

Walkover Surveys in Hot Weather

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.

The Incidents

During recent hot weather a archaeologist got into difficulty while conducting a walkover survey. They had not taken into account the distance to be walked (including steep inclines) and were unable to carry enough water to maintain hydration. Fortunately they became aware of the situation and were able to take action and prevent their condition becoming more serious.

Key Take Aways

- When conducting walkover surveys always plan the route taking into account the distance to be traveled, as well as any gradients and the environmental conditions, including the geology/landscape and weather.
- Ensure you/your staff carry as much water/food as you are able to do safety and plan breaks.
- Ensure you/your staff have suitable footwear and clothing as well as any PPE that may be required.
- Make sure you/your staff maintain regular contact with another colleague and that this has been planned in advance.

Resources

HSE's (UK) Sun Protection Advice for Outdoor Workers

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg337.pdf>

Heat stress in the workplace: A brief guide

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg451.htm>

HAS (Republic of Ireland) does not currently provide guidance on hot weather working