

# TOOLBOX TALK

## 36. DRY STONE WALLING

### What?



- Dry stone walls are made without mortar or cement and are a traditional countryside feature of land boundaries.
- They are made from limestone, sandstone, slate, granite and other types of stone. Styles vary and great skill is required to fit the stones together neatly.
- Dry stone walling techniques were used as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> century AD, in Peru, by the Incas.
- If it's built right, a dry stone wall can stand for hundreds of years.

### Why?

- It is estimated there are over 120,000 miles of dry stone field walls in the UK, but only 13% of these are in good condition.
- A well laid dry stone wall is not just a thing of beauty; it is also an important wildlife habitat, providing shelter and nesting sites for birds, insects, small mammals and plants.
- Dry stone walls are usually built from local stone, which is better for the environment as energy isn't wasted transporting heavy building materials over long distances.



### Do ✓

- ✓ Check the site for any dangers
- ✓ Store materials safely in the minibus when transporting and clamp them into place
- ✓ Use appropriate moving and handling techniques for moving heavy stone
- ✓ Wear gloves with a good grip
- ✓ Wear eye protection if using walling hammers
- ✓ Keep a tidy work space to prevent tripping up
- ✓ Take regular breaks
- ✓ Collect and count tools in at the end of the activity

### Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't wear a glove on the hand with a swinging tool e.g. walling hammer
- ✗ Don't leave tools on top of the wall



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