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## Bloomfield Road Storage Tanks, Blackpool

### The problem

Inspect the concrete carrier beams supporting the roof slabs of two massive 40m deep and 40m diameter storm water storage tanks. In addition to being a confined space with a potentially explosive atmosphere, the carrier beams appeared to be all but inaccessible unless an extremely expensive scaffold structure was constructed.



Looking into the tank from carrier beam level

### The solution

Vertical Technology devised a totally original system essentially combining roped access methods with lightweight go-carts to enable their rope access team to reach all areas of the tank soffit.

The rope access system was rigged through the soffit slab via small diameter holes from the car park above and anchored to purpose made steel trestles on the outside.

The cross beams and soffit between the carrier beams were inspected from a purpose built man riding wheeled buggy that would fit between adjacent carrier beams but could not come out again until dismantled.

All bespoke access equipment was load tested to LOLER requirements and fall arrest backup systems provided.





A rescue plan was devised and rehearsed to ensure a swift evacuation from the tank whether suspended on a rope or in the buggy way out over the yawning void.



The client was initially sceptical at using such an alternative plan, but the potential cost savings were so vast over other potential access methods that they were prepared to give it a chance.

After exhaustive risk assessments were undertaken, to which Vertical Technology always had a solution, the plan was put into action.

The work was completed faster than Vertical Technology had anticipated and the client very happy.

