The Saturday-to-Sunday Wall Plan

Assemble a beautiful, knee-high, gravity-held dry-stone border over a single weekend.

Confidently order the right material tonnages and avoid mid-project panic. Build a lasting retaining wall with exactly the right amount of stone, gravel, and lush thyme.



Key Build Specs

1 in 6
lean back batter angle

150 mm
compacted gravel foundation trench depth

30 mins
to sort stone by size

1 weekend
timeline for a knee-high border

The Stacking Sequence

1. **Biggest stones at base** Bed massive anchor stones directly into the gravel trench to establish an immovable foundation.
2. **Length into the wall** Place header stones with long ends running back into the backfill as deep anchors.
3. **Clean gravel backfill** Pack angular gravel tightly between structural stones and raw soil to prevent frost heave.
4. **Planting the thyme** Insert thyme plugs as you go, laying delicate roots completely flat on the stone.

Nourish the young roots

Mix a small handful of rich compost with the gravel directly behind each thyme plug to give the roots immediate nutrients and moisture.

Material Tonnages

Metres	Walling stone	Angular gravel	Creeping thyme
5	1 tonnes	1 tonnes	25 plugs
10	2 tonnes	1 tonnes	50 plugs
15	3 tonnes	1 tonnes	75 plugs
20	3 tonnes	1 tonnes	100 plugs

A slight surplus gives you plenty of choices for crucial face stones and tight joints.

Match Your Stone Style

Find your row: **Your sourced stone**

Your sourced stone	Your pick	Why
Sawn charcoal slate	Formal modern wall	Tightly fitted for tailored edges
Rough brown sandstone	Rustic field wall	Porous surface encourages natural moss
White painted stone	Mediterranean planter	Reflects sun and highlights foliage

Site & Structure Checks

- [ ] Double-check the entire trench length with a spirit level before building.
- [ ] Stage your wheelbarrow, lump hammer, and stakes within arm's reach.
- [ ] Step back frequently to verify the front profile remains smooth.
- [ ] Lay a long level across horizontal courses to prevent downhill sloping.
- [ ] Wedge tiny rock shards under wobbly pieces before pinning coping stones.

Project Notes & Sketches

Enjoy your spring mornings drinking coffee right on the coping stones of your beautiful new wall!