

# Aggregate Concrete Blocks Walls Below Damp Proof Course

## Introduction

Aggregate concrete blocks have been used below damp proof course for many years where they have proved to be durable, efficient and highly economical. Aggregate concrete blocks permit fast on-site working since the standard dimension of a block is equivalent to six bricks.

## Block Types

Both lightweight and dense aggregate concrete blocks can be used below ground level. Standard size blocks may be used or alternatively, specifically dimensioned foundation blocks are available from some members.

## Requirements

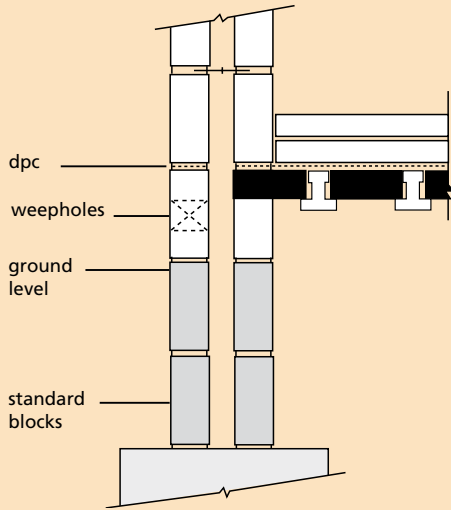
Blocks used below dpc should be specified to comply with the BS 5628 : Part 3 : 2005 : Table 12 or standard strength requirements. If they are to be used on the external leaf of the wall they should also comply with ONE of the following requirements:

- have a net density of at least 1500 kg/m<sup>3</sup> or
- be made with dense aggregate to BS EN 12620 or
- have a compressive strength of at least 7.3N/mm<sup>2</sup>

Where sulphate soil conditions have been identified, aggregate concrete blocks can be used in up to and including class DS-3 equivalent sulphate soil classification (see table below). Further details can be obtained by reference to CBA Data Sheet 3 - Use in Sulphate Soil Conditions.

## Mortar

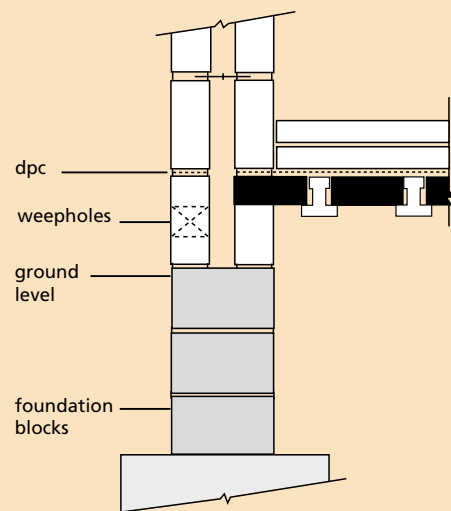
A mortar containing 1:1:5-6 cement: lime: sand (or equivalent) or a general-purpose mortar is commonly used below ground level.



**Fig 1**

External cavity wall  
below ground level

**Note:** Cavity insulation and fill may be required but have been omitted for clarity



**Fig 2**

External cavity wall on  
blockwork foundations

**Note:** Cavity insulation and fill may be required but have been omitted for clarity

Sulphate Soil Classification (BRE Special Digest 1)	CBA Block Specification
DS-1	Aggregate concrete blocks meeting the requirements for use below dpc as given in BS 5628: Part 3: Table 12.
DS-2 and DS-3	Aggregate concrete blocks meeting the following requirements: a Specified block strength 7.3N/mm <sup>2</sup> . b Aggregate to BS EN 12620 and/or FBA to BS EN 13055-1

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