

MARLOW ARCHAEOLOGY

Brief guide to fieldwork health and safety

1. We shall properly control all the risks to your health and safety on site and you have a right to be consulted on such matters. On arrival you must sign in and report to the site supervisor. Communicate any health problems you may have that might affect, or be affected by, work on site. You should be told about the availability of toilet and washing facilities and drinking water.
2. We hold a basic first aid kit on site. You must pay attention to your own health and safety and that of others, who may be affected by what you do, or do not do. Any health and safety incidents or accidents must be reported to the site supervisor. You are entitled to raise any health and safety issues or concerns.
3. As someone involved in fieldwork, you must be protected against tetanus and take proper precautions when coming into contact with the soil. Also you must take precautions against contracting Weil's disease when working close to water, and tick bites (which can carry Lyme disease) when in long grass or undergrowth.
4. Your clothing and footwear should be suitable for the site and current or likely weather conditions. Take safe cover (not under trees) during storms. Bring food and liquid plus any health products that you might need. Anyone who appears to be under the influence of intoxicating or similar substances will not take part in fieldwork.
5. You should be aware of any inherent dangers associated with a site. These include deep water, road traffic, farm or domestic animals, agricultural vehicles or machinery, electrical equipment or plant, insects and vegetation. A site risk assessment will account for these, but in these circumstances it is essential that you take care and proper precautions. You can stop working and leave the area if you think you are in danger.
6. The safe use of equipment and material is vital. Follow training you have received when using any work items. Use and store tools correctly so that they do not present a danger to you or others on site. Lift or move materials carefully to avoid physical injury. Always seek assistance or stop if an activity becomes unsafe or difficult in any way. Do not interfere with, or misuse, with anything provided for your health, safety or welfare.
7. Take measures during excavation to avoid face collapse, and people, equipment or material falling into the excavation. Do not stand on the edge of the excavation and keep tools, material and spoil away from it. Use tools correctly and wear a hard hat where the depth exceeds 1.5 metres.
8. We permit lone working on sites only in special cases and allowed by the site supervisor whose rules must be followed.
9. Members of the public in the vicinity should be made aware of any hazards associated with fieldwork. Retreat from any aggressive behaviour.
10. This basic guide does not supplant the full Fieldwork Health and Safety Guidelines of Marlow Archaeology, the requirements of which prevail and take precedence.
11. See also other Basic Guides