



## BENEFITS OF A DRY STONE WALL

- **Aesthetics** i.e. dry stone walls are more attractive than mortared. The negative spaces between the stones in a dry stone wall add depth to the wall and allow the light to cast shadows across the stone throughout the day. A dry stone wall shows off the natural shapes of the stone.
- **Flexibility** i.e. dry stone walls (when built well) are very flexible and can accommodate a lot of movement before failure.
- **Easy to maintain** i.e. repair and maintenance of dry stone walls is more straightforward than other wall types that use mortar.
- **100% recyclable** i.e. Dry stone walls are fully recyclable and are easily dismantled.
- **Green** i.e. Dry Stone Walls are the greenest way to build using stone in that they use not CO2 producing mortars nor require any concrete foundations or block work to back them up.
- **Compliment the landscape** i.e. Dry Stone walls (built with local stone) blend well with the landscape and are environmentally friendly.
- **Heritage Craft Maintained** i.e. building dry stone walls continues a tradition that possibly goes back over 6000 years in Ireland (eg. Ceide Fields). Building dry stone walls is part of our heritage and it makes us who we are. By building a dry stone wall you help to keep a dying craft alive.
- **One trade needed** i.e. a dry stone wall can be built entirely by the one skilled craftsperson. There is no need for a machine operator, a cement lorry, a block layer and a stonemason.
- **Less materials needed** i.e. only stone required to build dry stone walls. They do use more stone than mortared walls but they do not need anything other than stone to be constructed.
- **Durability** i.e. if well maintained dry stone walls can outlast mortared walls because of their ability to drain of moisture freely. Not retaining moisture (particularly in an Irish climate during Winter) means no risk of damage to the wall from frost through expansion of frost within and between the mortar joints. Dry stone walls are also not as vulnerable to frost heave from below when built well.