Background information

On the 20th May 2019 whilst undertaking fill and compacting operations on a bridge wing wall on the A14 project in Cambridgeshire - a 12 tonne Bomag BW216 drum roller partially slid approximately two metres down the sloped sand bank of the wing wall and remained in its upright position. Works in the area ceased and the area was made safe.

No injuries occurred as a result of the incident. Post incident drug and alcohol testing was undertaken by those involved with negative results.

Root cause(s)

- The procedure states that the slope/batter must be overfilled by 500mm, this by nature would create a bund and keep the machine away from the slope / batter edge. This was not completed.
- The supervisor had responsibility for supervising 20 no machines operating over a 400-metre area. This was considered inadequate for the levels of supervision required for individual tasks.
- The task risk assessment states in the control measures that a minimum distance of 0.5 metres must kept from the slope / edge when rolling. This was not adhered to.

Remedial Controls

- The incident was briefed out to the teams with immediate failures identified. All raised access egress areas must comply with the Project Directors mandate for bunding.
- Review of Supervision levels was completed.
- Bunds were constructed in all other areas where raised bunds were required.