

An Introduction to Dry Stone Walling



Scottish Charity SCO 39439

Beginners Guide to West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Training Weekend

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Stone Walling Association 2010

Introduction

This guide is aimed at novice wallers who are about to attend one of the West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association beginners courses.

In the guide we will introduce you to some of the terms that will be used during the course and the techniques that will be taught.

During the course you will be given the opportunity to practise these walling techniques under the expert guidance of our qualified training staff

Please note that this guide is intended as a background to our dry stone walling course only.

The only way to truly learn and understand dry stone walling is by attending one of our courses

The Course

The courses are run over a weekend with a maximum of 20 people. You will strip and layout an existing wall, and then rebuild the wall. You will be assigned a place on the wall which you will build from foundation to top coping stone.



Dry Stone walling is a very collaborative process, you will be working with the person opposite you and on either side of the wall.

You will need to work together to ensure all you work fits together into a well built and secure wall

Dry Stone walling is not a competitive sport !

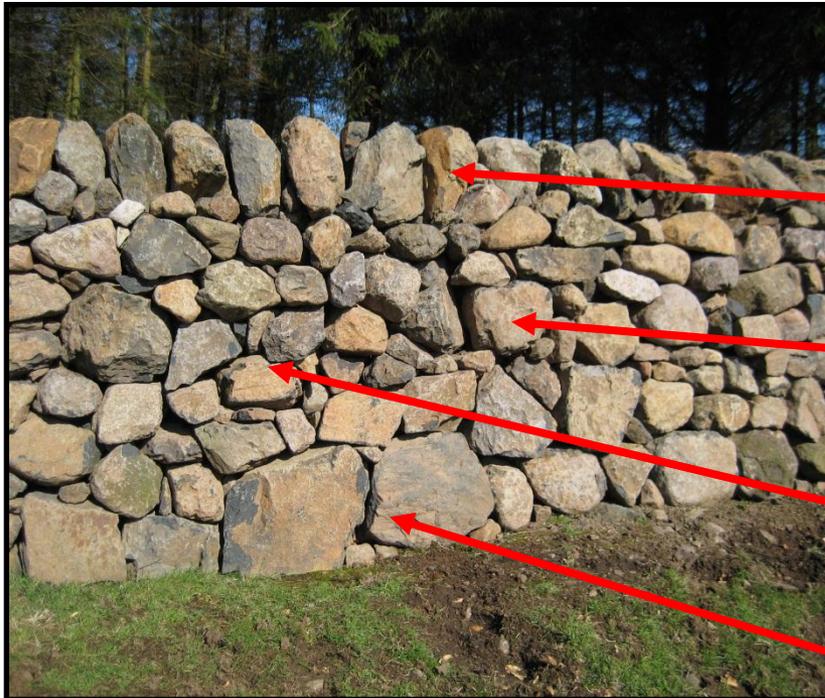
If stone is too heavy – ask for help from your fellow wallers

If you are not sure – ask for advice from us, we are here to help

If you get tired – take a break and look at what you have achieved

Dry Stone Wall Construction

Let's Start by understanding the terms we will be using during the course
– these describe the various types of stone used to build a dry stone wall



Hearing Stones

You can't see them in the picture, as they are small but essential packing stones in the middle of the wall

Cope Stones

Rounded Stones which are placed on end on the top of the wall, to hold the wall together

Through Stones

Long stones placed at regular intervals which cover the full width of the wall, to hold the wall together

Building Stones

Large stones with the face to the outside of the wall and the length pointing into the wall

Foundation Stones

The largest and heaviest stones which provide stability to the wall

Dry Stone Wall Build

The training walls are 1.4M high, 70cm wide at the base and 35cm wide at the top – the general rule is the width at the top of the wall is half the width at the base



Site Set Up

Metal pins set at regular intervals which are angled inwards to give the profile of the wall - This is called the **Batter**

Marking string is run the length of the pins as a guide to ensure the stones follow the inward profile of the wall.

The stones are placed level with the string to give a straight line profile of the stones along the wall – This is called **Coursing**

Foundation Stones

The foundation stones are large heavy stones which provide stability to the rest of the wall



The foundation stones are placed directly on the ground.

The stones are aligned with the marking string to give a straight profile to the wall

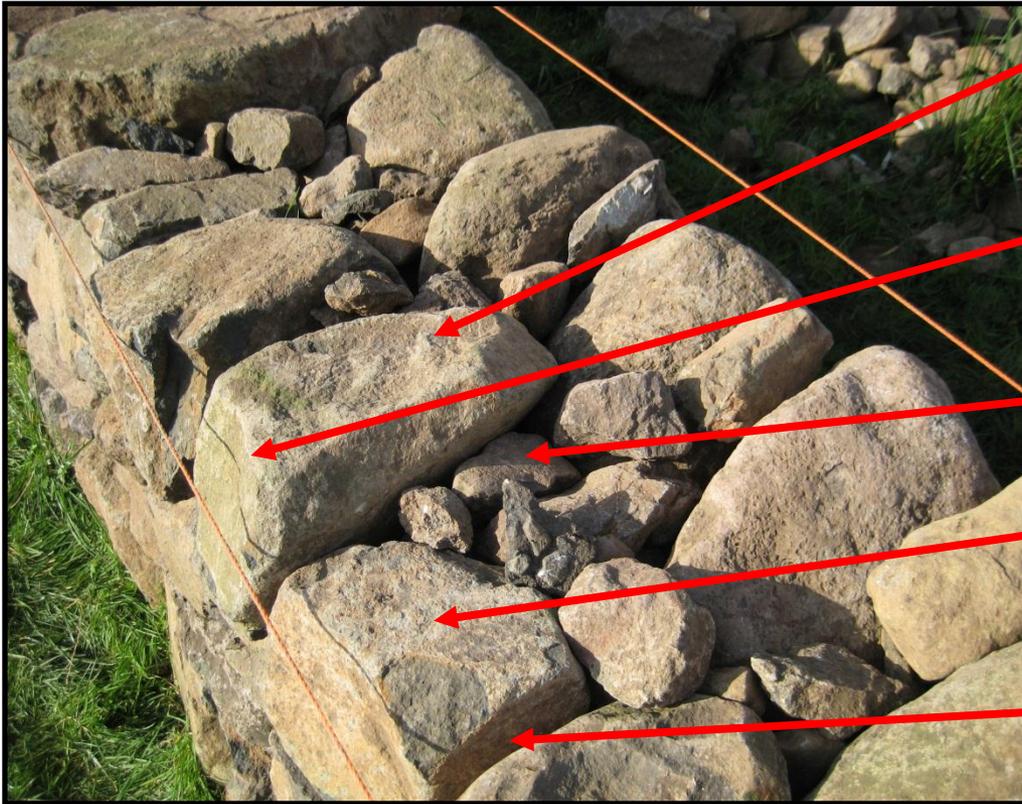
The foundation stones are **Pinned** with smaller stones to secure them

The flat **Face** of the stone is placed to the outside of the wall

You should be able to walk on a well built foundation with no movement of the stones.

Building Stones

The wall has two outer faces of building stones which are built in level courses, with an inner hearting of smaller stones



Building stones are placed with the short face outwards and the length inwards

The face of the building stone is placed so that it matches the inward batter of the wall

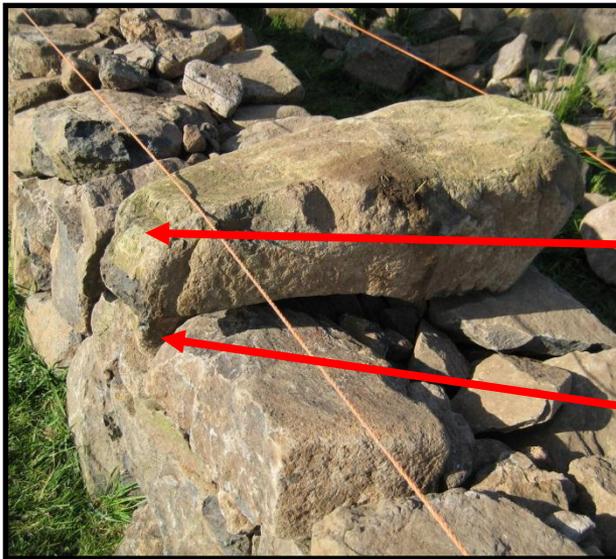
The inner wall is carefully packed with smaller hearting stones

The top of the building stones is level to provide a stable base for the next course of stones

The building stones are packed tightly next to each

Through Stones

Through stones are large long stones placed half way up the wall at about 1 metre intervals. They bind the wall together at each face and are essential to provide strength to the wall.



Through Stone

Placed so that it covers both sides of the wall

Some walling styles have the through stones protruding at each side of the wall

Through stone should cover any joints in the wall below

Coping Stones

Coping Stones finish the wall off and provide protection to the rest of the wall below from the elements and animals. It is important to ensure the stones are placed so that they show an even profile at the top and are well secured with smaller pinning stones



Coping Stones

Rounded stones placed on end on the top of the wall well secured with pinning stones

It is essential that the top of the coping stones are even with each other to finish the wall off

