



Technical Guidance

Strip/trench fill foundations - slip membranes

Question

Is a slip membrane needed to the outer face of the excavation for a strip/trench fill foundation in shrinkable soil?

Considerations

- The vertical face of the excavation needs to be sufficiently smooth to allow movement of the soil to take place without disturbing the foundation.
- A slip membrane would do little to reduce the friction between the clay and the foundation.

Answer

A slip membrane is not needed. The vertical face of the excavation should be reasonably smooth.