

## RECONSTRUCTED STONE WALL

Dry stone walls contribute significantly to the municipal landscape character, are an important historic attribute and provide a range of habitat opportunities for insects, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Furthermore, stone walls often create particular micro-climates favourable to indigenous plant communities and native flora including lichens and mosses. As a consequence, Council generally aims to retain and protect stone walls within the municipality where possible.

### Disturbance to Dry Stone Walls

Prior to commencing works in proximity to a dry stone wall or disturbing a wall in any manner, a stone wall management plan must be prepared by a suitable qualified and experienced heritage consultant and submitted to Council for approval. Generally, stone wall management plans must:

- Show stone walls or portions of stone walls to be removed.
- Show stone walls or portions of stone walls to be retained in situ.
- Show stone walls or portions of stone walls to be retained, repaired and/or reconstructed.
- Where relevant, identify the use of any surplus stone from stone walls not being retained.
- Include a specification describing the process for protection, dismantling and/or reconstruction of all stone walls.

Where necessary, stone management plans will be referred to external authorities including Heritage Victoria.

### Stone Walls and Paths

Where a path is required to dissect an existing stone wall (refer to **SDL.9.03**), the treatment shall comprise:

- The removal of a portion of the wall to accommodate the width of the path plus an offset distance of 600mm between the edge of the path and edge of the wall (on all sides).
- The reconstruction of a portion of the wall for a distance of 3000mm on both sides of the path.
- Existing portions of the original dry stone wall made good (replacement of loose and fallen stone etc).

The intent of these requirements is to minimise risk management issues (ie ensure loose stones do not fall onto adjacent pedestrian and cycle paths) and to minimise maintenance obligations.

Furthermore, the treatment has been designed to minimise both accidental and deliberate damage to the most vulnerable and easily accessible portions of the wall.

### **Reconstructed Walls**

Generally, sections of the reconstructed stone wall on either side of the path shall:

- Match the style and the form of the existing wall (height, width and profile including capping stones) and shall be built using the original stone removed during demolition.
- Be constructed to ensure the stone is fixed in place with coloured mortar to match the natural tones of the of the weathered field basalt floaters. All mortar joints shall be inconspicuous and deeply raked (40mm minimum).
- Generally comprise a random bond pattern with larger stones being located towards the bottom of the wall and smaller stones being located along the top of the wall.
- Include a footing comprising a 100mm concrete base (no reinforcement) laid on a 50mm bed of Class 2 (20mm) crushed rock. The finished ground surface shall be graded away from the wall and shall conceal the base and footing.

### **Stone, Rock and Boulders**

As a minimum requirement stone, rock and boulders shall:

- Be sound and free from defects that may affect strength, appearance and durability. Stone with cut and broken faces or undesirable markings shall not be incorporated into finished surfaces.
- Be of an appropriate colour and quality to ensure a uniform finish (ie ensure the variation in colour and texture are distributed throughout the finished surface to avoid concentrations of similar variations and colours).
- Be installed level and embedded to ensure that the stone is stable and free of movement.

### **Planting Adjacent to the Original Section of Stone Wall**

To discourage direct access to original sections of dry stone wall, a dense vegetation buffer shall be installed to minimise both intentional and unintentional damage and disturbance to the wall (refer to **SDL.9.04**). Buffer planting shall:

- Be a minimum of 2.5 metres in width and generally comprise a density of 5 plants per square metre supplied in tube containers (dense plant out rate).
- Comprise robust plant species of a height and form that will not restrict views towards or conceal the stone wall. Plantings shall compliment and frame adjacent walls and not detract from the visual amenity and character of the wall.

- Specify plant species that have a growth characteristic that will not adversely impact the structural integrity of the adjacent wall.

**NOTE: All stonework shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced stone mason or landscape contractor.**