

**Roads Liaison Group**  
Research Project Proposal

<b>Project title</b>	Assessment of Dry Stone Retaining Walls
----------------------	---

<b>Sponsoring RLG Board</b>	Bridges Board
-----------------------------	---------------

<b>Why is this research needed?</b>	No standard exists for the assessment of dry stone walls that can be universally used by Highway Authorities. Substantial lengths of such walls exist across the UK without clear guidance on how they should be assessed. BD 34 Clause 3.1c states “that dry stone retaining walls providing structural support to a road shall be assessed”
<b>How will it be used? What are the key objectives and intended outcomes of the project?</b>	To provide advice to Engineers engaged on assessment work to cover the management of dry stone retaining walls including advice on the inspection, monitoring and maintenance of such walls. Strengthening techniques as distinct, from replacement, also to be considered.
<b>What are the project outputs? How will the project results be disseminated (website, report, seminar, code of practice)?</b>	Provision of a Best Practice Guide/COP for the assessment of Dry Stone Walls
<b>Cost estimate (£k excluding VAT)</b>	£60k
<b>Suggested start date</b>	March 2004
<b>Duration of project</b>	9 months

<b>What is the project scope? Applicable only to certain countries, authority types, or road types, for example?</b>	Initial literature review required. Best Practice Guide/COP will be applicable to all road classifications and available to OO’s and other Highway Authorities.
<b>Briefly set out the proposed project methodology</b>	Qualitative assessment criteria to be developed to assess the likelihood of such walls becoming unserviceable. Risk ranking matrix possible option.

<b>How does this proposal relate to previous research (including literature reviews)?</b>	Numerous pieces of Research in this area already carried out. Literature review essential aspect of proposal.
<b>Has this project been brought forward from a previous year? If so, what has changed?</b>	No
<b>Are there potential financial partners? Who? What proportion of the cost might they meet?</b>	No potential financial partners presently identified.
<b>Would this project be best managed by DfT or by another body? If not DfT, by whom?</b>	This project can be managed by a sub-group of the BOF
<b>If this project likely to justify single tender action? If so, which organisation?</b>	TRL have already done some work in this area and are best placed to be the Consultant on this project. Single action tender considered applicable in this case.
<b>Would this project benefit from OJEU notice or other open tender procurement? If so, how?</b>	There are no obvious benefits from OJEU notice

<b>Originating author</b>	Ronnie Wilson
<b>Address</b>	DRD(NI) Roads Service Agency Clarence Court 10-18 Adelaide Street Belfast BT2 8GB
<b>Phone</b>	028 90 540398
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:Ronnie.Wilson@drdni.gov.uk">Ronnie.Wilson@drdni.gov.uk</a>

<b>Board priority score</b>	
<b>RLG priority score</b>	