

Overtaken excavator

A 20tonne tracked excavator was being offloaded from a delivery vehicle at the M6 J2-J4 Smart Motorway Programme project.

As it was being unloaded a bucket which had been stored in-between the tracks for transportation became stuck. The operator attempted to release the bucket resulting in the excavator falling from the side of the trailer, coming to rest on the verge.

Shown in the picture below:-



There were no workers or pedestrians within the area and the operator was able to exit the excavator to a place of safety unaided.

The excavator was recovered as part of a carriageway closure.

Immediate actions taken:

- Operator checked for injuries/wellbeing
- Area cordoned off for recovery
- Investigation commenced

Key considerations:

- Ensure ancillary equipment such as excavator buckets are not carried in-between the excavator tracks and a clear storage/transportation area is defined.
- Ensure plant delivery drivers are familiar with and work to safe working practices
- Ensure plant delivery drivers loading/off-loading plant from low loaders have the appropriate training and competence for the activity.
- Ensure there is a banksman or similar supervising and controlling delivery operations.

Further Information:

For further information please contact the National Health & Safety Team via email NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk