

Appendix 2: Steps, Slopes, Boardwalks and Bridges – Guide Sheets

2.2a:

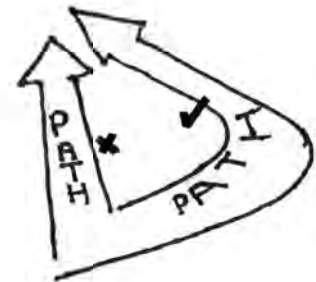
Stone Pitching: General points, first decisions, line of path, where to put it

On a very steep slope the surface material of a conventional path is pushed downhill by the feet of walkers. Also water can wash it down. In these cases pitching can provide a durable alternative.

However pitching uses a lot of stone. A lot of earth has to be dug out to make room for the stones – which then has to be disposed of. And pitching is less comfortable to walk on than a smooth surface.

So, when deciding to use it, consider:

Can you re-route the path to make the slope less steep, and reduce the need for pitching?



NEVER do sloping pitching. It is dangerously slippery in frost or when there is moss on it.



Instead, on a long slope mix pitched steps with level stretches of path.



Despite its disadvantages pitching can also be the best solution for a level path surface in busy tourist locations where there is a very high footfall. Or in places where the ground is loose and unstable.

(continued)

Roger Whysall

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2.2a (continued) Stone Pitching: General points, first decisions, line of path, where to put it

Height is gained with short flights of pitched steps.

Path is curved to reduce the gradient.

Conventional path between pitched steps.

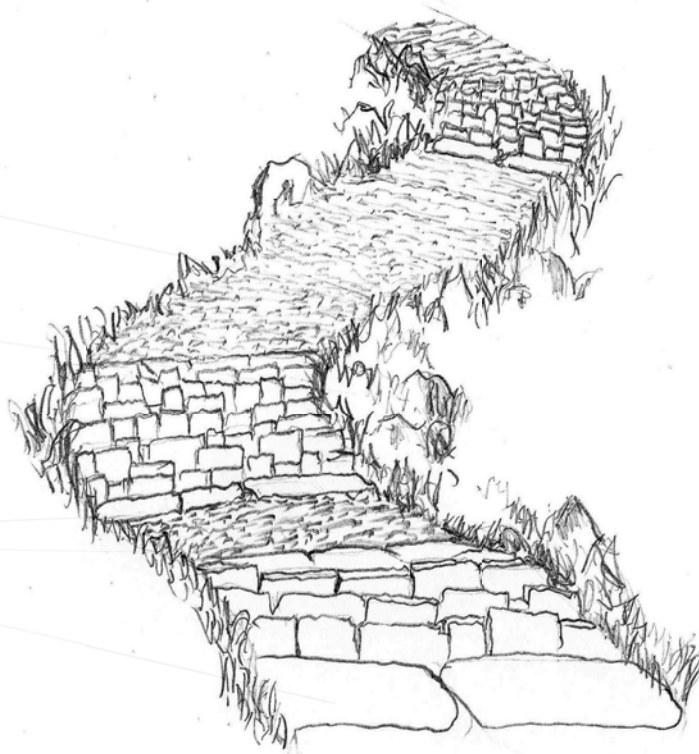
Landscaping at corners discourages short cuts.

Anchor stones.

Put big stones at the sides to hold the others in place. They should be no higher than the ground at the side of the path.

firmly pack the stonework to prevent water getting in and loosening the pitching. BUT – do not insert packing stones until all the pitching is laid. If you do it before it will just push the pitched stones apart.

Landscaping with vegetation and rocks hides the edges of the stones, discourages going off the path and gives it a natural appearance. Earth which has been taken out to make room for the steps can be heaped at the sides, with turf, to make barriers.



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2.2b: Pitching up a slope

When going up a slope, make a mix of different step heights (to a maximum of 15cm) and positions.

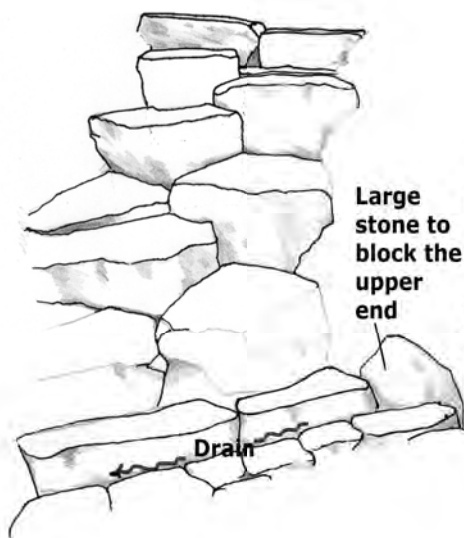
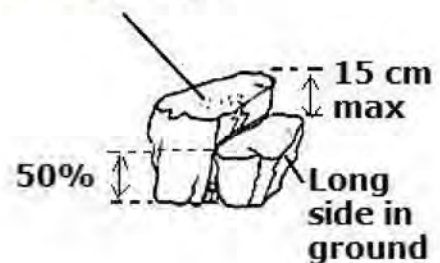
This stops them looking like a flight of stairs and helps them to blend into the natural surroundings.

Also the experience of using the steps is more pleasing as they are like natural rocky footholds.



Stones should be set with at least half below the top of the next lower stone:

Level top —
<5 degs slope



Large stone to block the upper end

Build drainage into the stone work as needed.

Use the instructions for 2.5: *Cross Drains* if you need guidance.

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2.2c: Stone Pitching: Arrangement of Stones

Make the steps at the ends high (but not more than 15cm) to emphasise to walkers that they are leaving level ground.

Anchor stones hold the pitching in place. Put them at the ends of the pitching, and in between if it is a long flight. Make them flush with the path surface at the bottom because this will soon be compressed by walkers' boots and a step will form anyway.

