



Yorkshire Dry Stone Walling Guild

Test Specification and Application form – Master Waller Certificate

The Master Waller Certificate is highest qualification within the Guild. All work subjected for examination and certification must be the unaided work of the candidate and will be inspected by two independent examiners (YDSWG Master Wallers). It is a requirement that the Advanced Certificate must be obtained in advance of the Master Waller Certificate.

A prospective Master Waller will not only have a sound technical knowledge of the craft of building dry stone walls including special features, but will have a sound knowledge of the theory and history of dry stone walls.

The candidate will be expected to answer random questions from a detailed questionnaire during part two of the test.

The candidate must also demonstrate to the examiner that he or she is aware of current health and safety legislation, including risk assessment, by producing a written Risk Assessment of the site chosen for Part two prior to starting work.

The examination consists of two parts

Part 1: Examination of walls built by the candidate during the previous two years

It is envisaged that the examiners will be given the opportunity to inspect a minimum of two lengths of wall built by the candidate, which will be in excess of ten metres. A written statement needs to be obtained from the land owner that this work is the unaided work of the candidate. The candidate should be present.

It is expected that these walls will be within reasonable travelling distance (ie 50 miles). Greater distances will necessitate an additional charge.

It is a requirement of the examination that it must include at least one wall construction features to be available for inspection (these can include but not limited to; wall head, stile, arch, sheep creep, curved wall, right-angled corner etc). If not feature is included in the 10+ metre lengths then this could be elsewhere. This must not be the same feature that is performed in the timed test.

The marking scheme will be as follows:

| Task | Class/ Max Mark | Min Mark | Comments |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| Foundations | 10 | 7 | Large stones well set into the ground. Good stone to stone contact. No small building stones |
| Building | 25 | 20 | Stones graded well with larger stones lower in the wall. Good stone to stone contact. No front pinning. Stones set to true horizontal. Tight faces. No tracing stones (built leghth inwards). No lose stones |
| Throughs | 15 | 11 | Set evenly on both sides (or in keeping with existing). Not too high in the wall for the size. Well set onto the stones below with no daylight. Even high above the ground and evenly spaced. |
| Lines/Batter | 10 | 7 | No bulges or hollows. Even batter all the way up the wall & on both sides |
| Packing | 10 | 7 | Tight packing. No daylight |

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|----|--|
| Tops | 10 | 7 | Tight fitting. Good contact on both sides. Uniform depending on style. Even height. No mortar, minimal pinning |
| Landscape | 10 | 7 | Wall must have same style as surrounding walls and be built to blend in |
| Terrain | 5 | 0 | Easy to hard |
| Site | 5 | 4 | Clean and tidy |
| | 100 | 70 | |

Part Two: The candidate is required to strip down and build a 4 metre of wall of at least 1.25 metres tall to base of copes, including a feature not seen in part 1, within a 7.5 hour period (length can be reduced to 3 metres if height exceeds 1.5 metres)

It is anticipated that this part of the examination will take place at a Guild Practice Meet, or at a previously specified site and must be booked in advance (note the Guild training site at Fountains Abbey could be made available). The wall chosen for this part of the examination will be of an appropriate standard to present a reasonable challenge to the examinee. Other arrangements can be made but at an additional cost to be determined.

The marking scheme will be as follows:

| Task | Class/ Max Mark | Min Mark | Comments |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| Stripping out | 10 | 7.5 | Safe working gap maintained. Sufficient tops identified |
| Foundations | 15 | 12 | Large stones well set into the ground. Good stone to stone contact. No small building stones |
| Building | 15 | 12 | Stones graded well with larger stones lower in the wall. Good stone to stone contact. No front pinning. Stones set to true horizontal. Tight faces. No tracing stones (built length inwards). No loose stones |
| Packing | 10 | 7.5 | Tight packing. No daylight. Placed into wall & in between/under stones |
| Line and straightness | 10 | 7.5 | No bulges or hollows. No stones sticking out |
| Positioning of throughs | 10 | 7.5 | Set evenly on both sides (or in keeping with existing). Not too high in the wall for the size. Well set onto the stones below with no daylight. Even height above the ground and evenly spaced. |
| Batter | 10 | 7.5 | Even batter all the way up the wall & on both sides |
| Topstones and finish | 10 | 7.5 | Tight fitting. Good contact on both sides. Uniform depending on style. Even height. No mortar, minimal pinning |
| Wall Feature | 15 | 11 | Built to spec. Follows all the other rules for building/line/batter |
| | 115 | 87.5 | |

*Minimum marks must be achieved in all sections

Note if throughs are not present or available then the corresponding marks are discarded
The candidate must obtain the minimum marks in each section for both the site visit and the timed examination

Application for a test should be made on the attached form and submitted to the Secretary who will make the appropriate arrangements with the two examiners.

All applicants must provide their own tools and PPE for the timed test.

The Guild will only recognise any qualification gained as long as the person remains a member of The Guild

The cost of the examination (part 1 and 2) is £215. Payment can be split with part 1 being £120 and part 2 £95. Application for the test should be made to the Secretary.

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