

Concrete fill in a cavity wall

(December 2008) (First issue)

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 6.1.17 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.

