

Stone-Faced Earth Banking



Participants build up the bank with large stones.

Traditional rural craft

On Saturday 6th February, Ed and Emma Parr-Ferris of South Devon's Think Nature ran a taster session in Stone-Faced Earth Banking. The aim of the session was to provide participants with an introduction to this traditional rural craft. Ed intended each participant to gain an understanding of the importance of the craft to the countryside and wildlife, to learn about the tools required and how to use them, and to help create a section of a stone-faced earth bank.

Countryside skills

Learner Matt Lawson is a landscape architect by trade, and says he is 'interested in traditional Devon skills. I've done a course in hedge-laying in the past, and would like to learn dry-stone walling too. Ed was a knowledgeable tutor and the course was really good, but ideally I'd like to take it further and learn a bit more about it.' Another participant, Gill Kidd, said, 'I've got an allotment on a sloping site so wanted to find out how to build a proper terrace. I feel confident to start on my terrace now – the only thing I'm lacking is muscle! I'm doing a gardening course and I'm a volunteer worker with Trees for Health, an organization that promotes use of and knowledge about woodland, so I've got a strong interest in countryside skills. I am definitely keen to do further courses in this field.'



Learners in front of the stone-faced earth bank they've built themselves.