NHBC's technical newsletter

Standards Extra 48

October 2010

This edition includes:

New Chapter 3.1 Low or zero carbon technologies

Roof ventilation to reduce the risk of condensation

Chapters 4.1 and 4.6 updated

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NHBC

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New Chapter 3.1 Low or zero carbon technologies

As the UK house-building industry embraces the road toward 2016 and reduced carbon emissions, together with emerging technologies that will be required to meet the objectives, we are pleased to announce the arrival of a new Chapter of the NHBC Standards.

Chapter 3.1 Low or zero carbon technologies introduces the use of microgeneration technologies into the Standards for the first time.

The term 'low or zero carbon technologies' is generally applied to renewable sources of energy, and also to technologies which are significantly more efficient than traditional solutions or which emit less carbon in providing heating, cooling or power.

A recent survey carried out by NHBC Technical Services confirmed that significant numbers of the following technologies are currently being installed on homes covered by NHBC:

- biomass boilers
- heat pumps
- solar photovoltaics (electric)
- solar thermal water heating
- wind turbines.

We have worked closely with industry to develop this new Chapter, setting up a task group of industry specialists to develop the content. The Chapter was also sent out for wider industry consultation and the number of responses received from builders, standards setting organisations, manufacturers and installers suggests this is a very topical issue. Remarkably, this has all been achieved within a six-month period.

We do appreciate this is a fast changing sector of our industry and, as a consequence, this Chapter will require regular updating.

The Chapter is intended to support the requirements of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) or suitable alternative assessment schemes acceptable to NHBC.

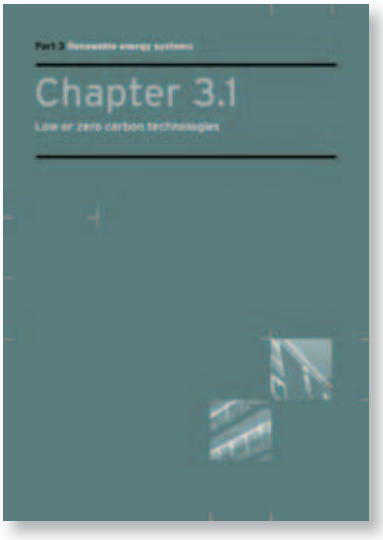
Reflecting the results of the Technical Services survey and also taking into account the likely impact of feed-in tariffs (FITs), the Chapter contains detailed guidance on the use of biomass boilers, heat pumps, solar photovoltaics, solar thermal water heating and wind turbines.

It is important to note that other systems following the general principles of the Chapter may also be acceptable, subject to specific agreement with NHBC. Future revisions of the Chapter may include other emerging technologies.

The Chapter provides guidance to house builders and their designers on the use of low or zero carbon technologies and introduces NHBC benchmarks for acceptable design, materials and site work.

Typical guidance within the Chapter includes:

- system design (e.g. compatibility and location)
- building integration (e.g. fixings and weather resistance)
- provision of information/handover requirements (e.g. installer certificate and user manual).



The new Chapter will be located in the re-opened Part 3 of the NHBC Standards to be titled 'Ancillary technologies', which provides scope for future additions as technologies emerge.

Promoting NHBC's purpose of raising standards to protect homeowners, the new Chapter is included in the 2011 edition of the NHBC Standards and becomes effective for those homes whose foundations are concreted on or after 1 January 2011.,

ACTION

Ensure you are familiar with the new Chapter 3.1 Low or zero carbon technologies and implement the recommendations for all new dwellings from January 2011.

Roof ventilation to reduce the risk of condensation

Remember last winter? How could you forget it!

The prolonged cold, frosty and snowy weather of last winter caused some horrendous condensation problems in roof spaces. That's the feedback we received from a number of sources including builders and homeowners. Generally, the problems appeared to have been in homes less than two years old and most were in their first heating season. Construction moisture was still drying out and, because warm air rises, the moisture vapour migrated to the roof space. The snow and frost on the roof meant that the migration of the vapour to the outside was not able to occur.

In the conditions experienced last winter, vapour permeable underlays used in unvented roofs did not seem able to cope with the situation and condensation occurred on the inside of the underlay.

BS 5250 'Code of practice for the control of condensation in buildings' does provide guidance on such situations and recommends high level ventilation at, or close to, the ridge. The BS 5250 requirement is for a ventilation gap equivalent to a 5mm slot for the length of the ridge. The BS also provides guidance on how to calculate the ventilation for hipped and other roofs where the ridge length is not representative of the plan.

This requirement is now incorporated in the 2011 Standards in clauses 7.2-D11 and S11. It should be noted that when NHBC introduces a standard for a particular purpose, it will take precedence over third-party assessments (e.g. BBA certificates) which may not require high level ventilation.

ACTION

If you have been using vapour permeable roof underlays in unventilated roofs, from January 2011, NHBC will be looking for high level ventilation.

Chapters 4.1 and 4.6 updated

Chapter 4.1 Land quality – managing ground conditions

A major revision of Chapter 4.1 took place in 1999 and, since that time, few changes have been made. The Chapter has now been updated to reflect the technical changes and developments that have occurred since the previous revision.

The revisions:

- reflect the changes to British Standards and the development of European Standards
- include technical guidance that has been produced since the Chapter was last revised
- better align the process for assessing contaminated land with the Government's guidance document CLR 11 (Contaminated Land Report 11): Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination (2004).

Chapter 4.6 Vibratory ground improvement techniques

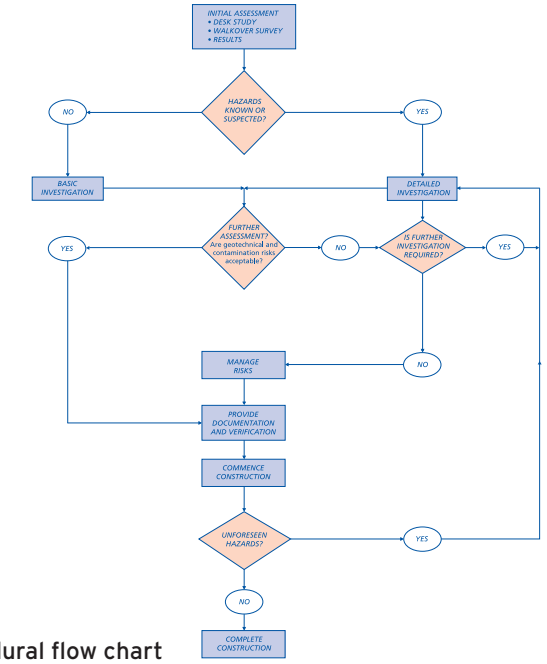
This Chapter has been updated to reflect the technical changes and developments that have occurred since the previous revision.

Ground improvement techniques have become better understood over recent years and additional techniques and guidance have been developed since the previous revision.

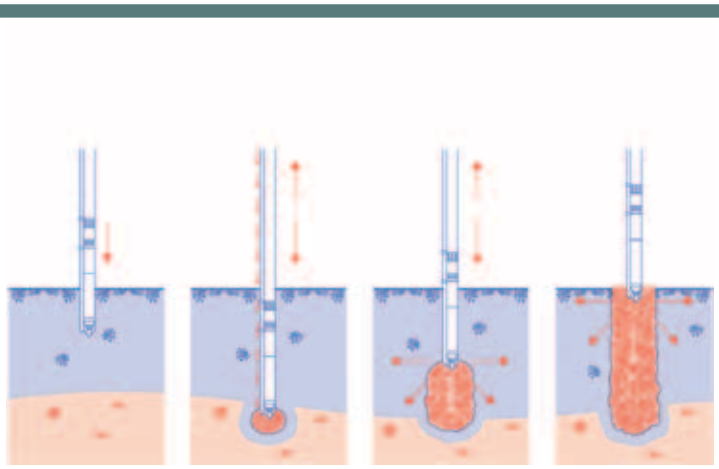
These are now reflected in the updated Chapter.

The revisions:

- reflect the changes to British Standards, the development of European Standards and other reference material
- clarify the objectives of vibro treatment
- include innovations in vibro technology
- update the range of suitable column material
- provide guidance on the suitability/ unsuitability of ground being proposed for treatment
- emphasise the need for testing to evaluate performance, and highlight the need for accurate and relevant site information and reporting.



Procedural flow chart



Dry bottom feed method

ACTION

Ensure you are familiar with the updated Chapters and implement the recommendations for all new dwellings from January 2011.

New enhancements to the NHBC Extranet

Since NHBC's Extranet launch in March 2008, its popularity has continued to grow, with over 4,600 users now uploading over 15,000 documents a week.

The Extranet has quickly become a key element of NHBC's service provision, with benefits such as:

- easy electronic document submission (650,000 received to date)
- up to 70% savings over a print and post solution
- clear traceability of document submissions
- third-party secure access (e.g. architects, housing associations)
- easy access to outstanding conditions
- NHBC Standards online.

We are now pleased to confirm that, from 6 September 2010, an extensive suite of enhancements will be available on the Extranet. The most notable of these is the introduction of a new management reporting facility.

Five new reports will be available:

- **Technical Conditions Report** – providing a list of outstanding technical conditions and their effect on finalling.
- **Site Reportable Items Report** – providing a list of outstanding site reportable items and their effect on finalling.
- **Builder Responsible Items Report** – providing a list of all builder responsible items on finalled plots for the previous 30 days.
- **Sustainability and Energy Report** – providing access to key Code for Sustainable Homes, EPC and SAP data and ability to download relevant certificates.
- **Plot Progress Report** – providing an overview of plot progress, e.g. registered, started, last recorded inspection and finalled. See example below.

Whether you are monitoring technical conditions, site reportable items, plot registration or sustainability services, or perhaps looking for support to your planning and compliance process, these new reports are designed to help you.

Access to this comprehensive tool is free for all Extranet-registered NHBC customers. If you are interested, register for the Extranet today and start benefiting from the services we can provide.

ACTION

To find out more, visit **www.nhbc.co.uk/Extranet** or call **0844 633 1000** and ask for **'Extranet'**.

Site: New housing site off Weald Road BRENTWOOD CM14 4TP
Sustainability and Energy Plot Schedule: Click here

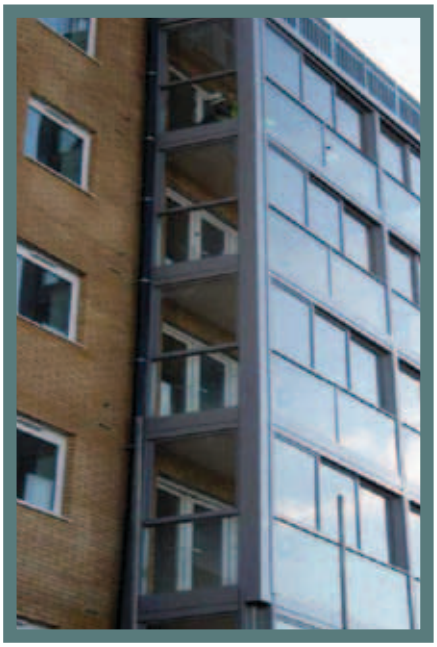
SNIN Ref: 0006043075
SNIN Address: New housing site off Weald Road BRENTWOOD CM14 4TP
NHBC Contact: Stewart, Samantha, Mrs **Tel No:** 01908 747233 **E-mail:** sstewart@nhbc.co.uk

Plot No	Policy No	War Reg date	BC Reg date	Start Date	Insp Stage	Insp Date	o/s Cnd	o/s RI	War Final date	BC Final date
1	AJ067606	09-Mar-2010	09-Mar-2010	09-Feb-2010	Pre-plaster	23-Apr-2010	Y	Y		
2	AJ067607	09-Mar-2010	09-Mar-2010	09-Feb-2010	Pre-plaster	23-Apr-2010	Y	Y		
3	AJ067608	09-Mar-2010	09-Mar-2010	09-Feb-2010	Pre-plaster	30-Apr-2010	Y	Y		
4	AJ067609	09-Mar-2010	09-Mar-2010	09-Feb-2010	Superstructure Above DPC	27-Apr-2010	Y	Y		
5	AJ067610	09-Mar-2010	09-Mar-2010	09-Feb-2010	Superstructure Above DPC	27-Apr-2010	Y	Y		
6	AJ067611	09-Mar-2010	09-Mar-2010	09-Feb-2010	Superstructure Above DPC	27-Apr-2010	Y	Y		
7	AJ067612	09-Mar-2010	09-Mar-2010	10-Feb-2010	Drains visual inspection	04-Mar-2010	Y	Y		
8	AJ067613	09-Mar-2010	09-Mar-2010	10-Feb-2010	Drains visual inspection	04-Mar-2010	Y	Y		

Plot progress report

Enclosing balconies or decks

With the need for more usable space within homes, NHBC has noticed an increase in the number of multi storey developments where balcony or deck areas are being partly or fully enclosed by glazed screens or louvres. Often the enclosed space is referred to as a 'wintergarden'.



These enclosed areas are not normally designed to be fully weathertight, so it is extremely important to ensure that the external walls of the main building, together with the floor and roof of the wintergarden and all interfaces, are correctly designed and constructed.

This article focuses on some of the key issues to be considered.

NHBC Standards and testing

First and foremost, the wintergarden should comply with NHBC Technical Requirements, including:

- **R2 Design requirement** – design and specification shall provide satisfactory performance.
- **R3 Materials requirement** – all materials, products and building systems shall be suitable for their intended purpose.

The wintergarden should be designed, manufactured and installed to ensure satisfactory in-service performance and adequate durability. Items to take into account include:

- wind resistance and loading effects with the screen or louvre both open and closed
- loads, including allowable and concentrated loading on deck areas, e.g. planters
- fixings
- operable components.

Performance testing should (where required) comply with the relevant CWCT (Centre for Window and Cladding Technology), Standards or with a suitable alternative standard.

It is essential that system components including fixings are durable as they may be exposed for the life time of the system.

Design requirements

There are specific areas of concern to NHBC that should be 'designed out' at an early stage.

Weather protection

As mentioned earlier, the design of wintergardens can include louvres or mechanisms which allow glazed or other enclosing units to be opened. As these could be left open at any time, wintergardens are generally not designed to be weathertight. The weatherproofing wall between the habitable parts of the apartment and the wintergarden (including any window and door openings) should be designed as a normal external wall.

Drainage

Water ingress into the wintergarden is likely to occur, and therefore an effective drainage system to manage water outwards is required. Following the guidance set out in Chapter 7.1 Flat roofs and balconies would be acceptable, including appropriate falls (away from the building), suitable outlet(s) and overflow.

Building Regulations

Building Regulation requirements should be considered when an open balcony is enclosed to form a wintergarden.

Areas to consider include:

- external fire spread – depending on apartment layout (compartmentation), space separation should be considered
- purge and background ventilation – where this is provided to the habitable room, the room should be ventilated through the wintergarden to external air
- mechanical extraction or flues – where these could previously terminate onto the balcony, they should now extend through the wintergarden to external air
- guarding
- imposed loads on guarding and/or glazing (BS 6399)
- minimum height, opening width etc.
- glazing – safety glass requirements
- electrical outlets/service installations – classification of use (outside use only).

ACTION

If you are intending to enclose a balcony or deck area to form a wintergarden, make sure that the design, manufacture and installation will provide satisfactory in-service performance and adequate durability.

Ceramic tiles on timber floors – whatever next!

Many bathrooms and kitchens, as well as other rooms within a house, may have ceramic tiles as the floor finish.

On a concrete sub-floor it's unlikely to be a problem and, with satisfactory design, the two 'rigid' materials generally work in harmony. But problems can arise when 'rigid' ceramic tiles are laid on a 'flexible' timber floor. If the issues are not addressed correctly, the tiles will almost certainly crack once the house is occupied.

So how can these problems be prevented? NHBC has been working with the tile and adhesive industries to draw up a specification that should achieve satisfactory in-service performance and prevent the tiles from cracking.

Firstly, the timber floor needs to be made more rigid. For a floor with a chipboard deck, additional decking material is required (e.g. 10mm plywood) and this should be mechanically fixed. The floor will become noticeably more rigid. Alternatively, a separating/de-coupling layer can be used.

Next, the tiles need to be bedded and grouted with the correct materials. Flexible adhesives (e.g. C2S1) and grouts are now available to accommodate movement as the floor settles and dries out.

However, don't forget that the additional weight of the tiles and decking material needs to be taken into account when designing the floor joists.

The 2011 edition of the Standards has this information contained in Chapter 8.3 Floor finishes clauses D4 and S3.

ACTION

If you intend using ceramic floor tiling on timber floors in your new homes, follow the guidance in Chapter 8.3.

Update on tiling and slating battens

As well as being the fixing for roof covering, tiling and slating battens have a safety role for the roofer fixing them. Knots in battens are, if large enough, a weak point and potentially a danger to roofers who rely on them for a foothold.

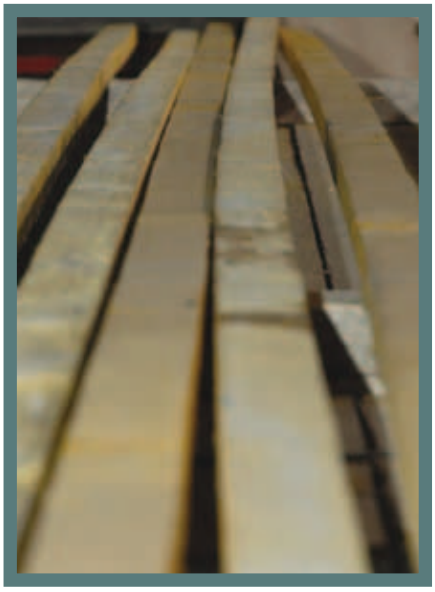


Photo courtesy of John Brash & Co Ltd.

A change to BS 5534 Code of practice for slating and tiling (including shingles) now has the following requirements for battens:

The maximum allowable size of a 'through-knot', (a knot that passes through both sides, or edges, of the batten) has now been reduced from 15mm to 5mm for a 25x38mm or 25x50mm batten. This new requirement, which limits a side-knot to a maximum of 1/5th of the batten depth, also applies to knots that start on the side, or edge, and finish on the batten face.

Although it may sound obvious, battens should be straight, so a tolerance for distortion (covering bow, twist and spring) has been introduced.

The tolerance is that distortion should not be more than 5mm measured over a length of 1.2m when the batten is at 20% moisture content.

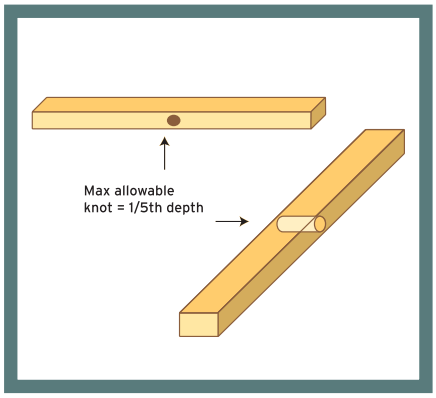


Image courtesy of John Brash & Co Ltd.

ACTION

If you are buying battens, check that they are marked to BS 5534 and the supplier has met all the requirements including those above.

QUESTIONS

Q

Is it acceptable to use a dry mix concrete to dry up the bottom of foundation excavations?

A The placing of a dry mix concrete to absorb excess water in foundation bottoms is not acceptable. If water is present in a foundation excavation to the extent that it can be pumped out via a sump, this is the method that should be used.

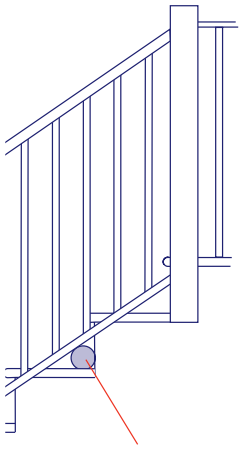
NHBC Standards clause 2.1 – D2 gives guidance on the design requirements for concrete in construction and promotes the supply of ready mix concrete from suppliers who are QSRMC or BSI Kitemark registered. Dry mix placed into a wet foundation excavation will not comply with this specification.

It is not possible to determine accurately how much dry concrete to use in order to absorb the water in the excavation.

Q

On stairs, does the maximum permitted opening in the guarding include the triangle formed between the tread, the riser and the lower edge of the guarding?

Diagram 1
Domestic stairs within a dwelling



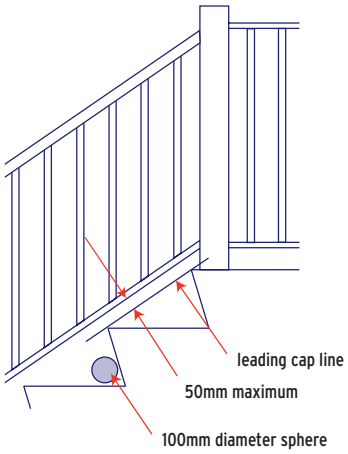
Guarding detail showing triangular opening between tread, riser and bottom rail to guarding

A

In dwellings, any triangular opening formed between the tread, riser and lower rail to the guarding should not pass a 100mm sphere (see diagram 1).

On communal stairs, a larger triangular gap is acceptable providing the bottom of the guarding is not more than 50mm above the pitch line, as shown in diagram 2.

Diagram 2
Communal stairs – acceptable openings in guarding to stairs



Approved Document K (England & Wales), Scottish Building Standards Technical Handbook Domestic Section 4.4 and Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) Technical Handbook H all say that to prevent children falling through or being held fast by the guarding, the construction should be such that a 100mm sphere cannot pass through any opening in it.

NHBC Standards clause 6.6 – S11 contains a diagram showing the maximum permitted openings within the guarding and between a floor and lower rail to guarding on a landing. The diagram does not include the triangular void formed between a tread and riser.

The risk of a child getting trapped by the guarding on communal stairs, where children would normally have limited and supervised access, is considered relatively low. Inside dwellings where a child may have unsupervised access to the stairs, the risk of becoming trapped is greater.

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HB2617 10/10

Sustainability Extra 8

October 2010

Thermal bridging – cutting emissions, cutting costs

Twenty or thirty years ago, only the pioneers involved in low-energy housing ever talked of thermal bridges (then called 'cold bridges'), but now they are the focus of full regulatory attention. House builders up and down the UK are trying to understand the issue, since it adds a significant challenge and increases build costs.

This article by Nick Jones at Inbuilt looks at the increasing importance of thermal bridging, explains the current and forthcoming regulatory changes and helps readers understand the options.

A brief history

Thermal bridging has been mentioned in Approved Document L (Conservation of fuel and power) since 1995. In 2002, changes to the required U-value calculation took into account 'repeating' thermal bridges such as wall ties, mortar joints and timber joists and studs. 'Non-repeating' thermal bridges such as junctions between walls and floors or lintels only really found their way into the SAP calculation, and therefore the compliance calculations, in the current 2006 regulations but, even then their importance was not highlighted.

The reason thermal bridging has become important is clear – successive regulations have driven up the insulation standards for building elements (see figure 1) and this means that the previously insignificant losses from bridges have now become increasingly significant. In a house insulated to the standards of the forthcoming Approved Document L 2010 (ADL 2010), thermal bridging can account for more heat loss than all the walls put together. This additional heat loss increases carbon dioxide emissions and this has to be compensated for through other measures, such as improved building services, and may require renewable energy technology to be provided.

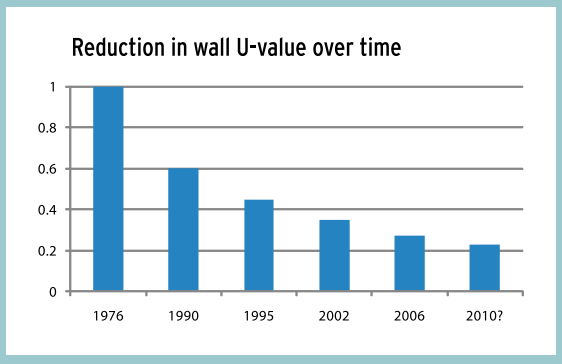

Figure 1 Typical U-values and ADL changes

continued >>>

What is thermal bridging?

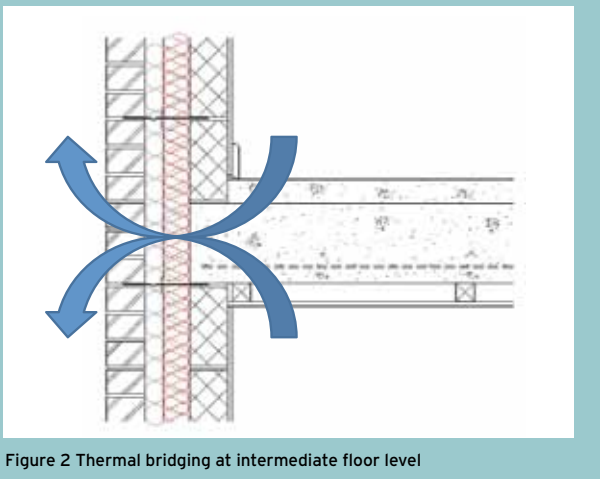

Figure 2 Thermal bridging at intermediate floor level

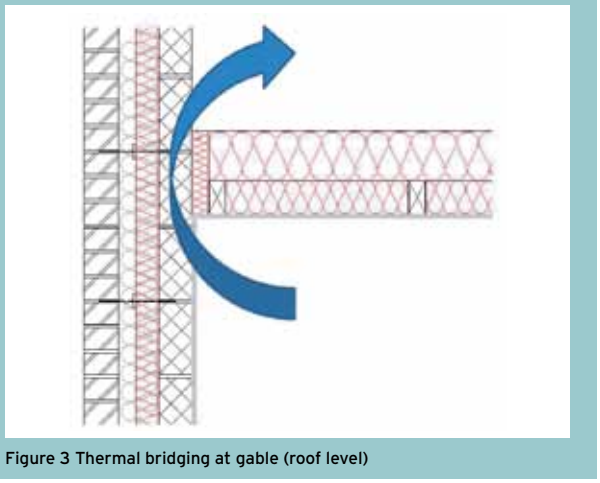

Figure 3 Thermal bridging at gable (roof level)

At every junction between two parts of a building, and at all openings, there is the potential for a break in continuity of insulation which can lead to additional heat loss not accounted for in the U-values. This extra heat loss is expressed per metre run as a psi (pronounced 'sigh') value which is then multiplied by the length of the particular junction. The heat losses for all the key junctions are then added together to give the total heat loss through these thermal bridges.

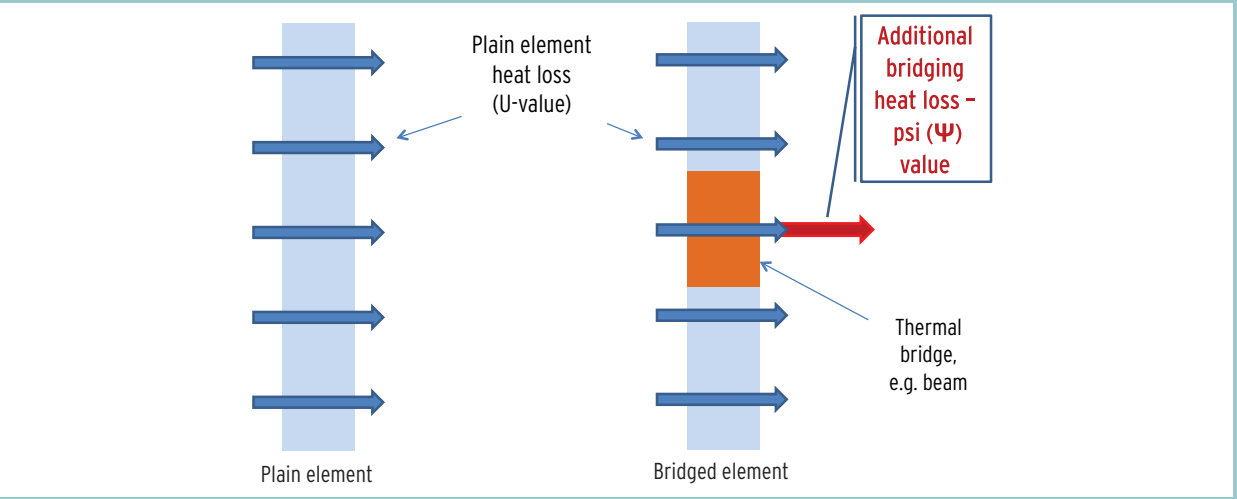

Figure 4 The psi value is the additional heat loss over and above that calculated by U-values

In recent years, changes to building practice have begun to address thermal bridging. For instance, in masonry construction, reveals are normally now closed with an insulated closer, rather than returning the blockwork. But there is still more to do.

The current system of Accredited Construction Details (ACDs) has helped to get rid of many of the worst offenders but even where these are used, the heat loss is significant – roughly equivalent to that from the floor and roof put together. To keep things simple, ADL 2006 adds an approximated additional heat loss to the whole property using a Y-value based on its surface area and psi values of typical details. This simple approach is also crude and is not really capable of moving the market forward.

Tucked away in the detail of ADL 2006, there has always been the option to improve detailing beyond ACDs and have this reflected in the TER (Target Emission Rate) and DER (Dwelling Emission Rate) calculations. To do this, we need to know where to focus our attention. Listing all the key junctions with their ACD psi values and multiplying them by their length shows up the big numbers (as highlighted in table 1).

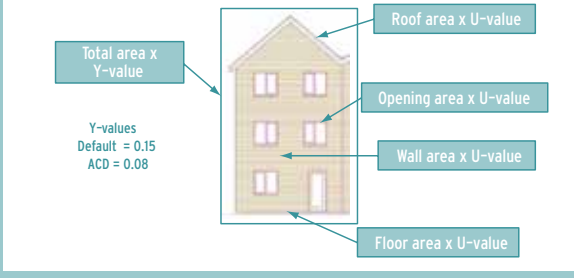

Figure 5 Y-values add an extra heat loss based on the total heat loss area and an assumed mix of details

Junction	ACD psi value (W/m·K)	Option 1		Option 2	
		Length (m)	Heat loss (W/K)	Length (m)	Heat loss (W/K)
Steel lintel with perforated base plate	0.50	11.58	5.79	-	-
Other lintels inc. other steel lintels	0.30	-	-	11.58	3.47
Sill	0.04	11.58	0.46	11.58	0.46
Jamb	0.05	27.60	1.38	27.60	1.38
Ground floor	0.16	17.67	2.83	17.67	2.83
Eaves (insulation at ceiling level)	0.06	8.00	0.48	17.67	1.06
Gable (insulation at ceiling level)	0.24	9.67	2.32	-	-
Intermediate floor within dwelling	0.07	35.34	2.47	35.34	2.47
Vertical corner (external)	0.09	14.80	1.33	14.80	1.33
Party wall between dwelling	0.03	14.80	0.44	14.80	0.44
Total bridging heat loss			**17.50**		**13.44**
Equivalent Y-value (ACD = 0.08)			**0.086**		**0.066**

Table 1 Typical results detail lengths and resultant heat losses for a three-storey end of terrace dwelling

What causes these thermal bridges?

- Lintels – steel lintels can cause a massive heat loss as they provide a clear break in the insulation layer. The polystyrene insulation sometimes built into them makes very little difference.
- Ground floors – depending on the location of the floor insulation, it is very difficult to link to the wall insulation – although not a massive bridge, it can be very long.
- Gables – the inner leaf makes it impossible to link cavity wall insulation and loft insulation.
- Intermediate floors – although the psi value is low, the length of this detail (especially in three-storey houses) means that improvements from better details can be significant.

It is possible to compare this heat loss from measured lengths with the ACD Y-value of 0.08. For Option 1 (standard steel combined lintels with base plates), the equivalent Y-value for this end of terrace property is 0.086 – i.e. slightly worse. However, if different lintels are used, e.g. a concrete lintel to the inner leaf, or a steel lintel without base plate, and if the gable is changed to a hip giving an eaves junction (Option 2), simply entering the measured lengths significantly reduces the bridging heat loss to an equivalent Y-value of 0.066. Balanced against other possible carbon dioxide reduction measures, this 'smarter' approach to thermal bridging may well prove worthwhile.

Further improvement

The conservative psi values assigned to most ACDs mean that it is fairly easy to improve them – either through changes of materials or reworking them altogether. Indeed, many builders are already using improved details without realising it. For builders to benefit from this improved performance, the new psi value must be calculated. This is a specialist job, which comes at a cost, involving the use of modelling software, but it is not uncommon to achieve 75%-95% improvements compared with the ACD psi values.

Applying these calculated values to only the big thermal bridges identified above can halve the heat loss due to thermal bridging. The forthcoming ADL 2010 will require a 'safety margin' to be added to psi values calculated for non-accredited details but, even so, this can still make a 4% improvement in the DER. This can be the difference between needing PV on the roof or not!

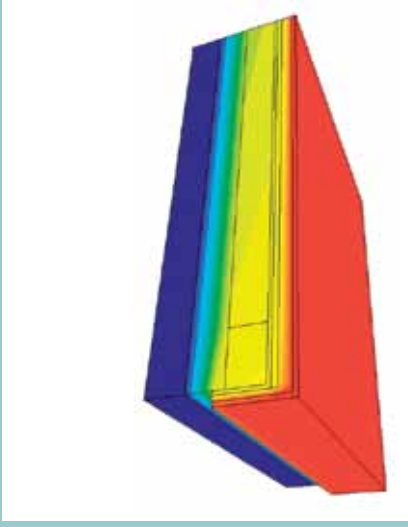

Figure 6 Specialist modelling software showing weaknesses in the detail to be identified and addressed

ADL 2010 and beyond

There is concern that the current ACD system may not actually be delivering improved detailing and construction on site. For this reason, ADL 2010 is looking to make two important changes to the current ACD system that will require designers, builders' energy assessors and building control bodies to pay more attention to this important issue:

- Formal registration with an ACD scheme if its psi values are to be used. It is envisaged that scheme(s) will be similar to the existing Robust Details for Part E and involve sample inspections.
- Measured lengths must be used instead of a crude but simple Y-value. As can be seen in figure 6, this may give the developer an advantage on some houses but others may get worse.

Over time, the ACD scheme(s) will build up a bigger catalogue of better details with specific psi values. However, in the immediate future, the only way to avoid a punitive default Y-value of 0.15 is for builders to get their own details modelled by an expert.

At the time of writing, there would appear to be little prospect that the new ACD scheme(s) will be ready in time for the implementation of ADL 2010 in October and so it is hoped that an interim solution may be made available which would involve using measured lengths and the existing ACD psi values. As seen in figure 6, this may help or hinder builders depending on the designs, but this window will give them an opportunity to get to grips with the issues and plan to really reduce costs by looking to take the heat loss devil out of the detail.

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NHBC Foundation

The latest report to be published by the NHBC Foundation is available to download free of charge at **www.nhbcfoundation.org**

A simple guide to Sustainable Drainage Systems for housing

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) are a sequence of management practices, control structures and strategies designed to efficiently and sustainably drain surface water efficiently and sustainably. SUDS are increasingly used to reduce both excessive flows from stormwater and the potential for pollution from run-offs in urban areas. They are often designed to replicate as closely as possible the natural drainage prior to the development being built.

Intended to inform designers, developers and other stakeholders such as local authorities and property owners about the use of SUDS in housing schemes, the guide:

- introduces the concept of SUDS, regulatory drivers, requirements and best practice
- encourages and supports the incorporation of SUDS in new and existing small housing developments and in fill
- increases awareness of the government policies and the Water Framework Directive requirements relating to surface water management, and the impact housing development has on surface water drainage and water quality of local environments
- provides information on government regulations for England, Wales and Scotland
- gives information concerning planning consent issues
- provides technical information relating to SUDS devices, the selection of techniques, and the considerations required for SUDS construction and maintenance
- provides information regarding land use, adoption and health and safety considerations in connection with the incorporation of SUDS for a housing development
- offers guidance relating to the advantages of incorporating SUDS by considering the social, economic and environmental issues.

Robust Details Limited launches Code for Sustainable Homes Certification Scheme

Robust Details Limited (RDL) started in May 2004, in response to the house-building industry's need for an alternative to pre-completion sound testing to satisfy Part E of the Building Regulations (England and Wales). Building upon their respected and very successful Part E scheme, RDL has recently been working in partnership with NHBC to develop a new certification service for the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH).

This new CSH scheme will operate under a sub-licence agreement with BRE Global. For the first few months, the RDL scheme will launch as a pilot, after which it will become more widely available.

RDL will offer intuitive, assessor-friendly calculation tools and report templates – designed by assessors, for assessors. Those joining the RDL scheme will also benefit from efficient and reliable auditing and certification processes. Dave Baker, CEO of RDL says, "Providing excellent customer service is at the heart of RDL's philosophy and providing a great new service for the Code is something we are looking forward to introducing".

John Tebbit – Industry Affairs Director, Construction Products Association – will chair a new RDL CSH panel made up of industry experts to oversee the new RDL Code Certification Scheme and have representation within the Code Advisory Group (CAG) supporting CLG with the development of the Code. John comments, "This is an exciting new phase for RDL, and we look forward to providing an excellent service to our customers whilst taking a proactive role in assisting government with future development of the Code".

The RDL team will be led by Chris Miles who, as well as being a technical advisor at RDL, has many years of experience in the industry. Chris is keen to provide a practical and efficient certification service.

To learn more about this new service, email **technical@robustdetails.com** or call Chris Miles on **0870 240 8209**.

T: 0870 240 8210 (customer services)

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RDL code certification scheme

THE CODE FOR SUSTAINABLE HOMES
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