

## SSOW 18: DAMAGED PLANT RECOVERY

Issue Number: 04

Date of Issue: 31/01/2026

Based on: RA07a

### PURPOSE

To ensure damaged plant is recovered safely and in a controlled manner, preventing crush injuries, equipment failure, collisions, and harm to personnel or property. This SSOW sets out the safe working practices, competency requirements, and equipment standards required to carry out plant recovery operations in accordance with RA07a, manufacturer guidance, and site-specific rules.

### PPE REQUIREMENTS

For this activity, the following PPE must be worn

					
☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐
High-vis Vest / Jacket (BS EN 471)	Safety Boots (EN ISO 20345:2011) (S3)	Safety Gloves (Cut resistant) (EN 420:2003)	N/A	N/A	N/A

### TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Competent and authorised personnel only.
- Familiarity with RA07a and site-specific recovery procedures.
- Training in safe use of lifting accessories, chains, strops, shackles, and Tirfor winches.
- Awareness of overhead power cable exclusion distances (GS6).
- Banksman/signaller competence for guiding plant movements.
- Understanding of exclusion zones and safe vehicle positioning.
- Knowledge of pre-use checks and defect reporting for lifting equipment.

### EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Low loader with ramps, stabilisers, and suitable load bed.
- Dozer or suitable plant for positioning damaged machinery.
- Certified lifting accessories (chains, strops, shackles) with valid thorough examination.
- Tirfor winch and accessories set up in accordance with manufacturer instructions.
- Barriers, fencing, and signage for exclusion zones.
- Communication devices for coordination with site personnel.

### SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK

- On arrival to site L Lynch personnel to attend Main Contractor Site Induction.
- Works to be carried out by competent, authorised personnel only.
- Site rules to be adhered with at all times by L Lynch personnel.
- Site PPE requirements to be adhered with by L Lynch personnel.
- Never work directly underneath overhead power cables. Never work within 9 metres horizontally of overhead power cables supported on wooden poles. Never work within 15 metres horizontally of overhead power cables supported on steel pylons or structures. Always follow safe systems of work and routes provided on construction sites when driving under overhead power cables.
- Low loader to be parked into position for loading prior to the recovery of the plant/machine. Low loader to be ready with ramps, stabilisers etc. deployed.
- Working area to be segregated via physical means (i.e., barriers, Heras fencing) where possible, with appropriate signage displayed.
- Only those carrying out the recovery are permitted into the exclusion zone. All other personnel must leave

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the area prior to the recovery commencing.

- Banksman to be used where possible.
- Tifor winch to be set up as per the manufacturer's user guides and instructions.
- Lifting accessories will have valid thorough examination certificates available. All lifting accessories are subject to inspection and tagging prior to arrival. Pre-use checks conducted by competent operative.
- Lifting accessories SWL must never be exceeded.
- A dozer will be used to pull the excavator into position in front of the low loader ready for recovery on the vehicle bed.
- Chains/strops will be attached to the excavator and the dozer; the dozer will then move the excavator into position.
- Operatives are to ensure that the chains/strops are secured prior to moving the excavator.
- Once in position in front of the low loader, lifting accessories are to be removed from the dozer. The dozer is to then leave the vicinity parked away from the loading area.
- The tifor winch will be set up for the excavator to be loaded onto the back of the low loader.
- Once the tifor winch is set up, the chains/strops attached to the excavator will be attached to the tirfor winch for loading on to the vehicle bed.
- When loaded onto the vehicle bed, the winch and accessories will be removed, and the excavator secured.

### IDENTIFIED RISKS

The SSOW above has been compiled after identifying the following risks from this activity

- Personnel being struck, crushed or run over by moving vehicles or plant resulting in major injury or death
- Damage to vehicles and buildings resulting from collisions
- Failure of chains/strops
- Failure of tirfor winch and towing components
- SWL of lifting accessories chains/strops/shackles exceeded.
- Hand injuries
- Low loader failure

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO RISK ASSESSMENT RA07a**

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