

# Lateral restraint provided by gable ladders

(May 2024) (Third issue – supersedes March 2017)

The Technical Guidance Notes are produced by NHBC as guidance solely for our builder customers as to how to interpret the technical requirements in relation to the warranty cover provided by NHBC under its Buildmark, Buildmark Choice, Buildmark Link, Buildmark Solo, Buildmark Connect or any similar product from time to time. It has not been created or intended for distribution or use outside of that purpose. The information contained in this Technical Guidance Note does not constitute advice and is not to be relied upon by any third party. Nothing in this Technical Guidance Note is intended to, nor should it be taken to, create any legal or contractual relationship. Any third party who chooses to rely upon the information contained in the Technical Guidance Notes shall do so entirely at their own risk and NHBC accepts no duty of care or liability, however caused, in connection with its use or reliance by any third party.

## Question

1. Where gable ladders provide lateral restraint to a gable wall, is it acceptable to use the longitudinal bracing in place of blocking between the end trussed rafter and the wall?
2. 2) How should the soffit board be installed to provide an effective lateral restraint?

## Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 7.2.8 states ‘Gable ladders can be used to provide restraint to the external wall where:
  - there is blocking between the last trussed rafter and the inner leaf (maximum 2m centres),
  - the soffit board is cut carefully and then fixed securely to restrain the outer leaf’.

## Answer

It is acceptable to use the longitudinal bracing to provide lateral restraint, with no blocking between the end trussed rafter and the wall, when the ends of each brace is finished tight against the wall. Additional intermediate boards will need to be provided if the longitudinal bracing is more than 2m apart up the slope of the roof. These boards should be installed tight against the wall and fixed over at least three trussed rafters.

Thin soffit boards fixed direct to the gable ladder do not provide a good overlap for restraint to the top of the external leaf of the gable wall. A good overlap between the soffit board and the top of the wall should be provided by fixing battens to the underside of the gable ladder (see diagram over). The first batten should be positioned tight against the face of the outer leaf to act in combination with the soffit board in providing the lateral restraint.

# Lateral restraint provided by gable ladders

(May 2024) (Third issue - supersedes March 2017)

