



Case study

‘Up at The O2’

Client

The O2

Problem

Fall Protection system required for multiple users on tourist attraction.

Solution

Bridgelatch System

Product Details

ManSafe® cable system with Bridgelatch attachment devices.

Background

'Up at The O2' is the unique London tourist attraction offering visitors an outstanding view of the London skyline from the top of The O2 arena—previously the 'Millenium Dome'. The 320 m long tensile fabric walkway, suspended 2 m above The O2 arena's canvas roof, has an incline of 28 degrees at its steepest point. Upon reaching the summit of 52 m, climbers can enjoy views of the Olympic Park, The Shard, Canary Wharf and the Emirates Airline (Thames Cable Car).



Photo courtesy of Richard Seymour

Problem

Initial designs for the walkway included a central cable system, to which climbers would affix themselves (via a harness) to ensure they would not fall from the walkway. With the risk of a fall from height, designers realised right from the start they needed to create, above-all, a safe environment and experience for all the visitors. However, with this came a number of considerations in specifying a suitable solution. The designers required a system that would provide:

- A safe means of permanent attachment for multiple users to eliminate the risk of a fall from height
- A user-friendly solution for anyone with only minimal training
- A durable solution which would be easy to use.

Solution

Latchways worked closely with designers to create a bespoke system that would not only meet all their safety requirements, but also provide a sleek and aesthetically pleasing solution for such an iconic landmark.

Latchways specified a horizontal cable system to be used in conjunction with a Bridgelatch device. The cable system consisted of four runs installed by Latchways' Registered Installer A2M Safety, utilising a range of componentry and brackets, with a Bridgelatch entry gate at each end to form a designated "safe-zone" for users to attach/detach themselves. The Bridgelatch was chosen as the attachment device for its capability to work on an incline of 0 - 70°; in the event of the user slipping, the device locks on to the cable and arrests their fall.

The O2 also chose the system as it requires user input—The O2 wanted climbers to take control of their own climb and therefore heighten the excitement. The Bridgelatch is an easy-to-use device that, whilst requiring a low-level of user input, provides a perfect solution for such a wide spectrum of potential users.



“This kind of system is used by building maintenance workers all the time, but the rest of us rarely get a chance of a proper birds’ eye view, unimpeded by barriers. It’s wonderful to have had it up and running just as so many visitors flocked to London for the games. I hope our system allows people to safely enjoy a newly regenerated part of the capital.”

James Sainsbury,
Account Manager, Latchways

Latchways plc

All around the world, people work safely at height thanks to Latchways’ fall protection systems. With over 35 years of experience at the cutting edge of fall protection they set the standard for innovation, performance and quality. Latchways are trusted to ensure worker safety on a wide range of buildings and structures, as well as throughout various industries, such as aerospace, energy, utilities and telecommunications sectors.





Photo courtesy of Richard Seymour

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Latchways plc, Hopton Park, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2JP, England

Tel: +44 (0)1380 732700 Fax: +44 (0)1380 732701

Email: info@latchways.com Website: www.latchways.com