Technical Guidance

Concrete fill in a cavity wall

Question

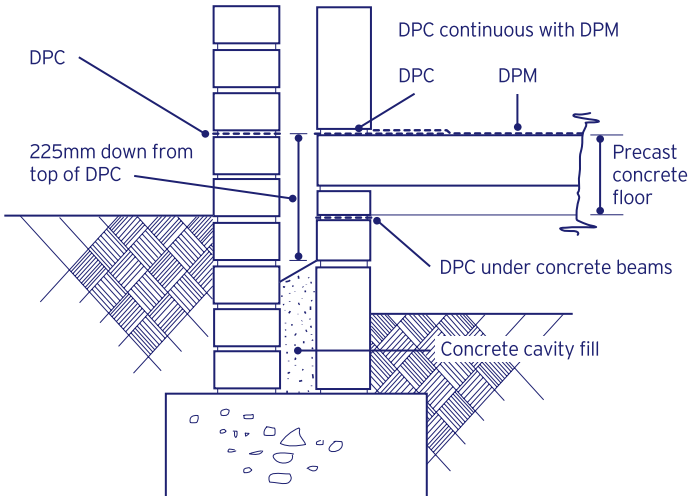
What is the acceptable level for the concrete fill in a cavity wall where a suspended precast floor has a continuous dpm/dpc on top and a dpc under the beam ends?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 6.1 – S4(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 in external wall

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