

# Balfour Beatty saves time and increases safety

## Reducing falls from vehicles case study 7

*This case study is part of a series, which give examples of good practice to reduce injuries due to falls from vehicles through sensible management of health and safety risks in the workplace.*

### The challenge

Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Ltd were upgrading the dual carriageway of the A66 between Scotch Corner and Gretta Bridge in North Yorkshire.

This involved unloading sewer rings from delivery vehicles in a safe and efficient way. Deliveries of approximately 40 rings would take three hours to unload, with an operative climbing on and off the back of the vehicle to assist with each individual ring.

### What changed?

Balfour Beatty chose to use a three-pronged lifting device, which works when the three prongs are lowered into a sewer ring. The device is then activated and the prongs move outwards to fit the diameter of the material, gripping it and allowing it to be lifted safely. The device attaches to an excavator on site and is simple and easy to use.



**Figure 1** Lifting safely thanks to the three-pronged device

This product lifts concrete manhole rings in a safe and timely way. Operatives rarely need to access the vehicle bed, and often the machine operator alone can undertake the unloading. This benefit also applies to loading and movement of the rings around site. This greatly reduces the risk of injuries and falling from height.

### The results

Some of the benefits include:

- Easy to use, with limited training required.
- Reduces the number of times an operative has to access the bed of the vehicle during unloading.
- Will fit to excavators on site.
- Can be used to unload deliveries and position rings during the construction of manholes

The device can be used on manhole rings varying from 1.2 metres in diameter to 2.1 metres as it has multiple setting for different size rings.

Balfour Beatty's operatives were given familiarisation training and time to practice using the new equipment. Unloading takes place in a specific area and access to it is limited to the lifting device operator and a banksman. Sufficient space to unload is also important.