

VBrick

Mechanical brick slip system

Handmade, Waterstruck, Extruded Brick and Natural Stone Slips

vbrick.co.uk

Trusted UK & Ireland Distributors:

VIVALDA bringing construction to life®

pura facades®

BBS FACADES Cladding & Boards



Mechanical Brick Slip Cladding

What is mechanical brick slip cladding, and how does it differ from traditional bricklaying?

Mechanical brick slip cladding is a construction technique that involves attaching brick slips to a building's facade using a mechanical mechanism.It differs from traditional bricklaying, where bricks are laid using mortar to create a structural wall.

Can mechanical brick slip cladding be used for all types of buildings, including older structures or renovations?:

Yes, the mechanical brick slip cladding system is adaptable to suit most applications.

How does mechanical brick slip cladding impact a building's insulation and energy efficiency?

Mechanical brick slip cladding can improve a building's energy efficiency by creating an airspace or cavity between the cladding and the building's substrate, incorporating an insulation layer within the cavity for added thermal values.

Is there a significant difference in cost between mechanical brick slip cladding and traditional bricklaying?

The cost difference between brick slips and traditional bricklaying can vary depending on factors such as project size, location, and design complexity. While the initial material costs for mechanical cladding might be slightly higher, the overall cost savings often stem from reduced labour, faster installation, and long-term maintenance benefits.

Does mechanical fix brick slip cladding adhere to fire regulations?

Yes this type of cladding system is predominatly tested to A1 fire rating. The combination of A1 fire rating and efficient installation makes mechanical fix brick slip cladding an attractive choice for clients working on larger projects.

4 Features

5 Benefits

6 Time & cost savings

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9 Extruded brick slips

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VBrick

Introduction

VBrick is a unique brick slip and stone façade system, that combines the natural beauty of real genuine brick and natural stone, with cost-effective fast-track installation. It offers a facing brick or stone finish for projects where a facade system is required, rather than traditional masonry.

The VBrick facade system is comprised of genuine and extruded brick and stone slips, specially designed to fix mechanically to an extruded 3 course anodised aluminium backing section. These extruded sections are installed in horizontal rows onto the backing structure and the brick slips are intserted into place.

This mechanical ‘insertion’ feature ensures a high strength facade whilst enabling some adjustment of the brick slip position during installation.

VBrick brings exciting new and existing colour and texture combinations to the market with the possibility to match traditional brickwork including linear & T2 metric classified bricks.



VBrick Product Features

- Tested to the latest UK standards
- 60 year design life durability as certified by Lucideon
- One piece corners
- Interchangeable stretcher and vertical soldier tracks
- Brick matching service
- Flat rear extruded aluminium surface of system aids the performance of fire protection.
- Cutting and rectification service
- Attractive colour & texture range
  including handmade, waterstruck, extruded brick and stone slips
- Extensive brick slip and stone range
  215 x 65 x 28mm (T2)
  327 x 50 x 28mm linear (T2)
  Stone available in metric brick size & Ashlar 215 x 440mm

VBrick Product Benefits

Durable and robust:
The system uses anodised extruded aluminium brick track in 3 course and single course using frost resistant real brick slips, providing an anticipated design life of 60 years in most applications.

One piece corner units:
VBrick handmade, waterstruck and natural stone slips benefit from a one piece corner cut from a full brick. VBrick may be mounted at an angle to achieve a more demanding finish. It can also be used to create soffits. Decorative patterns are easily achieved, adding an extra identity to any project.

Unique, flexible innovative system:
The VBrick system builds upon years of industry insight and practical refinement, learned from existing systems on the market and improved through rigorous testing. Suitable on any size project.

Versatile and aesthetic:
A variety of colours and textures are available. Designed to blend with or complement new build or refurbishment projects. Enables bespoke bonding patterns, without compromising performance or build time.

Technical support:
Exclusively distributed by the Vivalda Group, national cladding experts with nine locations across the UK and Ireland, VBrick benefits from trusted supply chain support and expert knowledge at every stage.

Fire Safety:
The flat back of the system plays a crucial role in fire safety, as it provides a solid surface for cavity fire barriers to expand against in the event of a fire. This feature significantly enhances the overall performance of the VBrick system, offering peace of mind in meeting fire safety regulations.

Save Time. Cut Costs. Build Smarter with VBrick

One of the key advantages of VBrick cladding is its significant contribution to time and cost efficiency in construction and renovation projects. Unlike traditional bricklaying—which involves labour-intensive, brick-by-brick installation and extensive mortar use—VBrick offers a streamlined alternative.

Reduced labour costs:
VBricks‘ installation process requires fewer man-hours compared to conventional methods. While skilled labour is still necessary, the system’s efficiency reduces overall labour demand and associated costs.

Fast, simple and efficient installation:
Thanks to the well-engineered mechanical cladding system, VBrick allows for the rapid attachment of brick slips or stone panels to the substrate. This accelerated process can dramatically shorten project timelines as it is considerably faster than laying traditional brickwork.

Minimised disruption, whatever the weather:
Faster installation leads to less disruption for both builders and occupants. This is especially beneficial in commercial environments, where time is directly tied to revenue. Additionally, VBricks‘ system is less dependent on weather conditions, allowing for greater scheduling flexibility.

Lower material costs:
Using brick slips instead of full-size bricks significantly reduces material expenses. VBrick also minimises the need for large quantities of mortar and onsite storage space, while requiring less transportation due to its lighter weight.

Reduced maintenance costs:
VBrick delivers long-term savings through its durability, ease of installation, and reduced need for repairs. It aids construction efficiency without sacrificing quality or aesthetics, making it a practical solution for both residential and commercial applications.

Cost effective:
Suitable for use with a wide range of sub-structures, including concrete, timber-frame, structural steel, lightweight steel frames (MMC), masonry and structurally insulated panels. Due to the light weight nature of the system, VBrick-clad buildings may also benefit from more simple, lower cost foundations, whilst saving on installation time.

Mechanically secured brick slip system:

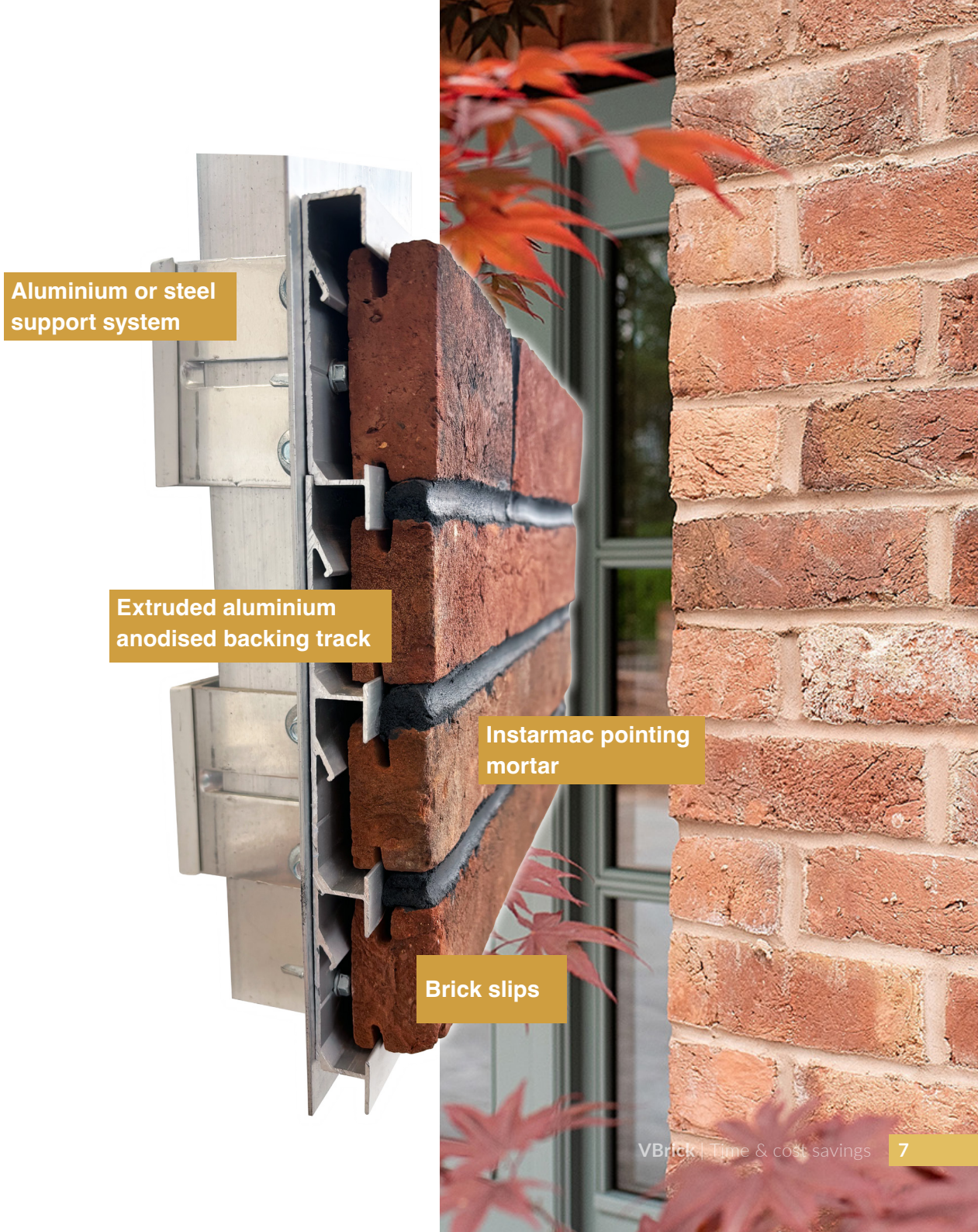
Developed by highly experienced experts in brick slip innovation, the VBrick system is the result of years of industry knowledge and hands-on development. It benefits from a flat rear surface, enabling quicker installation and provides ease of fire protection application.

Dimensions:

Handmade, Waterstruck & Extruded bricks:
215mm x 65mm x 28mm (T2)
327mm x 50mm x 28mm Linear (T2)
Stone available in metric brick size
Ashlar available in 215mm x 440mm

Pointing Mortar:

Instarmac Limepoint Plus has been specifically tested with VBrick and is available in 14 colours to complement or contrast the brick finish.



Brick: Handmade

Handmade brick slips are made by pressing or throwing clay into wooden or metal moulds by hand. The bricks are then dried and fired in a kiln. This manual process gives each brick slip a slightly different shape, texture, and colour, which adds to their charm and aesthetic appeal. Unlike machine-made bricks, these bricks are not compacted or cut by machines, leading to irregularities and variations that gives them their natural bespoke appearance. This traditional method allows for customisation in size and shape, making them a popular choice for projects needing a specific aesthetic or when matching reclaimed bricks. VBrick benefits from the cutting and profiling service for the system requirements.





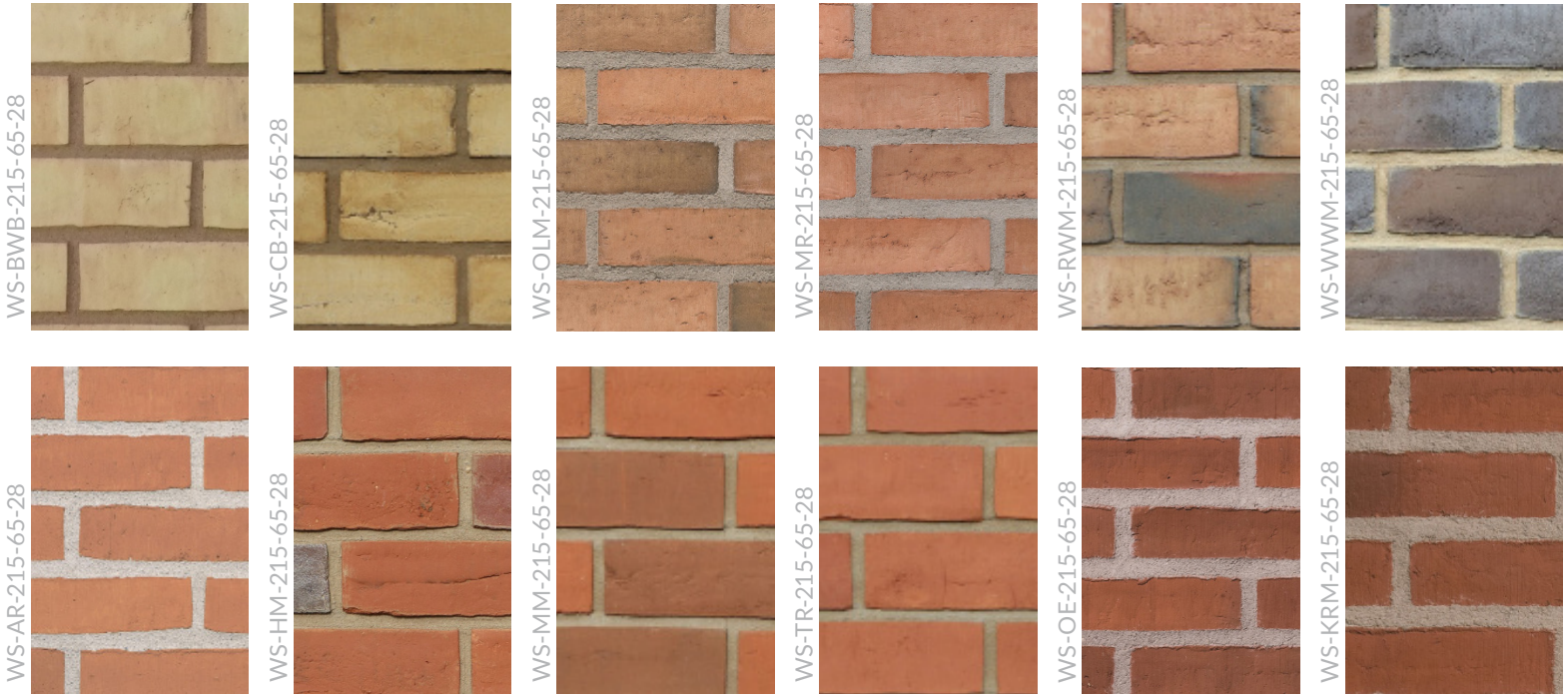
Brick: Extruded

The clay mix is pushed through a die (a VBrick shaped opening) in an extrusion machine. This forms a continuous column of clay with a consistent cross-section—often rectangular or slightly textured to mimic real bricks. The green (unfired) slips are dried slowly to remove excess moisture; this prevents cracking during firing. The dried slips are fired at high temperatures (around 1,000°C or more). This hardens the clay, giving the slip its strength, durability, and final colour. Some slips may be glazed, textured, or coloured post-firing, others are left natural for a traditional look.



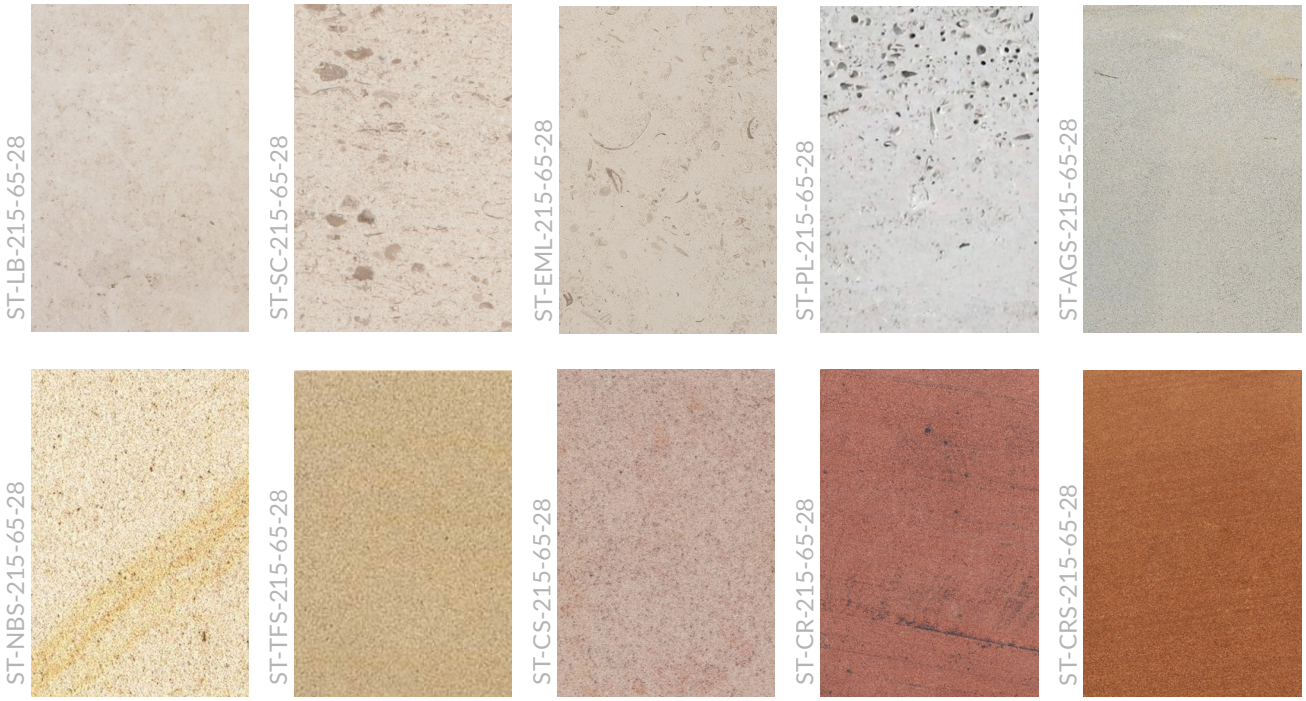
Brick: Waterstruck

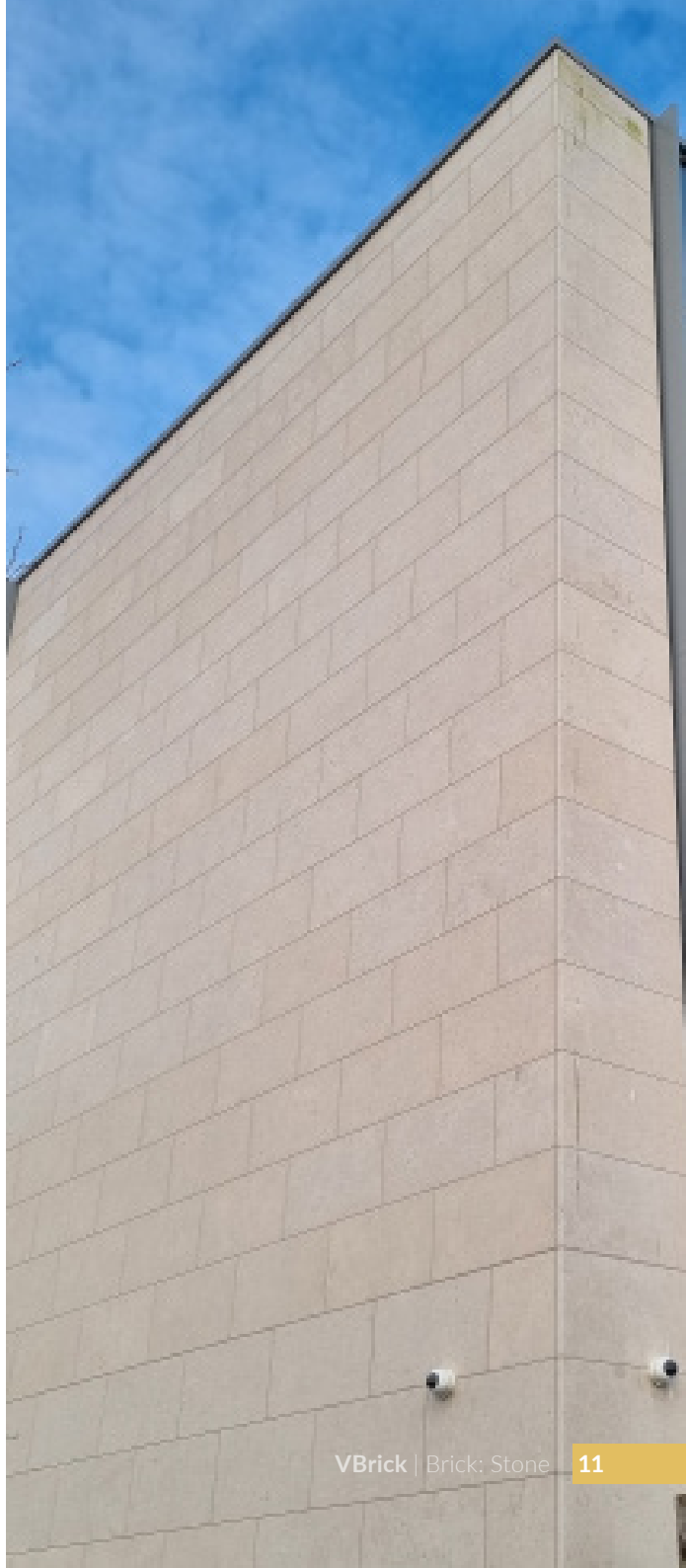
Waterstruck bricks are made using a traditional “soft mud“ process where wet clay is pressed into moulds lubricated with water. The excess clay is then struck off, giving the bricks their distinctive textured appearance and rustic aesthetic. This method, which omits the use of sand in the moulding process, is what gives waterstruck bricks their unique, slightly irregular look and feel. VBrick benefits from the cutting and profiling service for the system requirements.



Stone

The natural stone slabs are carefully selected from established stone quarries featuring many different colours, textures and stone types are available with limestone being the most popular. The stone is calibrated to ensure correct tolerances are achieved for the system connection, the 28-30mm thick stone is then kerfed (grooved) for the mechanical fixing of the stone to the horizontal track. Following installation of the stone, the slips are then pointed using Instarmac specialist pointing mortar as specified. Stone available in metric brick size. Ashlar available in 215mm x 440mm.





Pointing Mortar

Limepoint Plus mortar is a cement free hydrated lime gun injected pointing mortar for pointing all brick types and stonework. Consistent in both colour and finish, Limepoint Plus is pumped deep into the joint, providing a complete fill and a degree of flexibility.

Limepoint Plus is pre-blended with hydrated lime and graded fillers and supplied in 25kg paper bags. The simple addition of water produces a gun injected pointing mortar, which has excellent compatibility and is resistant to freeze-thaw weather conditions. The mortar can be injected into joints as narrow as 5mm to 25mm.

- A1 Fire Rated
- CWCT tested with the VBrick system
- Tested at Lucideon with VBrick
- Stain free, colour resistant re-pointing
- Fast application. Workability: 45 mins, Set time: 3 hours @ 20°C

Available in 14 colours:

INSTARMAC®

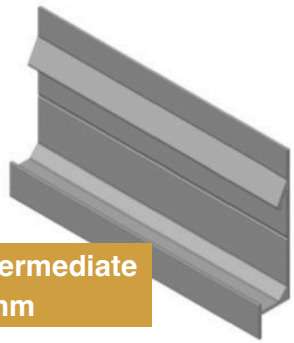


Extruded Aluminium Anodised Backing Track

The flat rear metal surface provides a real benefit both in time and cost saving when installing the system. Mortar cannot fall down the back of the cavity, avoiding waste and application time. The flat rear surface is also important for fitting cavity fire barriers as it offers a flat surface for the fire barrier to close to in the event of a fire. This provides a real benefit to the fire strategy of the through wall system.



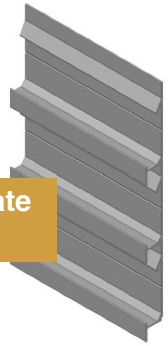
Base Track 65mm



Single Intermediate Track 65mm



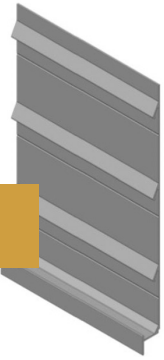
Single Top Track 65mm



Triple Intermediate Track 52mm



Triple Intermediate Track 65mm



Soldier 3 Course Track 215mm



Installation

Suitability:
VBrick is suitable for use with a wide variety of sub-structures including concrete, timber-frame, structural steel, lightweight steel frames and masonry, and structurally insulated panels.

Installation:
On a suitable structure, with vertical support at 600mm max centres, the VBrick installer fixes the horizontal slip support track, inserts the brick slips and finishes the joints with pumped hand pointed Instarmac mortar.

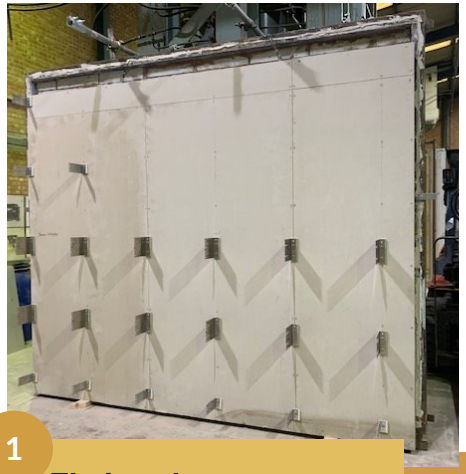
Strength:
Rows of extruded aluminum sections are fixed to the backing structure. Sections are designed to intersect vertically.

Speed:
VBrick brick slips are simply inserted into place. The insertion process ensures that consistent horizontal joints are achieved, whilst vertical joint spacing can be adjusted to suit design requirements.

Simplicity:
Once all brick-tiles are installed and the quality approved, mortar is applied. Pre-bagged Instarmac mortar or equal and approved must be used. Instarmac mortar was used for the system testing. The preferred joint profile is bucket-handle but not limited to.



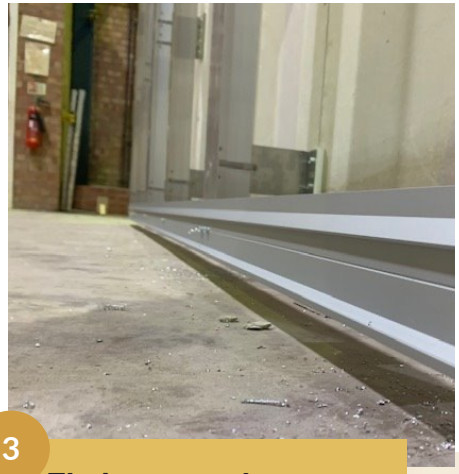
Installed in 6 easy steps:



1 Fix brackets at designed centres



2 Fix T & L rails at designed centres



3 Fix base track at designed centres



4 Fix 3 course tracks at designed centres and repeat

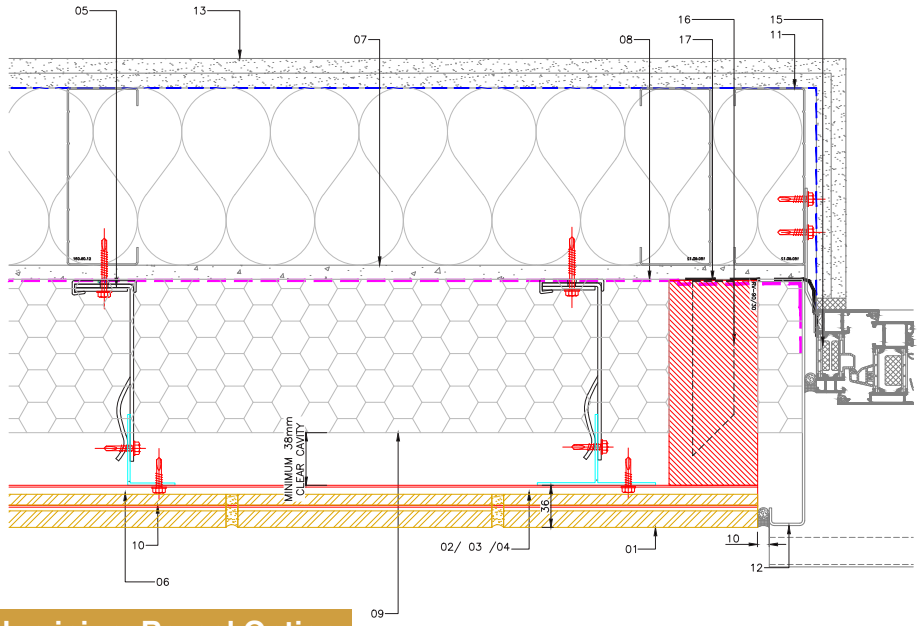


5 Install brick slips by lifting in and locating base of slip on the track

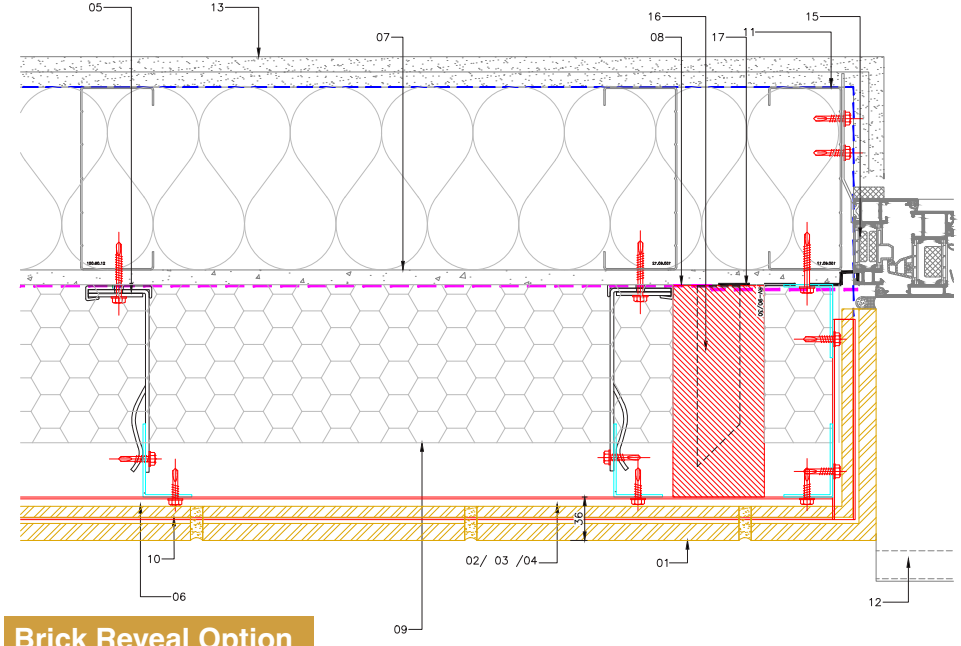


6 Complete facade with Instarmac pointing mortar

Standard Details

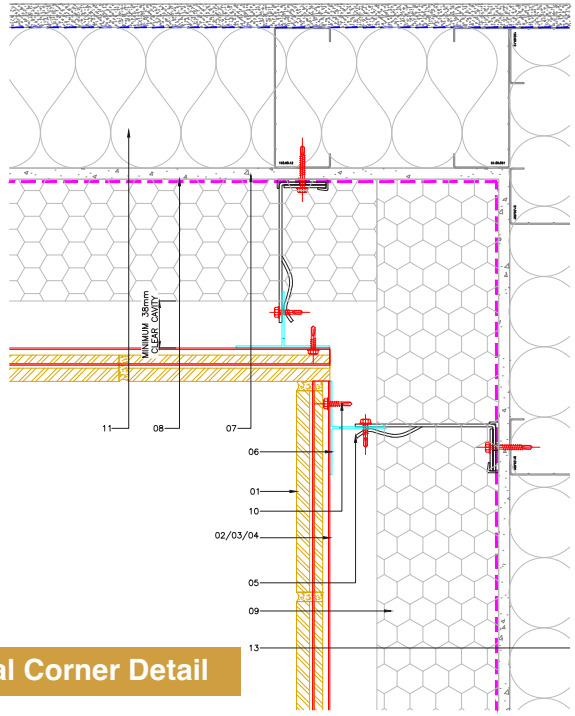


Aluminium Reveal Option

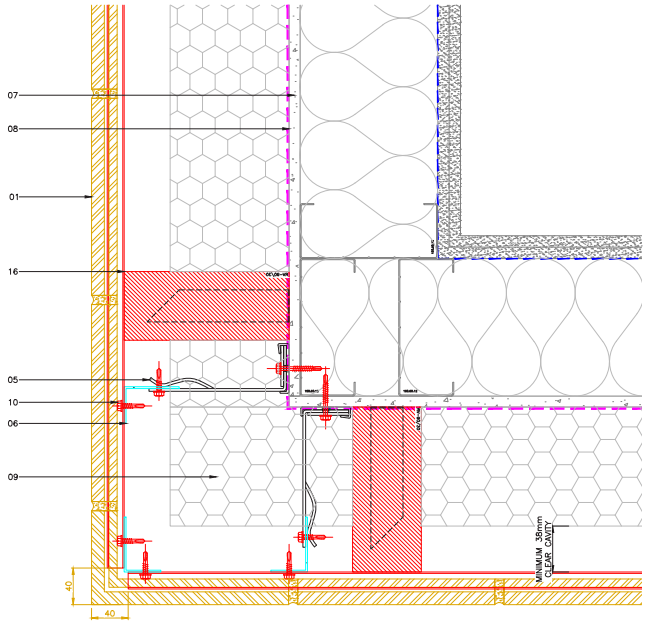


Brick Reveal Option

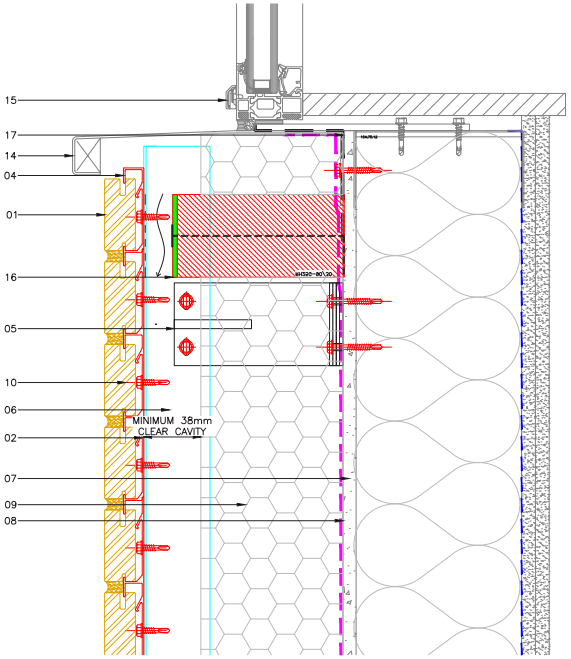
1	VBrick BRICK SLIP	**6**	EXTRUDED 'L' OR 'T' RAIL	**11**	BUILDING SECONDARY STRUCTURE	**16**	FIRE BARRIER
2	VBrick INTERMEDIATE TRACK	**7**	SHEATHING BOARD IF FIXED TO LIGHTWEIGHT STEEL FRAME	**12**	FLASHING	**17**	EPDM
3	VBrick STARTER TRACK	**8**	BREATHER MEMBRANE, FIXED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURERS RECCOMENDATIONS	**13**	INTERNAL FINISHES	**18**	FLEXIBLE BRICK JOINT
4	VBrick TOP TRACK	**9**	INSULATION AS PER PROJECT SPECIFICATION	**14**	ALUMINIUM WINDOW POD OR REVEAL FLASHING	**19**	VBrick SOLDIER BRICK
5	ALUMINIUM HELPING HAND BRACKET THERMAL ISOLATION PAD	**10**	4.8 TEK SCREW (STAINLESS STEEL) - NO WASHER	**15**	WINDOW/DOOR FIXING AND SEALING BY APPOINTED SUB-CONTRACTOR	**20**	VBrick SOLDIER TRACK



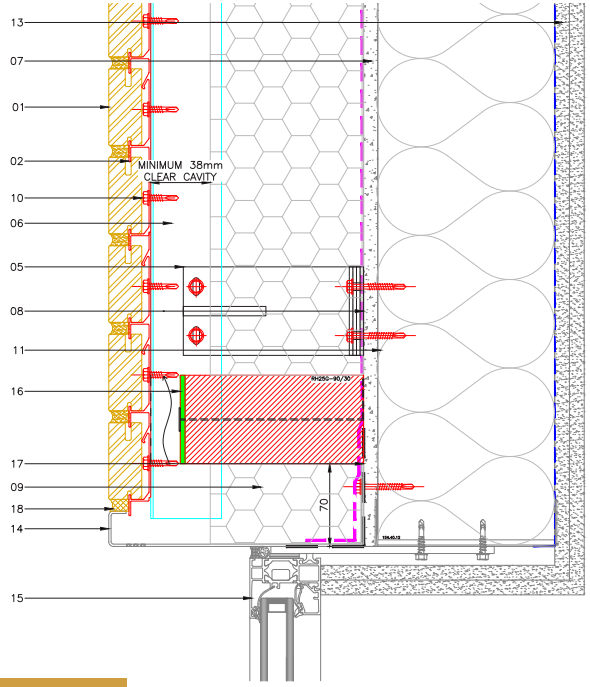
Internal Corner Detail



External Corner Detail



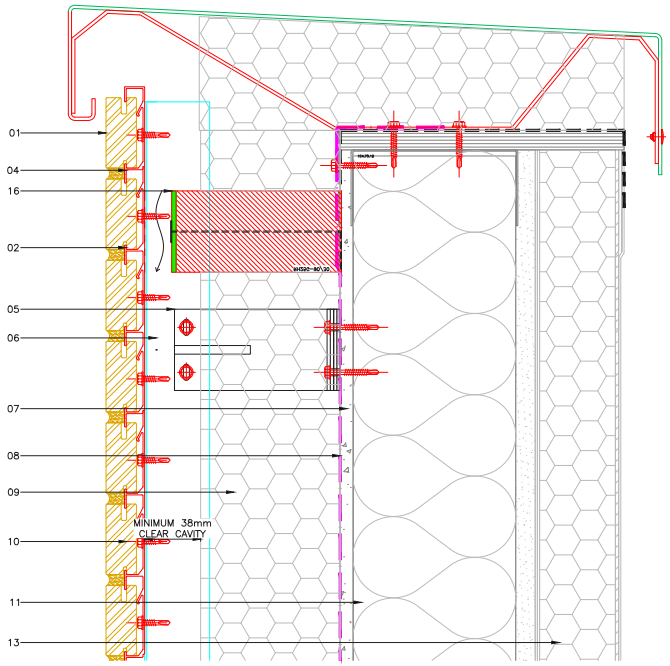
Cill Detail



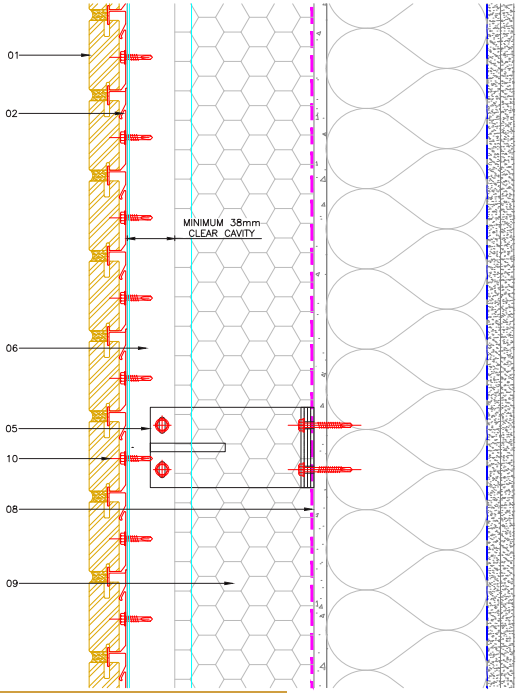
Head Detail

1	VBrick BRICK SLIP
2	VBrick INTERMEDIATE TRACK
3	VBrick STARTER TRACK
4	VBrick TOP TRACK
5	ALUMINIUM HELPING HAND BRACKET THERMAL ISOLATION PAD
6	EXTRUDED 'L' OR 'T' RAIL
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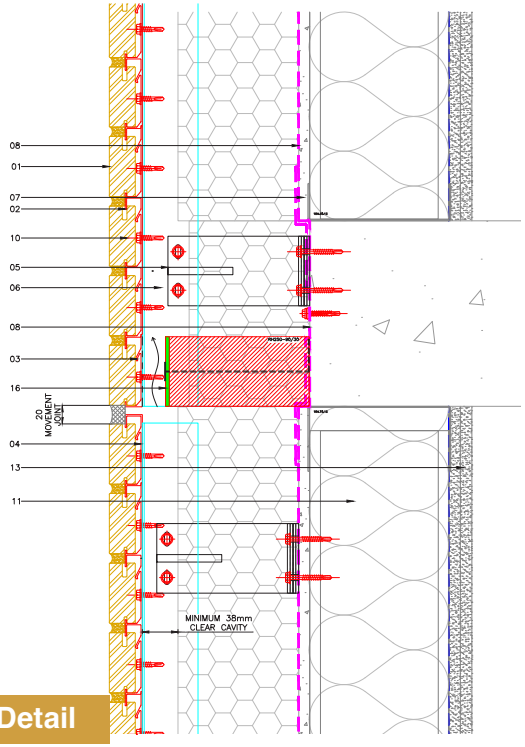
Standard Details



Coping Detail

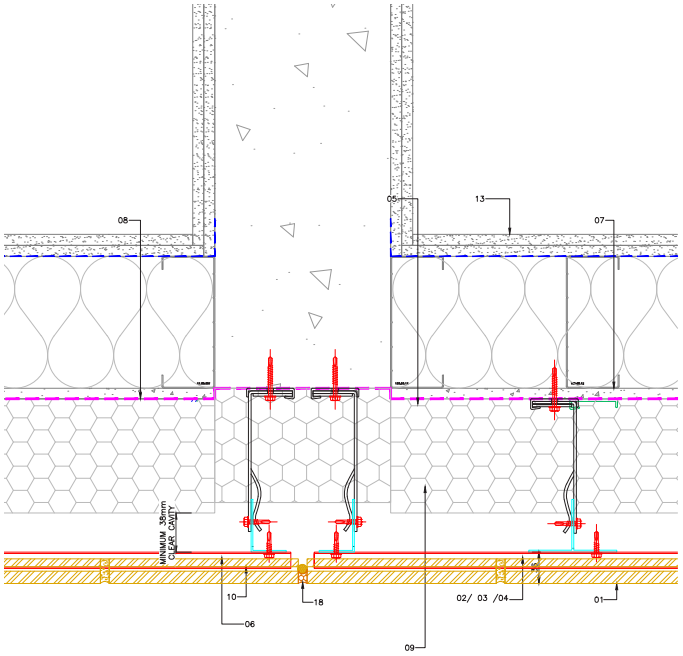


Horizontal Joint Detail

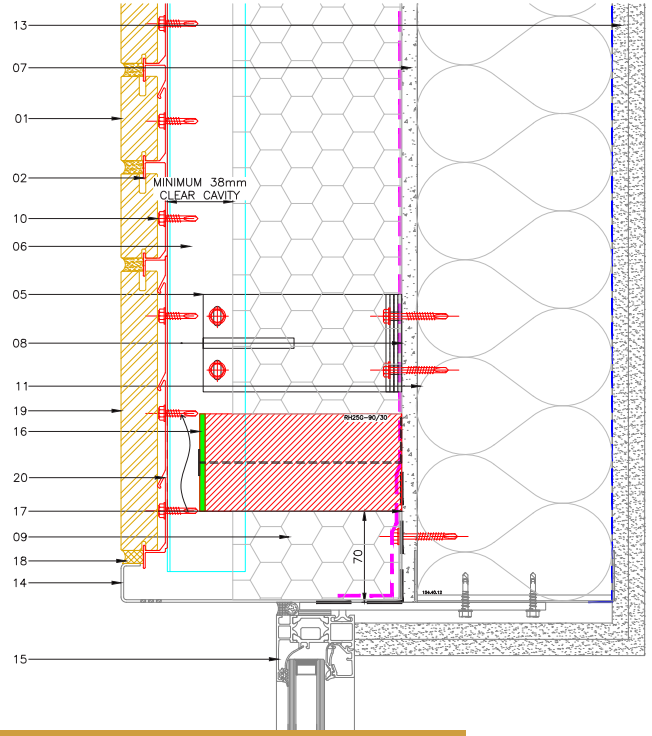


Floor Slab Detail

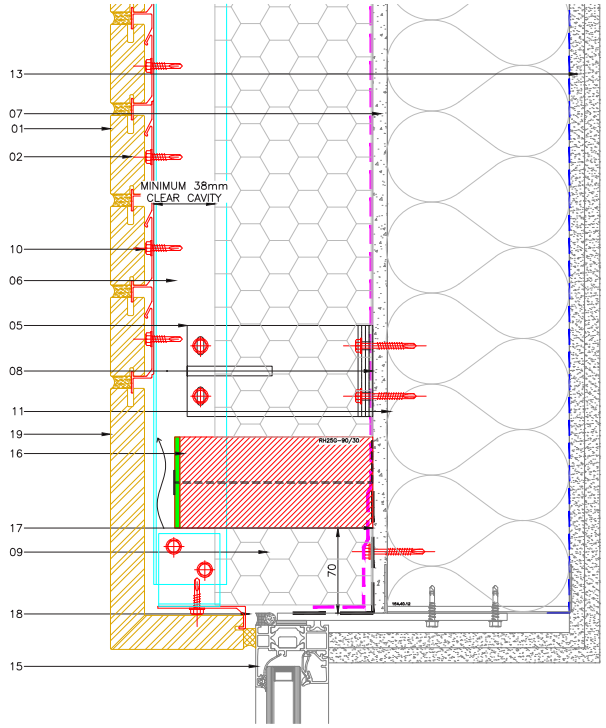
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Vertical Movement Joint



Vertical Soldier Brick Head Detail



Vertical Pistol Brick Head Detail

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Testing

Wind Resistance:
The VBrick system has been tested under simulated extreme wind conditions for serviceability and safety under positive and negative pressure:
Positive Pressure: Simulates wind pushing against the building‘s exterior.
Negative Pressure: Simulates the suction effect of wind blowing away from the building‘s exterior. ±2400 Pa serviceability, ±3600 Pa safety in accordance with CWCT standard test methods.

Water Tightness:
CWCT water tightness tests involve the Hose Test for sealed systems and the Spraybar Test for open-jointed systems, where water is applied to the facade for a set duration while observers check for leaks. The tests determine a facade‘s ability to resist water penetration under simulated wind-driven rain conditions; Pass; 600 Pa, in accordance with CWCT standard test methods.

Impact Resistance:
CWCT impact tests assess a building‘s resilience to accidental damage from impacts, with a hard body test using a solid steel ball (H1 & H2) and a soft body test using a 50kg leather bag filled with glass beads, often simulating incidents like collisions with maintenance cradles or falls of debris. The impact is measured by the energy of the falling object, which is related to its mass and fall height. Class 1 in accordance with CWCT standard test methods.

Durability:
The system passed hygrothermal/Freeze-thaw:
EAD 040914-00-0404 2018 , Pass; To BS EN 771-1, F2 and EAD 090062-01-0404:2021, VBrick boasts 60 year design life durability as certified by Lucideon

Fire:
Safety is at the core of our design. All panels undergo certified fire testing to assess flame spread, smoke development, and combustibility. VBrick is tested to EN 13501-1:2018 and achieves A1 classification.

Technical Support

Our dedicated technical team is here to support you from concept to completion. Whether you're in the early stages of design or deep into detailed specifications, we provide:

Design Assistance: Helping you integrate our systems seamlessly into your project, no matter the complexity.

Structural Calculations: Providing accurate, project-specific calculations to ensure compliance, safety, and performance.

Product Selection & Detailing: Advice on the best solutions for your application, with guidance on installation detailing and system compatibility.

Regulatory & Standards Advice: Ensuring your project meets all relevant building codes and fire, wind, and water resistance standards.

Think of us as an extension of your team - ready to provide practical solutions, technical expertise, and peace of mind throughout your project journey.



UK & Ireland Distributors

VBrick is proudly and exclusively supplied in the UK & Ireland by VIVALDA, BBS Facades, and Pura Facades – three of the most trusted names in the architectural facade industry. With decades of combined experience, their teams understand what it takes to deliver high-performance, visually striking facade solutions for projects of every scale.

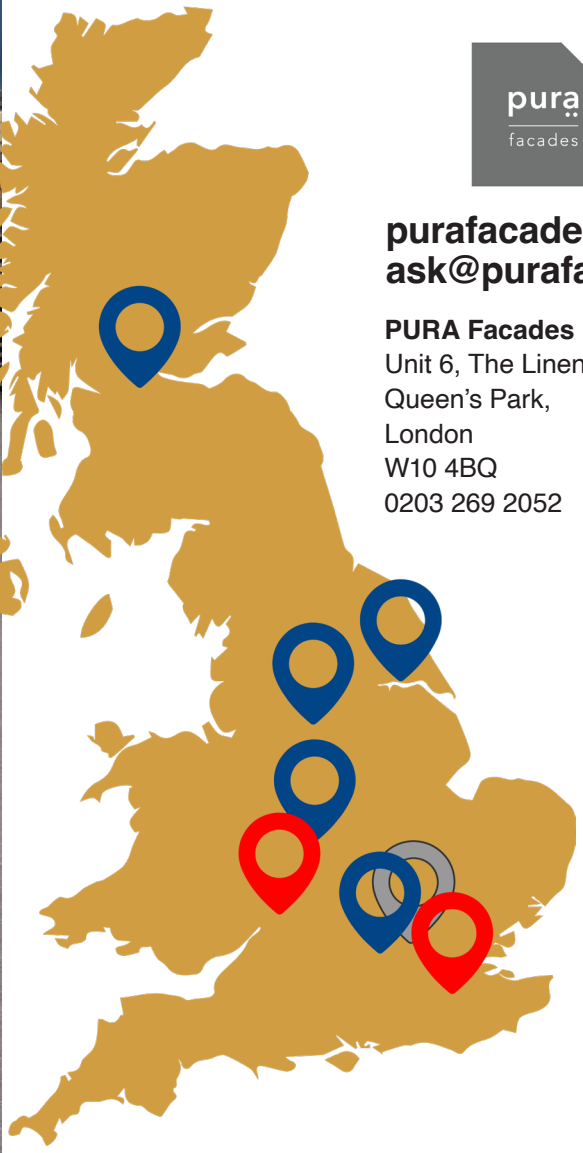
From concept to completion, their nationwide coverage combined with their fleet of telematics-equipped truck ensures that VBrick is readily available and expertly supported wherever your project is located. With state-of-the-art fabrication facilities across the UK, they offer precision fabrication to meet the exacting standards of architects, specifiers, and contractors.

- Nine UK & Ireland locations
- Owned fleet of telematics-equipped trucks
- Experienced facade distributors
- Technical support



Require support on your next project?

Get in touch with our nationwide independent facade distributors today!



pura facades

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