

# Restoration of dry stone walls on Settle - Carlisle Railway

## Case Record



**Location** Yorkshire Dales National Park, UK

**Client** Railtrack

**Main Contractor** GTRM

This section of railway is one of the UK's most picturesque, this initiative has maximised the natural beauty of the area while undertaking essential maintenance work and ensuring craft skills native to the area are retained.

A partnership between GTRM and Railtrack for the restoration of dry stone walls between Settle and Carlisle.

### Environmental Initiatives

**Heritage enhancement** Restoration of sections of dry stone walls.

**Community interaction** Use of traditional skills and local labour.

At the second Railtrack Chairman's Annual Environment Awards in January 2001 GTRM were awarded third prize for Large Contractor for their improvements shown by gaining certification to the Environmental Management Standard ISO 14001 at a number of their sites and their involvement in the drystone walling project on the Settle to Carlisle Railway.

The purpose of the awards is to reward Railtrack staff, Zones and Contractors who have initiated projects to improve the environmental performance of their work, above the contractual and legal requirements.

The event was carbon neutral in association with Future Forests and the awards came in the form of an allocation of trees which will then form part of a carbon neutral forest being planted on the Borders of Scotland. The prizes of 50 trees each should absorb 10 tonnes of Carbon over 100 years.

The project that GTRM were awarded their prize for was a partnership project between Railtrack North West and GTRM. It was funded by the Railway Heritage Trust and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and was managed by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority with GTRM.

Due to the picturesque nature of the Yorkshire Dales National Park it was decided that instead of replacing the walls with more modern materials the stone walls would be restored to enhance the landscape.

All labour supplied to the project was sourced locally. This helped to ensure that the walls were restored using traditional techniques and materials.

If this project is considered to be successful GTRM will consider (with Railtrack's approval) employing dry stone wallers for restoration work in other areas along the Pennine Way.