

Plinths and Corbels using clay bricks

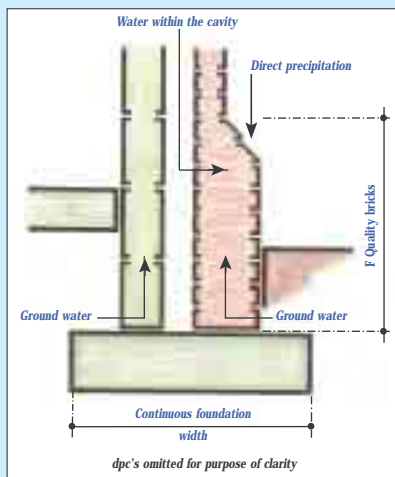
The inclusion of a projecting plinth at the base of an external wall and a similar projecting detail, 'the corbel' at the top of the wall, is seen as a building enhancement, particularly in the housing market.

Here we look at the economical means of providing these aesthetically effective details from the aspects of application, durability and quality appearance.

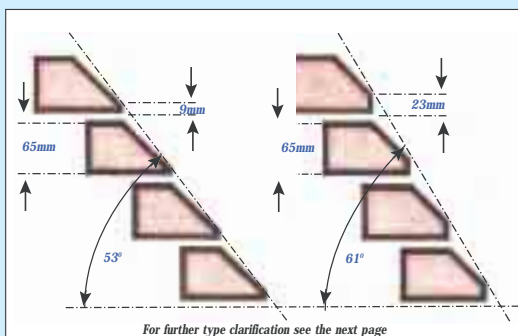
Plinths

Projecting plinth courses are subject to a great deal of water ingress and the choice of brick type together with mortar mix and joint profile will be crucial to durability and long term appearance.

Use only 'F' quality bricks for the plinth courses. Mortar should be at least mix 2 (see 'Get it Right' numbers 1, 2 and 7). Recessed (raked) joints should not be used. A continuous full width foundation must be provided.

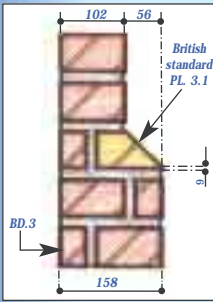


Plinth angle

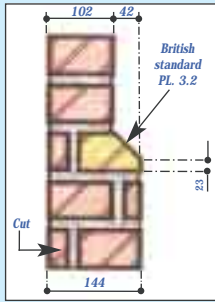


Plinth brick angles are set at 45° but the actual angle of the plinth courses is dependent upon the profile chosen. Available British Standard units have upstands at the front of 9mm (type 1) and 23mm (type 2).

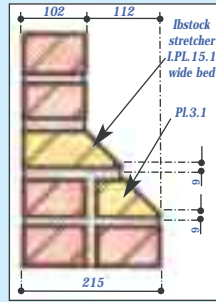
Using plinth stretchers



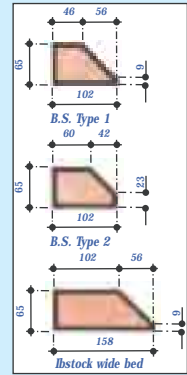
Type 1



Type 2



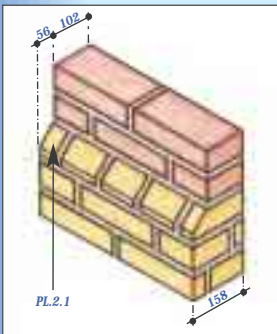
Wide bed and type 1



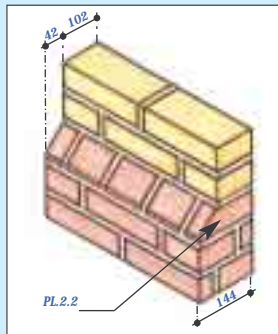
Plinth sections

Introducing one plinth course only to a half brick thickness will always necessitate the provision of cut bricks below the plinth. Bonding these cut bricks as shown will avoid a straight joint and maintain stability.

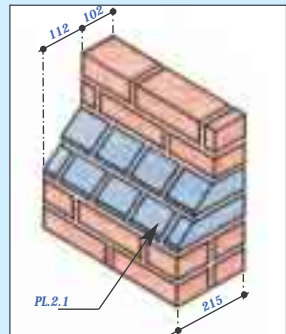
Using plinth headers



Type 1 (1 course)



Type 2 (1 course)

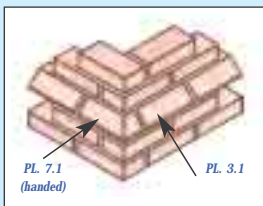


Type 1 (2 courses)

As with the stretcher example, cut bricks will be required below the plinth when using 1 course of plinth bricks. Two courses of Type 1 plinths (in stretchers or headers) will avoid their use.

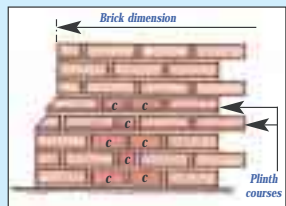
Plinth returns

Standard returns are available to suit both profiles. Handed units may be required.



Plinth bonding

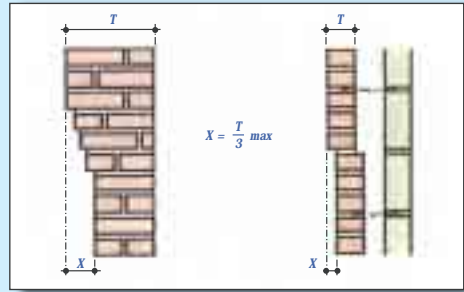
If the brick dimension is above the plinth courses, any cutting is in the plinth and plinth bricks only.



Note: Damp-proof courses omitted for purposes of clarity.

Corbels

A corbel in many ways is an upside-down plinth located at the higher levels of the building. Stability is an essential consideration and simple brickwork corbelling should not exceed the limits shown in this diagram.



Sills

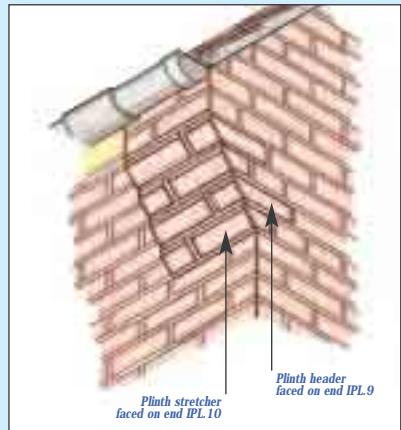
This corbelled sill using quarter bonded headers provides an attractive feature to a window opening. The back face to the corbel remains vertical and in line, and so provides a counterweight where it is useful.

Dependent upon the amount of corbelled projection, the number of courses constructed in one day may be limited.

Remember that the brick-on-edge sub-sill will require solid and faced units at each end.

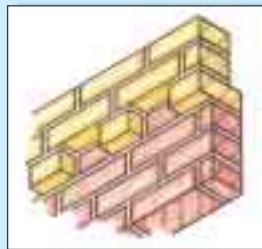
Eaves and verge junction

This is a very common and traditional corbel feature, using standard profile plinth bricks, but upside-down. Both stretcher and header formats are used to maintain bond. Remember again that solid and faced units will be required at the sides where they are exposed.



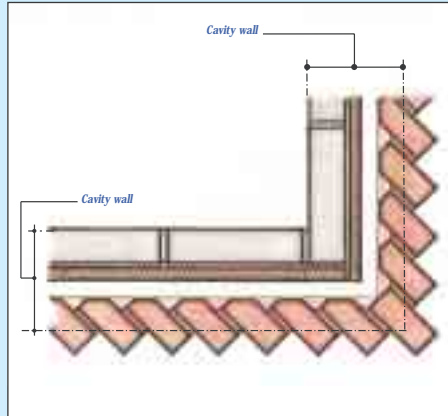
Dentils

Dentils are a form of corbelling and this example, using projecting headers, is also known as table corbelling.



Note: Where other than the simple corbel arrangements shown here are being considered, professional guidance should be sought, or contact the Ibstock Design Advisory Service.

Dog tothing



Dog tothing is simply a dentil set at 45° to the main walling. This feature dates from Norman times and can be projecting, as shown, or recessed. The plan detail (right) shows how the corner is negotiated and the cutting required to the tothing brick.

It is a good idea to make a template and cut all the 'tothing' bricks before work in this area commences.

Remember the Ibstock Design Advisory Service is available for help, guidance and assistance on all aspects of brickwork. Ring the Design Advice Hotline on 0870 903 4018.

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