



Background

Based at RAF Coningsby, the flight is held in great affection by all those within the RAF as well as the general public who recognise and appreciate the aircraft icons of World War 2, namely the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster. Their role in the history of WW2 is well documented and their preservation and ability to continue to fly evokes great passion. This is both recognised and appreciated by the RAF who are determined to see these aircraft continue to fly, entertaining massive audiences at various displays around the world.



NATO stock number of BBMF WinGrip products 4240 99 5804196.

Problem

The wings of the Lancaster are approximately 4.5 m above the ground at their highest point, therefore necessitating some form of fall protection for on the wing access. Knowing the heritage of these magnificent planes meant that the 'Working at Height' Support Cell needed to find a non-penetrative solution that, whilst provide protection, would not damage the wings nor jeopardise their structure. As the planes were also often subject to "running repairs" at air shows, the team also needed a portable, quick solution.

Solution

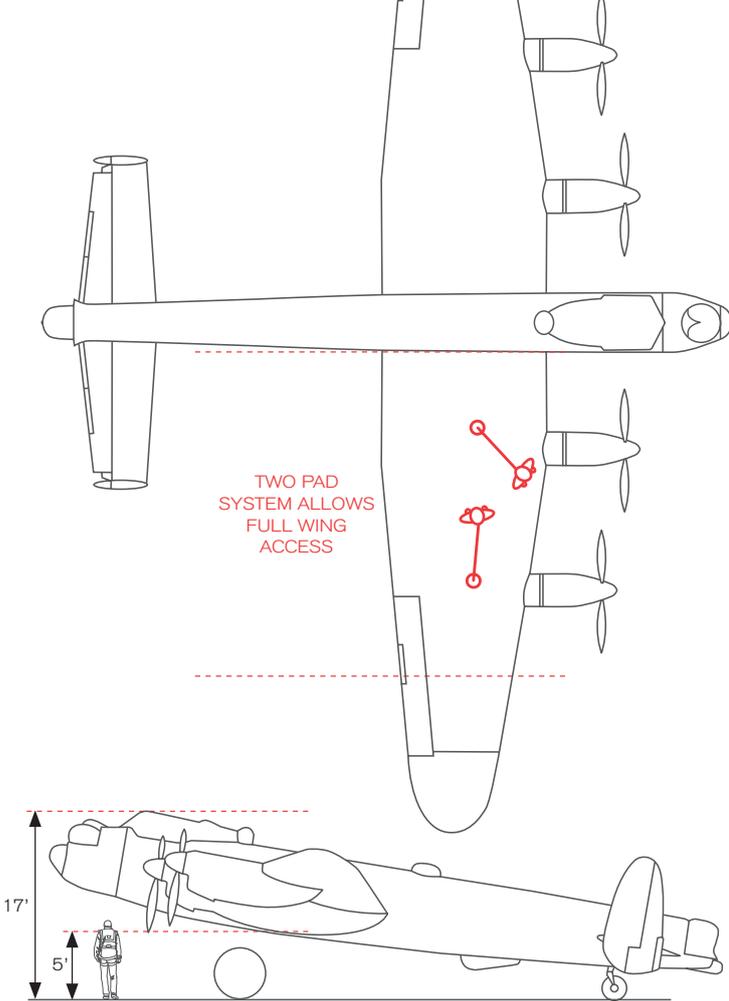
The requirement to provide a flexible, quick and easy to use safe access product was satisfied by Latchways WinGrip vacuum anchor pad. This operates either as a single or multi-pad system connected by coated cable allowing access for up to four workers on the system. With two pads placed on the wing, access to all the required areas ensures a quick and easy way of reaching the fuel tanks, wing inspections and engines. During the 'display season' the WinGrip system is carried on-board the aircraft, allowing quick and easy inspection, which need not be in the hanger as the system is self sustaining.

"We chose Wingrip after carefully assessing and comparing it in terms of value for money, through-life costs; fitness for purpose and overall quality. Wingrip came out top because it gave us the best value and best engineered solution. Compared with its rivals, it was the strongest all-round package and best answer to our needs. Wingrip is a truly tri-service facility. We've got this excellent kit, it meets all safety legislation, it's popular and it's readily available for all to use."

Mike Wilkinson,
Working at Height Cell, DE&S

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.





WinGrip® is a registered trademark of Latchways plc.

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