

2026 - 2 Day Introduction to Dry Stone Walling - Course Information

Dates: Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th April, 9th & 10th May, 20th & 21st June, 15th & 16th August, 19th & 20th September, 17th & 18th October.

Level: Beginners and Improvers.

Venue: Hoylandswaine, Barnsley or Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton.

Cost: £120 Branch and National DSWA open membership is available for £45, which includes a dry stone walling DVD worth £12. This will enable you to participate in all branch activities and develop your walling skills further.

During a training course you will:

- Learn the basic principles of dry stone walling
- Contribute to the conservation of our valuable local dry stone walls
- Enjoy working in the countryside in a structured but informal atmosphere
- Be taught by accredited DSWA instructors and members of the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain

Our training courses offer structured tuition for men, women and young people in an informal atmosphere. All the instructors hold the DSWA Instructor's Certificate and are members of the Association. At the beginning of the course you will meet your instructor and any assistants at an introductory welcome and briefing. The course teaches the basic principles of dry stone walling, which will involve taking down ('stripping out') a derelict or damaged section of wall and rebuilding it to DSWA standards. You can work at your own pace and not under pressure.

These courses are open to anyone from teens to 80+, provided they are reasonably fit and well. Serious injuries in walling are rare, but care is needed when handling and working with stones to avoid back, hand, feet and eye injuries. Safety instruction and guidance will be given by the instructor.

All training courses have public liability insurance to cover course members for injury and third party risks.

Course participants should arrange their own personal insurance if they feel this is relevant.

The courses run from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, unless stated otherwise in the course information.

Please bring a packed lunch and hot or cold drinks and it is a good idea to bring a hat, sun block and plenty of drinking water in hot weather.

There are toilet facilities near the walling site.

Course information, a map giving directions and parking details will be sent to you upon receipt of a completed application form and payment. During the course you may be working away from the car park and consequently you are advised to keep your valuables with you.

Clothing

Appropriate clothing and protection will help you enjoy the event more. In addition to a robust jacket and over-trousers (for colder weather), layers of working clothes suitable for all weathers are recommended to protect against any dusty, muddy or wet conditions.

Many people, including professional wallers, find kneepads or a garden kneeler, a sensible form of protection (These can be purchased on site).

Strong, protective gloves are essential. PVC types are good for wet conditions (some people like to wear a thin lining glove inside). Thin cotton or suede gardening gloves will not last or give sufficient protection for stone work.

Footwear

Shoes or boots, ideally with reinforced toecaps for added protection.

If your footwear doesn't have reinforced toecaps, wear the most robust protective footwear you possess with some thick socks.

Other Recommended Protective Items

It is recommended that protective safety glasses (provided for the duration of the course) be worn whenever walling hammers are used.

A personal First Aid kit including antiseptic wipes and plasters is useful. However, we maintain our own First Aid Kit for use on the course

All other tools and equipment will be provided for course members. If you wish to bring some of your own tools (see list below) it is recommended that you mark them with coloured, weatherproof tape:

- A walling hammer - not necessary at some events, but available from the Branch
- A strong bucket for your 'hearting' stones (preferably rubber)
- A retractable steel tape measure
- A mattock and/or spade and/or shovel

The courses normally take place whatever the weather. However, if snow or severe frost is forecast, please check in advance with organisers.

Covid-19 Protection

For everyone's safety, our courses will be run in line with the Covid-19 requirements and guidelines which are in force at the time of training: such as social distancing, wearing of face masks etc. Detailed and up-to-date guidance will be provided by course instructors on the day. In addition, we have a good supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for Covid protection.

For further information on our courses please contact Gary Helliwell on 07716 999679 (email: garyhelliwell@live.co.uk)

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Name(s) of people	Age (if under 18)	Date	Training Site
Name of person to receive course details			Hoylandswaine
Address			
Telephone (in case of late changes to course)			
E-mail address			
Total payment being sent (£120 per person)			
OR Voucher number (pre-paid vouchers only)			

Please return completed form with payment (cheques payable to 'Dry Stone Walling Association South') to:

**Gary Helliwell
24 Skinpit Lane
Hoylands Swaine
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S36 7JY**

Booking confirmation, course details, advice on what to bring, and a map showing how to get the site will be sent to you on receipt of completed booking form and payment.

Disclaimer: Whilst DSWA South Yorkshire make every effort to run courses as advertised, we reserve the right to change the dates or venue of our courses. We reserve the right to cancel a course up to the date of the course if insufficient bookings have been received, or if warranted by events beyond our control (e.g. epidemics). Students who had registered and paid to attend a cancelled course will be given the option of a full refund or of rescheduling to a future course date, but DSWA South Yorkshire disclaim any further liability.