TECHNICAL GUIDANCE 6.1/05

# Cavity trays to openings with soldier courses or stone lintels

(January 2016) (Second issue – supersedes December 2008)

## Question

1 Where provided, is it acceptable for cavity trays to be located above a soldier course/stone head/arched former supported on a metal lintel?

2 Where should the cavity tray be located when the stone/concrete head is loadbearing and there is no separate supporting metal lintel?

## Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 6.1.12 describes the need for a separate cavity tray when the corrosion protection to the lintel is inadequate, where the profile of the lintel does not form a cavity tray, the site is in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Isle of Man or in areas of severe or very severe exposure to driving rain.
- The soldier course, itself, will be permeable to wind-driven rain.
- Locating the tray above the soldier course/stone head/arched former may cause difficulty with the installation of cavity insulation immediately above the lintel and problems of cold bridging/condensation.
- Reconstructed stone/concrete heads which provide structural support are generally impervious to wind-driven rain.
- Where a stone/concrete head provides the structural support it is difficult to route and discharge the cavity tray at the underside of the stone/concrete head.

## Answer

Where cavity trays are required to metal lintels there should be no gap between the lintel and the tray at the outer leaf.

For brickwork, weepholes should be provided above the cavity tray at 450mm centres.

For stone/concrete heads and arched formers supported on a metal lintel, the cavity tray will need to extend beyond the head/lintel to enable weepholes to be provided at each end. If a head is jointed within it's length a weephole should also be incorporated in the joint.

Where the stone/concrete head is load-bearing, with no metal lintel below, the cavity tray should be installed above the head (see diagram 1). The tray should be a bituminous DPC material to form a seal with the stone/concrete head to avoid moisture penetration. Care should be taken in installing any cavity insulation below the cavity tray to avoid cold bridging.

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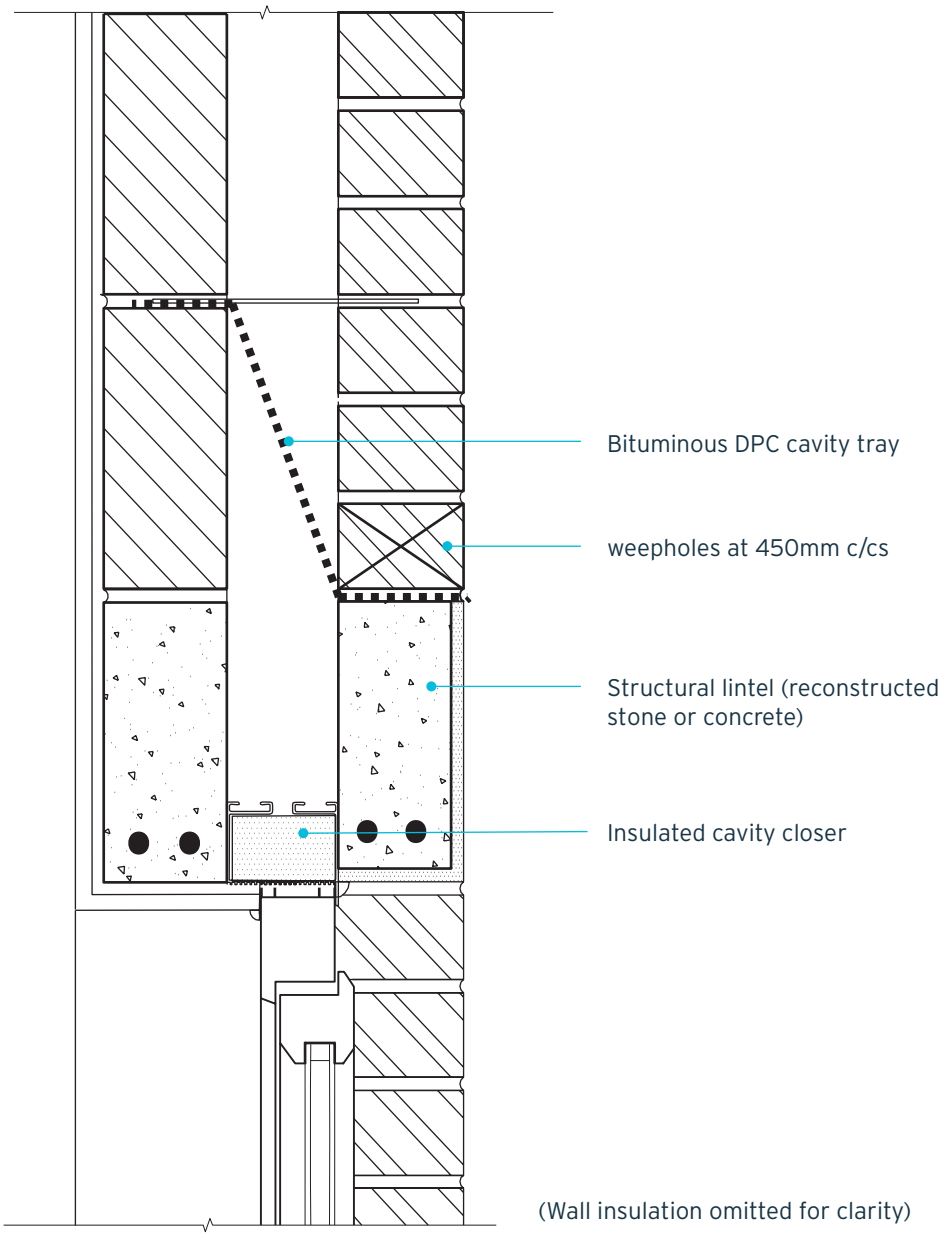


Figure 1