

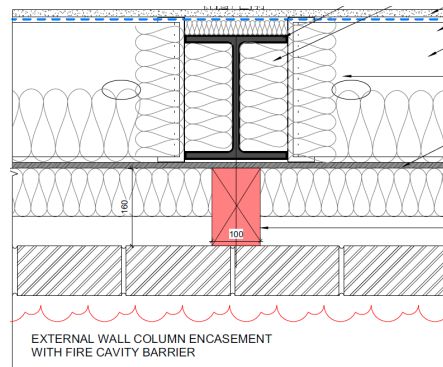
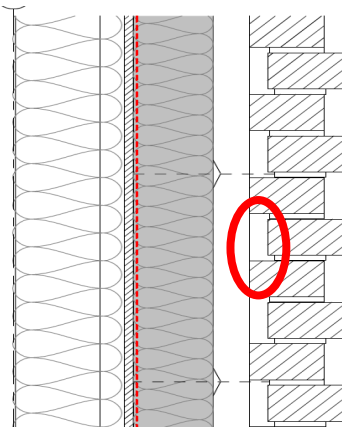
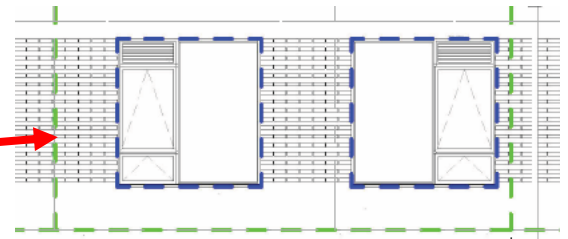


Quality Alert

Brickwork Cavity Barriers in Stepped Brickwork

We recently experienced some issues with the install of cavity barriers in brickwork where there was an architectural stepped feature coinciding with the barrier location. This created an issue where at every other course the cavity effectively got 25mm wider.

The extract of the fire strategy here, shows the cavity barrier (green dotted line) passing through the feature brickwork banding.



The cavity barrier specified (Tenmat—Non Ventilated Fire Barrier), whilst working for the standard cavity of 100mm, created a gap behind the stepped brickwork. This was reviewed with the architect, and agreed that in these areas, the “gap” should be filled with mortar to allow the barrier to fully close the cavity.

Ultimately, this created a detail that was difficult to construct, and during some inspections of the brickwork, it was identified that the mortar solution was not completely filling the void, creating a potential path for fire in the cavity.

The team had to open up various areas of brickwork and re-install the mortar infill to ensure that the cavity barrier fully closed the cavity.



Recommendations:

Where possible, can this feature interface be designed out, so the issue can never become a problem?

If not, review with the design team, cavity barrier supplier, and installer to ensure that a robust detail can be achieved and constructed on site.

Could the back of the brick be cut off site to maintain the line of the internal face of the brick in the cavity?

Consider building this detail as part of the sample panel for the scheme

There may need to be an increase frequency of supply chain and Morgan Sindall checks of this particular activity.

This advice should be used, where the above is applicable, and the information discussed with your team highlighting the following points:

- As the recommendations above

Toolbox Talk Packages (put an 'x' next to the related work packages):

X	Brickwork / Blockwork		Doors & Windows		Roof		Drainage		Frames		Roads, Paths, Pavings & Surfacings		Site preparation works
	Substructure		FFE		Flooring		Internal walls & partitions, Ceilings		Joinery / General Carpentry		Painting		Fire & Lightning protection
	Walling (Tiling)		Electrical installations		Services / Systems		Water installations		DFMA (Offsite Manufacture)	X	Design		Miscellaneous



Everyone has the right to be
100% Safe