telecoms	Online 1 Day	November 18th	£195

Open Courses

Technical / Bespoke Training Courses

Bellow are a selection of our popular Technical and Bespoke training courses designed to meet the unique requirements in the construction and utilities industries.

Course	Location	Next available dates	Cost
EUSR Impressed Voltage Awareness	Stoneleigh Park Half Day	September 18th October 16th November 13th	£335
EUSR - Impressed Voltage for Designers & National Grid Supplier Requirements (SR/234) Overview Training	Stoneleigh Park 1 Day	November 12th	£485
EUSR - Impressed Voltage for Managers & National Grid Supplier Requirements (SR/234) Overview	Stoneleigh Park 1 Day	September 1st October 9th November 6th	£485
EUSR - Impressed Voltage for Managers & National Grid Supplier Requirements (SR/234) Overview & IVDE (ECP/EAP) Training	Stoneleigh Park 2 Days	September 1st - 2nd October 9th - 10th November 6th - 7th	£995
National Grid CDAE/PD Supplier Requirements SR/106, SR/107, SR/135, SR/141, SR/162, SR/163, SR/175, SR/183, SR/188, SR/193, SR/212 & SR/215 Awareness Training	Stoneleigh Park 2 Days	September 15th - 16th November 3rd - 4th	£2,494
National Grid PCSM Supplier Requirements SR/106, SR/107, SR/135, SR/141, SR/163, SR/183, SR/188, SR/234 & SR/241 Awareness Training	Stoneleigh Park 2 Days	September 18th - 19th October 23rd - 24th	£2,494
CDM 2015 Awareness & National Grid Supplier Requirements (SR/163) Overview Training	Stoneleigh Park 1 Day	September 17th October 17th November 14th	£480

Looking for more dates for any of our courses? Check our website!
We also have upcoming dates for:

[National Grid Training Courses](#)

Safe Control of Operations (SCO) Gas Training Courses

The Safe Control of Operations (SCO) scheme ensures that individuals working on the gas network are trained to do so safely by understanding gas network procedures and correct permittry.

Course	Location	Next available dates	Cost
EUSR SCO (Safe Control of Operations) Modules 1, 2 & 5: Core, Permit to Work and Form of Authority (Was previously SCO 1&2)	Stoneleigh 1 Day	September 16th	£330

Other Water Courses

We are delighted to be able to introduce Butt Fusion & Electro Fusion Welding courses designed to meet requirements of the construction and utilities industries.

Course	Location	Next available dates	Cost
EUSR National Water Hygiene (eLearning) (NWH) (Blue Card)	eLearning	In your own time	£145
EUSR Safe Control of Mains Connection (SCMC) Water Course	Online Half day	October 3rd October 31st November 28th	£240
Thames Water Passport Course	Online Half day	September 11th September 23rd	£695

Health and Safety Training Courses

A selection of our most popular Health & Safety training courses designed to empower professionals across various industries.

Course	Location	Next available dates	Cost
NUCO - Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) - FAA Level 3 (1 Day Accredited)	Stoneleigh Park 1 Day	September 8th October 6th November 24th	£90
NUCO - First Aid at Work (FAW) - FAA Level 3 (3 Day Accredited)	Stoneleigh Park 3 Days	September 8th - 10th November 24th - 26th	£330

Closed Courses

Compliance Training

Pragmatic Consulting offers a range of closed courses for Compliance Training. These courses can be scheduled at your convenience, either at one of our training centres or on-site at your location. If there is sufficient interest, we can also arrange open courses to accommodate individual participants.

Courses include:

- [EUSR Endorsed Asbestos Awareness](#)
- [EUSR Endorsed Fire Warden](#)
- [EUSR Approved Control of Substances Hazardous to Health \(COSHH\) Awareness](#)
- [EUSR Endorsed Gas Detection and Personal Gas Monitor Training](#)
- [EUSR Endorsed Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome \(HAVS\) Awareness](#)

And [many more](#)

For more information on all courses check out our website:

www.pragmatic-consulting.co.uk

To discuss availability or your specific training needs, get in touch:

support@pragmatic-consulting.co.uk

Group bookings

Did you know... We offer closed courses for any of our training courses, allowing companies to book group training tailored to their needs. These sessions can be delivered at one of our training centres or on-site at your location, providing flexibility and convenience. If you have a team that requires specific training, we can arrange a dedicated course to ensure everyone gains the necessary skills in a focused learning environment.

For more details or to discuss a group booking, please get in touch - we're happy to help find the right training solution for your team.

Pragmatic Consulting Names Myton Hospice as Charity of the Year

The Myton Hospices is our Charity of the Year. For the rest of 2025, we'll donate £1 from every eligible course booking to support their vital palliative and end-of-life care across Coventry and Warwickshire.

Courses included:

- EUSR SHEA Water & Renewals
- EUSR SCMC Water
- EUSR National Water Hygiene
- Thames Water Passport
- All C&G Confined Space training
- CABWI NCO Water
- CABWI NRSWA (Streetworks)



Every booking helps us make a difference - thank you for your support.

Find out more at: www.mytonhospice.org

Proud to Be a National Living Wage Employer

Pragmatic Consulting is an accredited National Living Wage Employer. This means everyone working with us—whether directly or through contractors—earns a wage based on the real cost of living, not just the government minimum.

We're proud to stand alongside thousands of responsible UK businesses committed to fairness, respect, and building a stronger workforce for the future.

Find out more at: www.livingwage.org.uk



Training Centres

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

Unit 78, Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire
CV8 2LG

01926 674340

Wakefield, Yorkshire

Penny Appeal Campus, Thornes Park, Wakefield WF2 8QZ

01924 950650

Trafford Park, Manchester

Suite 20 and Suite 40a, Warren Bruce Court, Warren Bruce
Road, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1LB

0161 850 3550

Abercynon, South Wales

Ty Menter Training Room, Navigation Park, Abercynon,
South Wales CF45 4SN

0207 183 9350

support@pragmatic-consulting.co.uk

www.pragmatic-consulting.co.uk

