

Prefabrication - Building the London Eye

The Problem/Challenge

Falls from height, drowning and working next to the Thames.

The Solution

Early identification of the issues to the client and contractor to encourage off-site working where possible. Analysis of the river access and craneage capabilities of the site were essential to validate the decisions and locations of large modules.

Key Points

- Prefabrication reduces work at height
- Off-site fabrication in factory conditions offers more control and quality
- Heavy module lifting can be hazardous but requires less lifts
- Off-site fabrication can cause access and transportation issues
- Review the buildability and access issues with the contractor as early as possible
- Cost benefits may be possible as well as safety benefits
- Fall arrest with bots recovery strategy was used
- Prefabrication can be advantageous to CDM but is not always the answer.

Building the London eye was a real challenge and the result was a impressive structure which had great solutions to both engineering and safety problems.

