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Drilling Rig - Protection from Entanglement

Flush control using recirculation tanks in conjunction with a gooseneck-diverter was required by Murphy Surveys Geodata to maintain a clean/safe working environment at C430.

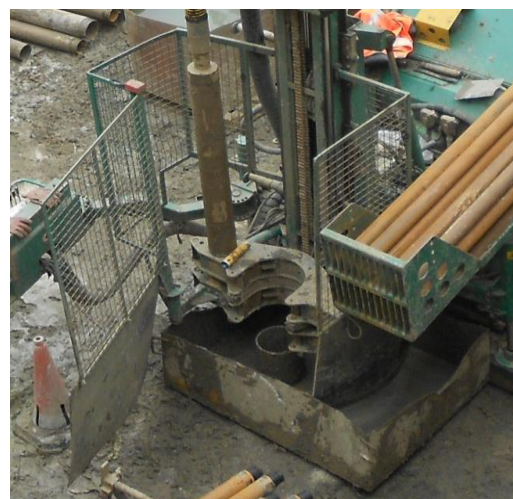
The Commachio rig used on site is fitted with a fully compliant permanent interlocking guard. However, in order to feed flush efficiently, it was necessary to work from a raised dump position, which would have resulted in significantly exceeding 500mm distance between the guard and the ground as per HSE guidance and PUWER regulations. Without mitigating measures, this would have posed an unacceptable risk of exposure to the rotating drill string.

It was agreed, that the best method to reduce the additional risks and to maintain safe operational practice would be to install a thick rubber skirt onto the bottom of the existing guarding which would mean that when closed and interlocked, the existing and extended guarding would continue to block any access to the rotating string while in operation. It was not considered to be practical to extend the fixed guard as the rig would continue to be used in a non-raised position for other works.

Rig in raised (guard closed) position



Rig in raised (guard open) position



Photos above show the adapted guarding with rubber skirt installed and raised position of working rig.