

Plant Collection: Using a Traffic Management Contractor

Version 1.0

Context

FAME H&S Notices are real-world examples of incidents, provided anonymously by FAME members, that highlight learning opportunities for the sector to improve our health and safety working. However, they are not designed to replace existing guidance.

Summary

Delivery of plant to a fieldwork site had been challenging for staff because of local road conditions. For the collection of the plant, a Traffic Management specialist was hired which proved considerably safer and more efficient.

The Issue

The original plan had been for an onsite delivery, but the low-loader driver felt the gate access was too narrow (image). So, an on-road delivery was undertaken. The site entrance was in a 30mph stretch of road, but the road climbs a short hill into a national speed limit stretch that runs down to the local general hospital.



Some of the field archaeologists are trained Plant Marshals but on this busy road they felt unprepared and, in some cases, fearful. Whilst the delivery was completed successfully, staff felt it was a high-risk situation.

When a member of the OHS (Occupational Health and Safety) team visited site a couple of days later the situation was discussed.

The Solution

The project manager agreed that expert help would be needed for the collection. Our plant supplier for this job did not have the expertise. So, with the help of a senior logistics officer, a specialist traffic management company was brought in.

The traffic management company made this process much easier and safer. They set up warning signs on both sides of the road as well as their vehicles with flashing beacons to warn traffic. The two traffic marshals had 'Stop' and 'Go' boards and radios to control the flow of traffic safely whilst the low-loader blocked one side of the carriageway.

The Outcome

The PO said,

“ ...heart rate was much lower than normal for the collection on a main road. I'm aware of the extra cost and organisation that must be involved in getting traffic marshals, but it is definitely worth it for projects where access is difficult or the low-loader can't get off the highway. ”

Key Reminders

- Plant Marshall training is aimed at work on-site not on roads. We are not trained traffic marshals.
- We do not have the expertise to design and deliver on road traffic management.
- Many of our plant suppliers do have this expertise.
- In any situation staff feel uncomfortable in respect of safety you can, and should, raise it with your project manager.