

“Our aim is to install unique infrastructure which sits sympathetically in the landscape without damaging the fragile habitat. Adaptable to the needs of the client DMS offers a complete range of professional services.”

*Front cover: Moorland footpath under construction, Darwen Moor, Lancashire;
Below: A multi-user public right of way in the Lake District.*



Environmentally Sensitive Civil Engineering

In recent years DMS has built a sound track record for its ability to undertake challenging civil engineering projects within locations of high environmental sensitivity eg. SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest), National Parks and Nature Reserves. Project work to date has included the following:

- Soft Engineering
- Hard Engineering
- Access Routes
- Repair & Reinstatement of River Banks
- Coastal & Flood Defences
- Drainage Works
- Building Works

If you have a specific Infrastructure project that you wish to discuss please contact us.

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13. Groundworks at Ovenden Moor windfarm, Halifax, West Yorkshire;
14. River bank restoration, Malham, North Yorkshire;
15. Timber footbridge at Ashway Gap, Dovestones Reservoir, for United Utilities.

Infrastructure Services



Infrastructure Services



Working across the UK in a wide variety of fields, we have the ability, experience and expertise to provide infrastructure from moorland footpaths to access roads within wind farms.

Public Rights Of Way & Access Tracks

Dinsdale Moorland Services (DMS) has extensive experience in the provision, repair and upgrade of all types of public rights of way and private access routes including footpaths, cyclepaths, bridleways, estate roads and moorland tracks.

- **Subsoil tracks** - used for crossing soft ground where traditional toppings (eg. stone chippings) would quickly sink without trace. By excavating the route and a drainage ditch to the side, such that the ditch spoil is used to elevate the track surface, the track base can drain and harden enough to take light traffic, or heavier traffic with the application of a stone surface. DMS is also skilled in the design and construction of subsoil bridges which allow a watercourse to pass unhindered beneath the track.

- **Grass/gravel tracks** - used where there is a desire to create a traffic durable surface that entirely blends with its surroundings.

- **Aggregate tracks** - used to fill areas where a track's surface has been washed away by storm water or eroded by frost and vehicle use. DMS takes particular care with the choice of stone used for topping as well as the quantity and size of stone so that the end result is in keeping with other local traditional tracks and local geology.



1. Improvement work in progress on an upland public right of way, Darwen, Lancashire; 2. Upland subsoil footpath, Blubberhouses, North Yorkshire; 3. Aggregate track on Darwen Moor, Lancashire; 4. Grass and gravel twin track on the Scargill Estate, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria.

- **Twin tracks** - DMS has several different techniques to make and refurbish twin tracks, either in pitched stone, loose stone or a blend of stone and dust or soil. The choice of materials and design is driven by the durability required, aesthetics and the choice of locally available materials.

- **Pitched stone tracks** - particularly suited to routes that are exposed to significant water flows, or which follow steep slopes. The use of pitched stone (cobble) is one of the oldest track constructions known and can be traced back to Roman times. DMS offers pitched stone surfaces for some tracks and paths and can either install specifically cropped stone or selected natural stone which can then be pitched into earth or concrete. Pitched stone is typical in the construction of water bars and fords to provide durable functionality even through years of storm water flows.

- **Track surface crushing** - often, existing tracks may comprise a very rough mixture of larger stone and slab together with much smaller stone and soil. One option for improving the surface of this type of track is to surface crush the stone and incorporate it with the exposed soil. DMS is equipped with the appropriate machinery and has the necessary skills to undertake this type of track work and can ensure that the finished track surface is unrecognisable compared to the old.

- **Metalled roads** - DMS has the experience and capability to construct permanent tracks and roadways using traditional hardwearing surfaces such as asphalt and concrete. In certain conditions bituminous surface treatments may also be used.

Bridges & Fords

Tracks and paths often follow torturous routes over streams and gullies. The addition of an appropriate bridge or ford makes a considerable difference to the usability of the track or path and can prevent further erosion.

- **Bridges** - DMS has the experience and capability to build not only steel and timber 'kit' type bridges, but also stone bridges and subsoil bridges.

- **Fords** - these can be subjected to considerable wear and tear from traffic, surface water and by frost. DMS favours the use of stone cast fords laid in a foundation of concrete, which ensures that the stone is secure and that the ford surface won't break. Earth is pushed into the stone gaps to ensure that the concrete is hidden and that vegetation can root.



5. Pitched stone track; 6. Single carriage tarmac road at Catlow, Lancashire; 7. Timber built bridge at Ashway Gap, Dovestones Reservoir, Greater Manchester; 8. Ford construction, Thruscross Reservoir, Washburn Valley, North Yorkshire.

Countryside Furniture

Working in some of the most environmentally sensitive and often remote locations in the UK, DMS is committed to producing sympathetically designed and quality constructed countryside furniture including dry stone walls, timber gates, stiles, fences, boardwalks and wayfinding systems. Using skilled and experienced personnel at all stages, the design, materials and construction techniques used in such features are given paramount attention.

Shooting Butts

Construction and installation of shooting butts on moorland requires the correct equipment and knowledge - of which DMS has both. Butts can be built sunk into the ground with suitable drainage to provide a comfortable and unobtrusive vantage point looking across the moorland. Prefabricated or constructed on-site, with either a gravel or wooden floor, butts can be positioned wherever the client prefers and will enhance any shoot.

Boardwalks & Bird Hides

The creation of nature reserves presents a unique and controlled way in which to enjoy a range of wildlife and the infrastructure within such reserves is an important consideration. Provision of woodland walks, which may also include disabled access routes, often necessitate the installation of timber boardwalks and platforms. These can be constructed to a variety of specifications depending upon site and requirements.

Bird hides are individually designed to the clients requirements and budget. Beyond the pre-requisites of strong construction and user-friendliness there is great scope for creativity in their design and construction.



9. Timber gate on the Goit Route, Pennine Bridleway, Chorley, Lancashire; 10. Stone built shooting butt, Caldbergh Moor, North Yorkshire; 11. Footpath and wheelchair access route, National Nature Reserve; 12. Timber boardwalk and bird hide, Foxglove Covert Nature Reserve, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.