Technical Guidance

Concrete fill in a cavity wall

Question
What is the acceptable level for the concrete fill in a cavity wall where a suspended precast floor has a continuous dpm/dpc on top and a dpc under the beam ends?

Considerations
- NHBC Standards clause 6.1 – 54(a) states ‘the concrete fill in a cavity wall should stop at least 225mm below the base dpc’.
- The concrete used in precast floor beams is not generally affected by moisture from the ground. The use of a dpc under the ends of the beams is good practice; it helps to keep the floor structure relatively dry and is usually referred to in third party assessments for the floor beams.
- It is essential that there is a continuous barrier to moisture rising from the ground and into the floor finish and the inner leaf of the cavity wall.

Answer
Where there is a dpc both above and below a precast floor structure and there is a continuous dpm linked with the top dpc, the recommended 225mm between the concrete fill in the cavity and the base dpc may be measured from the top dpc level.

![Concrete Cavity Fill Diagram]

Concrete cavity fill in external wall

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