

8.2 Restoration of Dry Stone Walls

Definition: dry stonewalls are an important component of the landscape. While many dry stonewalls have been well maintained and remain effective stockproof barriers, others are now in need of rebuilding.

Aim: to maintain the structure, landscape patterns and biodiversity of field boundaries in the countryside through the implementation of a 5-year field boundary management plan through the restoration of dry stone walls.

Management requirements:

- The removal of dry stonewalls is not permitted unless approved in writing by DARD.
- All stonewall restoration regeneration must follow the exact line and contours of the original field boundary.
- Dry stonewalls must be built in accordance with the best standards, traditions and designs of the district and to a standard judged acceptable by DARD.
- Rebuilt walls must not exceed the traditional height for such features in the locality (unless the agreement of DARD is obtained in writing). Wall height must not exceed 1.5 metres (5 feet) measured from ground level.
- Land reclamation to obtain stone is not permitted.
- Stones used for restoring dry stonewalls must be sourced from within the farm.
- Fencing along or on top of stonewalls may be permitted to help maintain the restored wall.

Further advice

Small gaps in dry stonewalls should be repaired as soon as they develop.

Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)

Note: Consent must be obtained from the Environment & Heritage Service (EHS), Department of the Environment before any works are carried out within or along an ASSI boundary. The EHS contact telephone number for further information is 028 9054 6595.

Management plans are provided for participants in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Management Schemes

