

# Lessons Learnt from a Significant Event



Date: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Issued By: Thameslink Programme, HSEA Team, James Forbes House, 27 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0NS

**Issue Number: TLP 005**

**Title: London Bridge Station Redevelopment, Scaffold Fitting Falling from Height**

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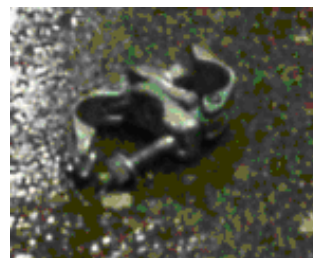
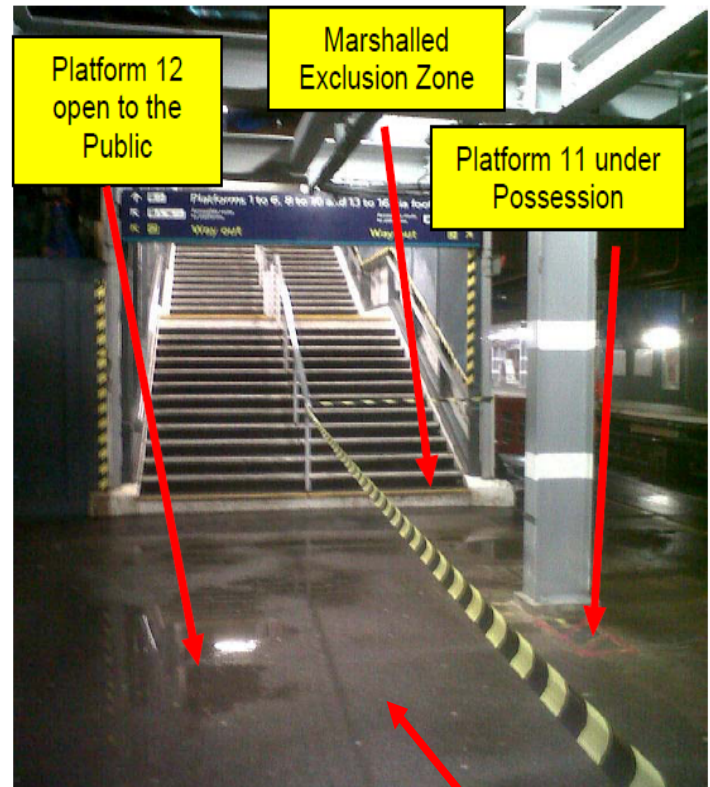
## Overview of Event:

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013, whilst deconstructing the protection deck above the platforms in London Bridge Station, a double swivel scaffold fitting fell onto the platform area. The work was taking place above platform 11 and there was an exclusion zone below. The exclusion zone covered platform 11 however when the fitting fell it bounced off the platform canopy and landed on platform 12 which was open to the public.

## Underlying Causes:

There are a number of underlying factors that contributed to the incident:

- The size of the exclusion zone was not sufficient for the activity and didn't cater for the potential of a deflection of material falling from above.
- A conscious decision was made to commence with the work before the adjacent Platform 12 was taken for the line block, which deviated from the agreed Work Package Plan and Task Briefing.
- None of the workers challenged the method of work or the exclusion zone as they had acknowledged the arrival of trains and stopped work until the platform below had cleared.



Scaffold clip landed on P12

## Key Messages:

- Exclusion zones should be planned in advance of the works
- The WPP and Task Brief should clearly define location and extent of exclusion zones
- Exclusion zones should be of adequate size in relation to the work area above, and capable of capturing the range of materials and equipment that could fall and bounce / deflect
- All exclusion zones should have adequate management arrangements in place including signage and barriers so that it is clear entry is prohibited.