

**Project Location: UK**

**Brief description of Incident**

A scaffold birdcage provides access to the underside of the roof and to the roof lights for glazing removal. The area to the side of it on the ground floor is part of the West side work area. At the time of the incident there were operatives working on the roof stripping the tiles. No one was working on the scaffold at the time. On the ground floor working underneath were scaffolders unloading a wagon bringing tubes onto site and the demolition operatives clearing up.

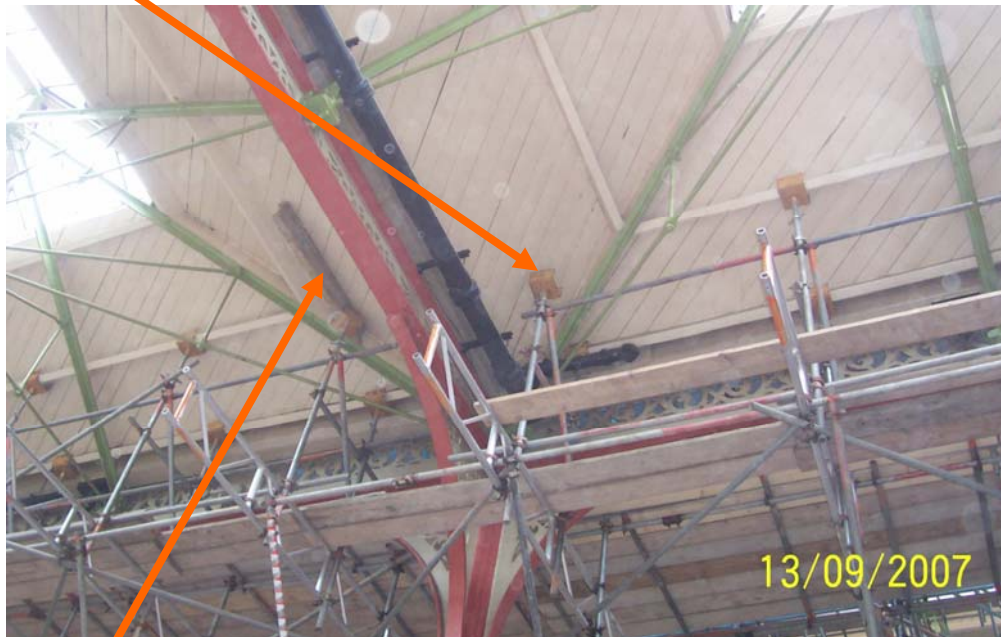
A 1m long 3"x3" batten fell from the scaffold missing a demolition worker by about 2m. The batten was used as a bearing pad between a prop on the scaffold and the underside of the roof structure. The vibration generated by the roofers caused the baton to become loose and fall.

The batten that fell in the position that it landed





The prop that the batten fell from.



Another batten still positioned to the underside of the roof



**Lesson Learned:**

The timber batten should have been nailed through the prop to prevent any chance of it falling. In addition the batten was unnecessarily long for the job.

**Action taken to prevent recurrence:**

The Scaffolders cut the batten down and shortened the other batten that was still in place before replacing them both and using a nail to prevent them from falling again.