

◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶

Breaker Attachment Failure



Incident

Following the change of attachment on a 360 excavator which was being used for BFK pile breaking activities, the breaker became detached from the quick hitch mechanism of the excavator falling approximately 3 metres into an unoccupied exclusion zone.

Picture shows 360 excavator and breaker and detached breaker attachment.

Initial Findings

- Fully automated double locking quick hitch showing signs of wear and tear.
- Breaker attachment not specifically designed for the make/model of quick hitch assembly and had been modified to fit (independent inspection ongoing)
- Evidence of damage to hydraulic hose of the internal quick hitch mechanism (unclear if damage was prior to incident or sustained as a result).
- No operator's manual for the excavator (to include quick-hitch) or breaker attachment assembly were available on site.
- Evidence was available to demonstrate operators' pre-use checks.

Ongoing considerations for Project Crossrail

Plant selection: Review plant selection process to ensure compatibility and all safety issues are adequately controlled and inspected in accordance with agreed testing and inspection regimes.

Documentation: All site management are to ensure plant under their control is accompanied with the relevant user manuals that are referred to by the operator.

Further information will be provided once BFK have completed the investigation.

