

Design Statement for the rebuilding of free-standing wall in the grounds of Cedar Lodge North Side, Steeple Aston, OX25 4SE.

Purpose

An existing section, 6.5metres long x 3.1metres high, stone wall is dangerously leaning to the east and requires dismantling and rebuilding.

Existing observations

The existing wall is leaning away from the prevalent west wind towards the east by as much as 400mm. The wall's southern end is connected to a small summerhouse, gaining some support with the stone walls but whose junction has failed with large cracks opening up in the summerhouse's flank wall. The wall has undergone several changes over its lifetime including formation of an opening to gain access into the adjacent paddock, installation of high gates (no longer in position), and an additional one metre of stonework in height. The wall is capped with a couple layers of stonessfield slate creasing tiles and topped with a right angled ridge piece.

The wall has the appearance of originally being of dry stone construction but several interventions over time have led to some of the joints being filled with mortar and areas of render to the west facing side. It is suspected that lean to buildings were added but no longer exist.

Proposal

To address the structural issues with the wall it is proposed to dismantle the wall, laying out the varying sizes of stone in separate piles, and constructing new concrete foundations. The pre sorted stone will be cleaned of all render and mortar before relaying, replicating the diminishing taper of stonework as it rises out of the ground to its capping with stone creasing.

It is proposed to replicate the length, height, and appearance of the existing wall, without the unnecessary face mortar bedding or the overlay of render. The amount of vertical taper will be increased to improve the walls stability. Lime mortar will be used in the reconstruction of the wall.