

Definition of terms used in masonry

bed joint horizontal mortar joint

bond (1) pattern to which units are laid in a wall, usually to ensure that cross joints in adjoining courses are not in vertical alignment; (2) adhesion of bricks and mortar

cavity wall two single-leaf walls spaced apart and tied together with wall ties

chase a groove formed or cut in a wall to accommodate pipes or cables

collar joint vertical joint in a bonded wall parallel to the face

column an isolated vertical compression member whose width is not less than four times its thickness

course a layer of brickwork including a mortar bed

cross joint a vertical joint at right angles to the face of a wall

efflorescence a deposit of salts on the surface of a wall left by evaporation

fair-faced a wall surface carefully finished with uniform jointing and even setting of bricks for good appearance

frog an indentation on the bedding surface of a brick

grout a mix consisting of cement, lime, sand and pea gravel with a sufficiently large water content to permit its being poured or pumped into cavities or pockets without the need for subsequent tamping or vibration

header a unit laid with its length at right angles to the face of the wall

leaf a wall, forming one skin or cavity

movement joint a joint designed to permit relative longitudinal movement between contiguous sections of a wall in a building

panel an area of brickwork with defined boundaries, usually applied to walls resisting predominantly lateral loads

perpend the vertical joint in the face of a wall

pier a compression member formed by a thickened section of a wall

pointing the finishing of joints in the face of a wall carried out by raking out some of the mortar and re-filling either flush with the face or recessed in a particular way

racking shear a horizontal, in-plane force applied to a wall

shear wall a wall designed to resist horizontal, in-plane forces, e.g. wind loads

spalling a particular mode of failure of brickwork in which chips or large fragments generally parallel to the face of the brick are broken off

stretcher a unit laid with its length parallel to the face of the wall