



› Case study

# Providing **safe sewage access** for multiple operators

COMPANY

Northumbrian Water

DATE

2022

LOCATION

UK

PRODUCT

**PORTAGANTRY**



Get in touch to find out how we can help with your lifting and lowering requirements:

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Northumbrian Water needed a high anchor point that could span the full width of the entry point to sewage transfer chambers and could provide a fall arrest and a rescue solution – they got in touch with a REID distributor for a solution.

**The background**

Northumbrian Water are responsible for cleaning and maintaining sewage transfer chambers and overflows within a confined space environment. These become regularly blocked with items such as; wet wipes and other debris that ends up in the drains.

The team requires regular access to the 10-meter-deep shafts to carry out the essential work to clear the blockages and remove large quantities of debris, thus preventing any overflow into the sea.

The locations that Northumbrian Water are required to access are commonly located in rural spots meaning that there is no space for a permanent or fixed lifting solution. The pre-existing sockets suitable for davit systems that were already onsite had been installed more than two decades ago and had never been tested or certified, meaning it would be unsuitable to use a davit in this scenario.

**The challenge**

Northumbrian Water needed a high anchor point solution that would be able to cover the full width of the sewage transfer chamber's entry point. The lifting device would not only need to provide a fall arrest solution, but a rescue solution as well, should the entrants become stuck when work is being carried out.

The team needed the ability to have 2 workers attached to the device whilst entering the chamber via a set of vertical ladders that have no pre-installed fall arrest systems, as well as one worker based at the top of the chamber attached for safety. The purpose of these jobs is to clear waste, so Northumbrian Water needed a solution that could recover a container full of waste via a rope system that wouldn't drop onto the workers below.

**The solution**

QAB systems supplied the company with a REID Lifting **PORTAGANTRY**, featuring a 3-meter beam, as well as a recoverable fall arrest device from IKAR. The **PORTAGANTRY** provided an overhead anchor point that was suitable for up to 5 people, as a fall protection application.

The lifting operation was tailored to fit the company's specific requirements, using a unique 33ltr lifting bag equipped with a self-locking pulley system to lift waste and wet wipes from below ground. By being able to lift up to 5000kg, the **PORTAGANTRY** was an excellent solution and was able to lift the waste out of the chambers without a hitch.

**The feedback**

A representative from the company stated that:

"REID Lifting's gantry system provided a safe access and rescue solution. Coupled with it's versatility to be used at various sites without the requirement of recertifying outdated davit post holes, made the operation extremely efficient and easy." - Northumbrian Water.