

Mourne Wall Restoration Project

Project Update (30th June 2017)



Work gets underway

Work got underway as planned on NI Water's Mourne Wall Restoration Project in May 2017. Project team members from NI Water, GEDA Construction, RPS Consulting Engineers and Mourne Heritage Trust were joined by representatives from Newry, Mourne and Down Council, NI Environment Agency and the Historic Environment Division at the Department for Communities to launch this exciting four-year project.



First phase of work completed

Less than one month on from project start, the first section of repairs – incorporating a 2.5km long section of the wall between Slieve Loughshannagh and Slieve Meelbeg – were completed (see before and after pics below) and the second section involving repairs on Slieve Meelmore were well underway.



Mourne Wall on Slieve Loughshannagh before and after repair work

Traditional building methods

To date the work to repair the Mourne Wall has been carried out by local stonemasons from Thomas Rooney and Sons. So far no mechanical equipment has been employed with men walking the mountains daily and carrying out all repairs by hand. The stone needed for the repairs in the first two sections has been found lying adjacent to the wall and the team have been employing age-old construction methods such as using planks to roll the stones into place.



Struck by lightning

The team has just recently finished repairing a 20m collapse on Slieve Meelmore (see below) which it is believed was damaged by lightning some years ago.



Facts to date

- Approximately 1,000 man hours worked
- Around 530 capping stones lifting/rolled back into place
- 3.3km of wall across Slieve Loughshannagh, Slieve Meelbeg and Slieve Meelmore repaired
- Actual repairs equates to linear distance of 190m
- Longest single repair 20m collapse on Slieve Meelmore

