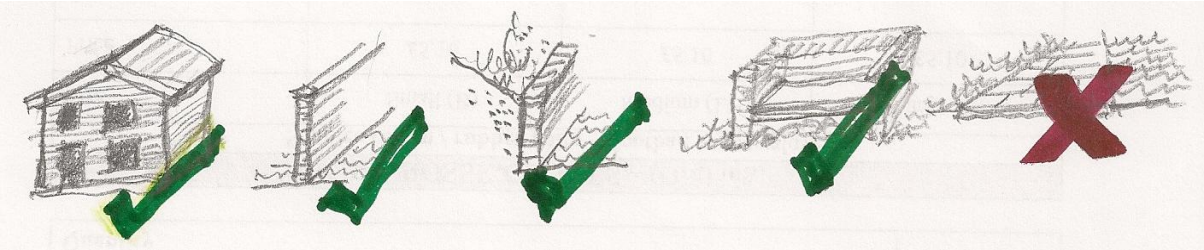
# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DURABILITY

**All Northcot facing bricks achieve the highest ratings for durability as defined in the British Standard specification for clay bricks (BS EN 771-1). They are classified F2, which signifies that they are frost resistant, and S2, which signifies low level of soluble salts content.**

Our facing bricks are intended for buildings and for external structures such as freestanding walls, retaining walls, barbeques and garden features.

**They are NOT suitable as paving.**

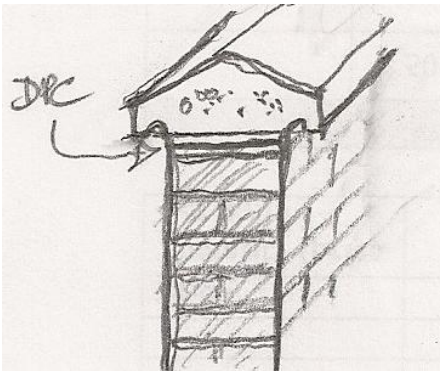


## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOOD PRACTICE

In the United Kingdom wet weather and freezing temperatures are unavoidable. Wetness and freezing can be damaging to brickwork, therefore design and construction should follow recommendations that minimize saturation and encourage rapid drying out of structures. The following are the most important basic points:

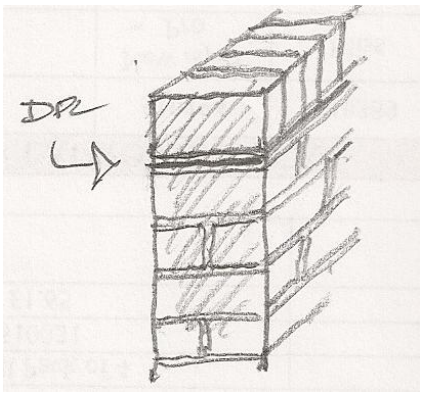
- The ground at the base of brickwork should be free draining (e.g. soil, grass, gravel) to prevent standing water that would wet the brickwork. Hard surfaces (e.g. of paving bricks, blocks or slabs, concrete, tarmac) should slope away from the brickwork.

- Brickwork not covered by a roof should be topped so that rainwater, or melting snow, does not soak down into the structure below. The best protection is given by an impervious coping with a sloped top to shed water; it should be wider than the wall and have grooves below the overhanging edges to drip water clear of the face of the structure below.

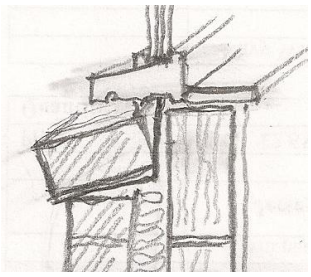


- If coping units are stone, or precast concrete, the mortar joints between them will not be waterproof and to prevent water percolating through and into the brickwork below a flexible damp proof course (a bituminous polymer sheet) should be sandwiched between mortar on which the coping is laid.

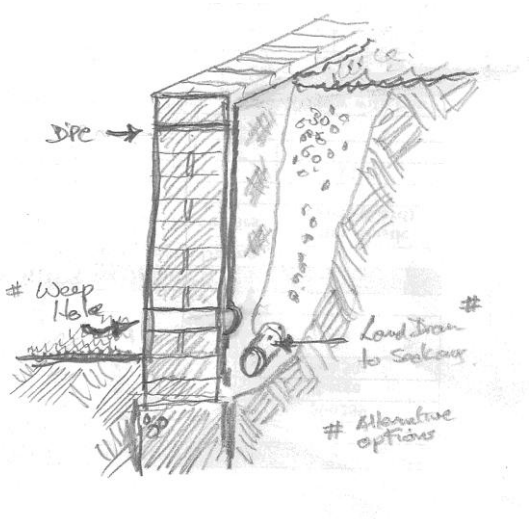
- If a flush brick-on-edge capping is used there will be many more joints and again a damp proof course is necessary in the bedding mortar. Flush cappings are frequently used, but the protection it gives is not as good as it is with a coping.




- A window sill of bricks-on-edge similarly needs to be laid with a flexible damp proof course in the bedding mortar joint.



- A retaining wall ( i.e. where one face of the wall "retains" ground at a level higher than the other) should have a coping or a capping at the top and its retaining face should be waterproofed to prevent water from ground at the higher level entering and soaking through the brickwork. Heavy gauge polyethylene is suitable and can be held in place on the wall surface with a bituminous adhesive. Any joints in the sheeting should be welted and sealed. When backfilling against the wall use free draining fill to prevent build up of a saturated mass of soil and provide drainage at low level (see diagram).




For more comments and details of brickwork features and on the specification of materials see the publication

***"Design Detail for Durability of Brickwork"***

Available as a free as a PDF download on our Website

**www.northcotbrick.co.uk**

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