

# The Story of a Wall

1



Coping Stones

The first job when repairing a section of wall is to recover as much of the original stone as possible, and then sort it and stack it to ensure a safe working area.

The piles of stones in the foreground have been sorted by size to make selection of stones easier.

The **Coping Stones** which go on top of the wall have been carefully placed out of reach so they are not used lower in the wall.

2



After sorting the stones and levelling off, the lines are put in and work begins on creating a firm level foundation. Sometimes this means digging a shallow trench as a starting point.

3



Larger stones (usually the big ugly ones!) are used to make the foundation. (Sheep pretending not to notice!)

4



hearting

With a lot of hard work, a sound base is created (note use of small stones - **hearting** or filler) to fill gaps and create a strong wall



5

Through Stone

Every metre or so, a large stone which spans the wall from one side to another is used. This stone is known as a **Through Stone**.

Through Stones give the wall stability as they help tie the wall together.



6

When laying the stones, it is vital to ensure that the joints are staggered. If the joints line up vertically over several courses, this will introduce a weak point in the wall and this could cause it to collapse

7



Coping Stone

Once the required height is achieved, the top of the wall is levelled off using flat stones and hearting ensuring good base for the **Coping Stones**. When repairing a section of wall (as in this case), a line is used to ensure the tops of the coping stones are level with the original height of the wall..

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Coping Stones may have straight or curved tops, depending on the style of wall. In this case they have a 'pointed' top and a flat bottom. This is because they have been shaped. It is important when repairing a wall to keep all of the original coping stones back so as not to use them in the body of the wall.

The coping stones are either placed vertically, or leaning slightly depending on the style of the wall





Here is the completed section of wall. This is the front elevation facing the road. It is important that the 'public-facing' side of the wall looks good. The coping stones are level. The joints are staggered for strength. This wall separates a stock field from the road.

This wall can be viewed at map reference **SK 23618386 (OS Map OL1 The Dark Peak)** near Hollin Bank car park below Stanage Edge, Derbyshire.

*Thanks to the 'Peaky Wallers' (Dronfield and District U3A Dry Stone Walling Group), and to Peak District National Park Rangers Tom Lewis and Terry Page.*