

Guarding to retaining structures in communal areas

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Question

Should guarding provided to retaining walls in communal areas be not readily climbable by children?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards 'Guarding and steps', clause 10.2.5 states guarding should be provided where structures are retaining land more than 600mm high to which people have access.
- NHBC Standards clause 10.2.5 goes on to say that the guarding should be at least 1100mm high, not readily climbable by children and a 100mm sphere should not be able to pass through any openings in the guarding.
- Technical Guidance 10.2/06 describes guarding requirements where the ground at the foot of a retaining structure slopes away.

Answer

In communal areas where structures retain land more than 600mm high to which people have access the difference in ground level should be guarded to prevent falling.

The reference to 'Garden areas' under NHBC Standards clause 10.2.5 applies to both private and communal areas. The guarding should therefore be at least 1100mm high, not readily climbable by children and a 100mm sphere should not be able to pass through any openings in the guarding.

Reference should be made to Technical Guidance 10.2/06 for guarding requirements where the ground at the foot of a retaining structure slopes away.