

**Pride in
the Job
Awards**



Best practice guide

Section 8

External works

Best practice guide

Our series of Best Practice Guides take you through what the Pride in the Job judges look for at each stage of construction and when considering the site manager's overall organisation and management skills.

The Pride in the Job marking sheet used by our judges has 43 marking lines split across 10 sections. The judges will give a score for each line – where there is no work to mark, that line will be left blank and no mark given. A mark of four indicates compliance with NHBC Standards. A mark of five indicates extra attention to detail over and above compliance standards. A mark of six would indicate that much of what the judges have seen cannot be improved upon. A mark less than four would indicate varying issues relating to workmanship and non-compliance with NHBC's Standards – the greater the issue or number of the same issue, the lower the mark. The final score will be all the marks awarded expressed as a percentage.

These Guides set out what the judges are looking for with clear hints and tips on the sort of practice that will lead to higher marks.

Clearly it is impossible in these short guides to cover every single point of construction – we try here to cover the main issues that are taken into account when considering a mark for each score line.

When looking at the photographs, consider each one in the context of the score line heading – don't be distracted by something else that isn't as good – that will be marked accordingly elsewhere.

Section 8 External works

Retaining walls and free-standing walls

Hard and soft landscaping

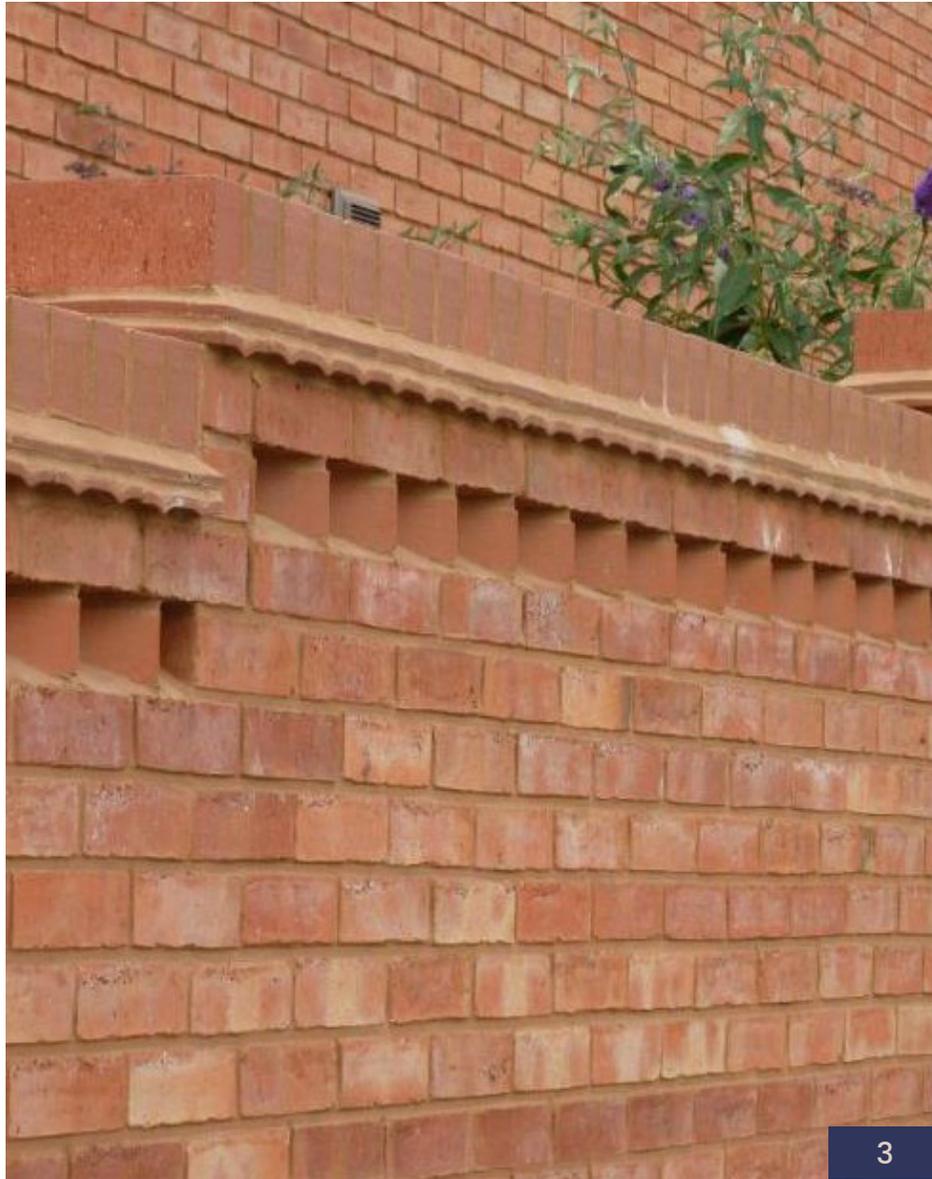
Section 8

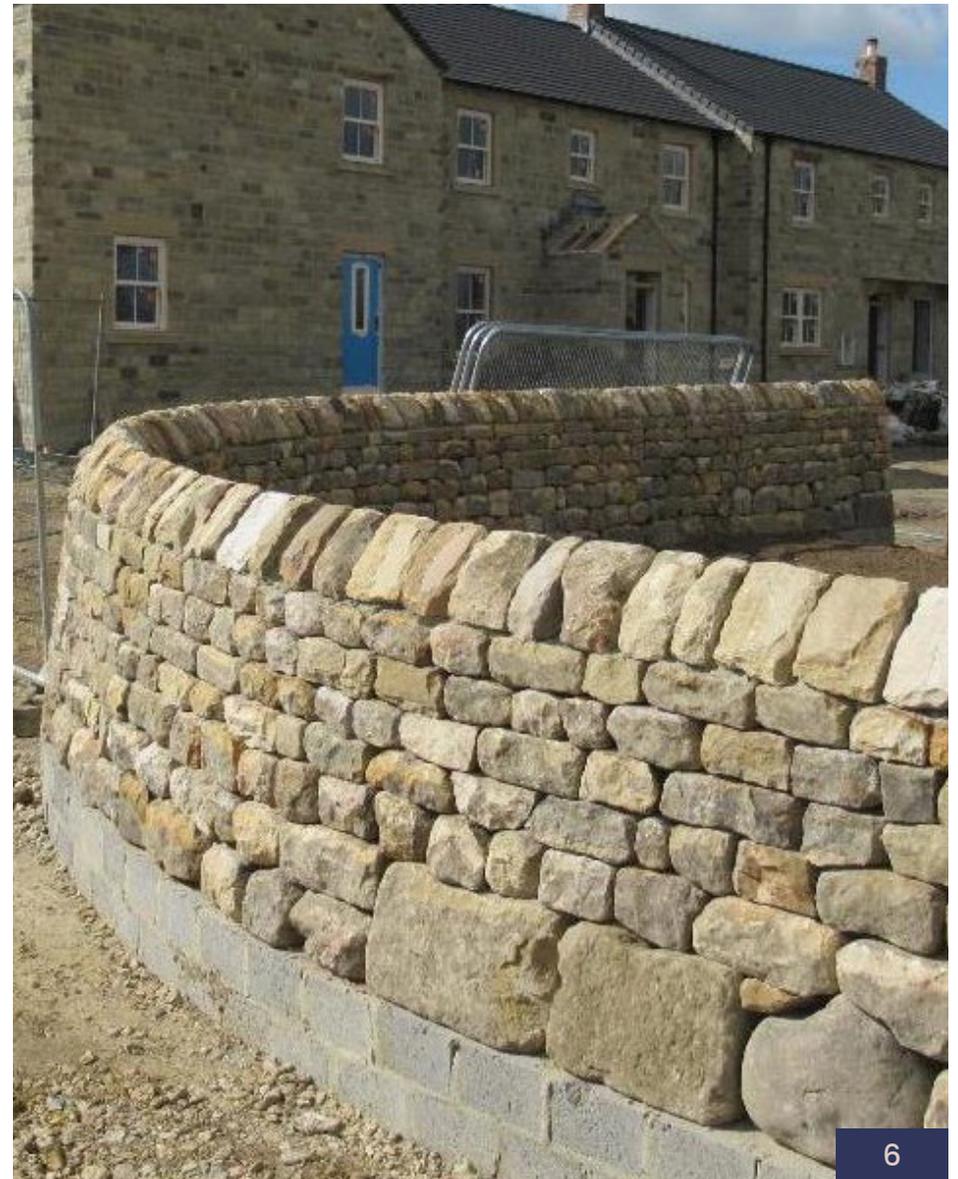
Retaining walls and free-standing walls

The external features set off a new home. Whatever specification is used, it must be well presented and have a positive effect on the overall aesthetic finish of the new property.

Pride – Quality and attention to detail of masonry work and wall cappings. Correct application and neatness of mastic coverings to movement joints. Care taken over the coursing and joints in curved masonry walls. Attractive crease tile or drip detail – ensuring that any movement joint also goes through the creasing or capping. Neatness and robustness of capping course end bricks.









Section 8

Hard and soft landscaping

The sub-base is included under this heading and should be in accordance with NHBC Standards 10.2. External handrails and balustrades will also be considered. The surface of drives and paths should be functional, yet have proper line and level, falls and accurate cutting to add to the attraction of the building.

Pride – Setting out and execution of surface finishes, consideration to other elements of the build, eg DPCs, thresholds and air bricks. Advanced thinking about Part M of the Building Regulations for ramps, steps and handrails. Neat planning of the positioning of inspection chambers and other service access covers – not half on and half off a footpath. Neat cutting of slabs or dressing of surface materials around access covers. Cleanliness and sharpness of finish.



7



8



9



10



**Pride in
the Job
Awards**

Good luck!

We hope you have found this best practice guide useful in gaining a better understanding of what the judges are looking for at each stage of construction.

Remember, the six characteristics the judges are looking for in a site manager are:

- consistency
- attention to detail
- technical expertise
- leadership
- interpretation
- health and safety.

We wish you all the very best in the Pride in the Job competition as you strive for your very first win or to repeat or even improve on your performance in previous years.

