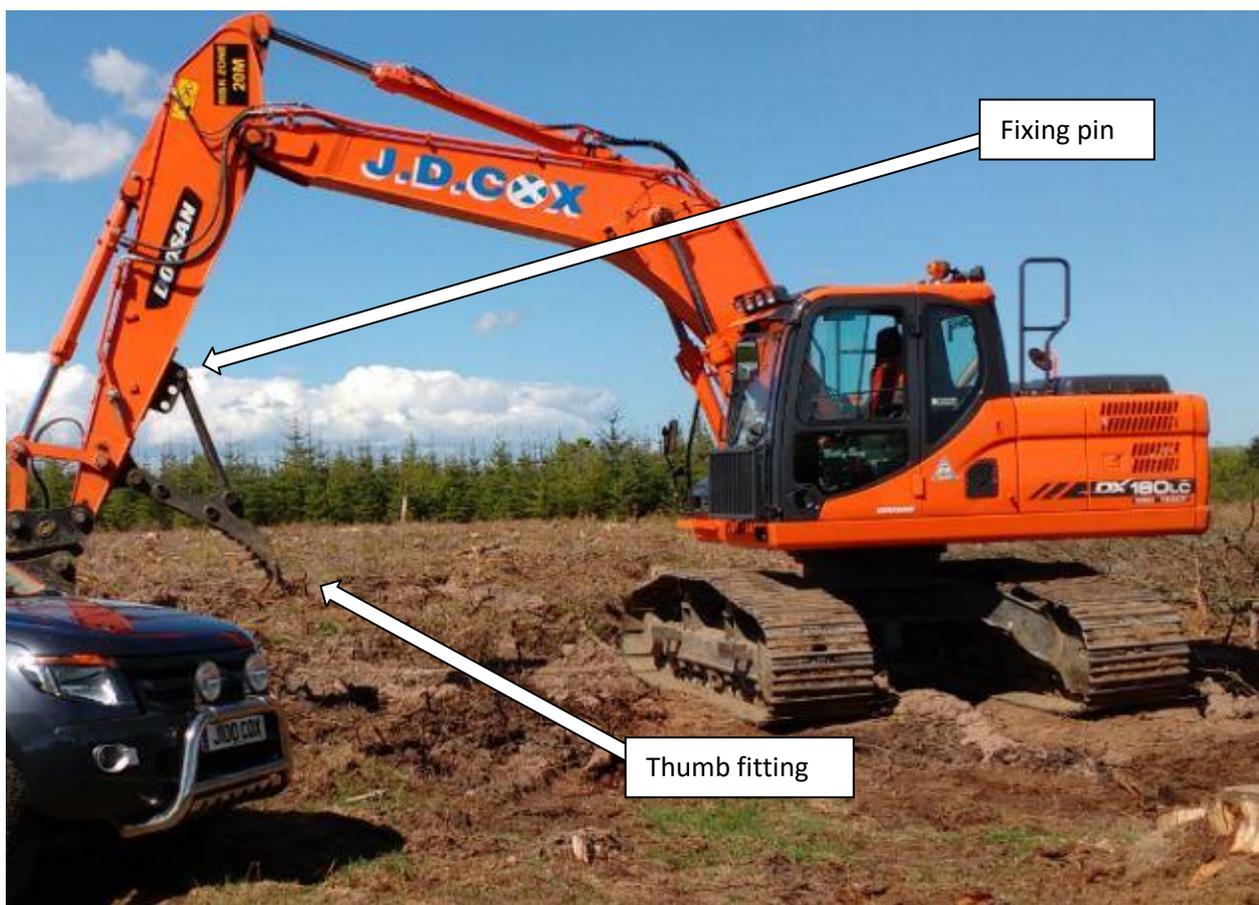


## Operator finger injury

A machine operator was fitting the 'thumb' attachment into place on the boom of his excavator. The 'thumb' attachment, combined with the bucket, allows the excavator to pick up and move brush as part of its restock mounding/ground preparation work



It was mid-December morning at first light, 7:30 – 8:00hrs.

The air temperature was estimated to be in the region of -10C.

The operator was driving the fixing pin into the housing on the main block holding the 'thumb fitting' in position.

The operator caught the third finger on his left hand with the edge of the hammer as he was driving the pin home.

He was wearing heavy leather gloves.



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His damaged finger had a large laceration and was difficult to move.

The worksite first aider applied first aid.

As a precaution the injured operator was taken to the nearest accident and emergency unit where his finger was examined for bone and ligament damage.

Fortunately, no further damage had been sustained, the laceration was stitched, and the operator was able to return to work.



The operator is of the opinion that his heavy leather gloves greatly reduced the extent of the injury he received. The extremely cold temperature reduced his ability to hold and work the tools.

We have a number of accidents reported to us this time of year, when weather conditions are extreme and daylight hours are short.

Understandably, operators look to maximise daylight time for productivity and sometimes push maintenance, servicing fuelling or mobilisation works, into the work times before or after daylight.

Undertaking these works in these extreme conditions is when our operators are most at risk. Please bear this in mind when planning out your working day.



What can be a simple task in full daylight, can become very different in the dark and when temperatures are at their lowest.

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