

Chandan Mandal(10.Apr.2016)

Abbreviations Used in Engineering and Construction

A list of common abbreviations found on drawings or in general use in structural engineering, architecture and construction.

As a rule it is poor practice to use specialist abbreviations on technical drawings. The space and time saved are rarely significant, and the possibility of the drawing being misunderstood is even more serious in these times when many of those working on UK building sites learnt their trades in other countries. Punctuation used to indicate abbreviations (for example a full stop at the end or a slash between two letters) are generally omitted in this list.

Where an abbreviation is mainly found on a particular kind of drawing the type of drawing is indicated in brackets.

A:

AB	air brick
ABR	alternate bars reversed (reinforcement)
AC	alternating current <i>or</i> air conditioning
ACoP	approved code of practice
AIStructE	Associate of the Institution of Structural Engineers
ALT	alternate, alternately (reinforcement)
AMIStructE	Associate Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers
AMICE	Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers

B:

BBA	British Board of Agrément
BCA	British Cement Association
BCO	building control officer
BCSA	British Constructional Steelwork Association
BCWS	boosted cold water service (services)
BH	bore hole <i>or</i> beam height (survey)
BHWS	boosted hot water service (services)
BIG	back inlet gully
BLK	blockwork
BM	bending moment <i>or</i> bench mark
BOQ	bill of quantities
BRW	brick retaining wall (survey)
BS	British Standard
BSI	British Standards Institution
BW	brick wall (survey) <i>or</i> builders' work (services)
BWF	barbed wire fence (survey)
BWIC	builders' work in connection with (services)
BWK	brickwork

C:

C cill height (survey)
CA contract administrator
CAD [computer aided design](#)
CAM computer aided manufacture
CBF close boarded fence (survey)
CBW concrete block wall (survey)
CC centre to centre
CDM Construction (Design and Management) Regulations
CE conformité européenne
CEng chartered engineer
CGI [corrugated galvanized iron](#)
CH ceiling height
CHS [circular hollow section](#)
CI [cast iron](#)
CIF corrugated iron fence (survey)
CJ construction joint
CL cover level *or* centre line
CLF chain link fence (survey)
CP code of practice
CPF concrete panel fence (survey)
CPS concrete paving slabs (survey)
CR crown height of arch (survey)
CRS centres
CRW concrete retaining wall (survey)
CS Concrete Society
CV commissioning valve (services)
CW concrete wall (survey)
CWS cold water service (services)
CWT [hundredweight](#)

D:

D diameter
DC drain cock (services)
DCV double check valve (services)
DHW domestic hot water
DL [dead load](#)
DOV drain off valve (services)
DP down pipe
DPC damp-proof course
DPDT double pole double throw switch (electrical)
DPM damp-proof membrane
DPST double pole single throw switch (electrical)
DRG drawing
DS [District Surveyor](#)
DSSO double switched socket outlet (electrical)

E:

ECB electricity control box

ECUK [Engineering Council United Kingdom](#)
EL existing level
EngTech engineering technician
EPP expanded polypropylene *or* environmentally preferred product
ERV expansion relief valve (services)

F:

FB flower bed (survey) *or* from below (services)
FBTA from below to above (services)
FC flexible connection (services)
FF far face (reinforcement)
FFL finished floor level
FH fire hydrant (survey)
FICE Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers
FIStructE Fellow of the Institution of Structural Engineers
FL floor level
FoS factor of safety
FS full size *or* fused spur (electrical)
FSC forest stewardship council (timber)

G:

G gully (survey)
GGBS ground granulated blastfurnace slag
GS general structural (timber)

H:

H *or* HT window head height (survey)
HAC [high alumina cement](#)
HDF high density fibreboard
HL high level
HSFG [high strength friction grip \(steel connection\)](#)
HT high tensile
HWS hot water service (services)

I:

IC inspection cover (survey) *or* inspection chamber
ICE [Institution of Civil Engineers](#)
ID inside diameter
IEng incorporated engineer
IL invert level
INTER intermediate switch (electrical)
IRF iron railing fence (survey)
IStructE [Institution of Structural Engineers](#)
IV isolating valve (services)
IWF interwoven fence (survey)

J:

JCB J C Bamford – manufacturer of wheeled excavators
JCT Joint Contracts Tribunal

K:

kg kilogramme
kN [kiloNewton](#)

L:

L light (survey)
LA local authority
LL live load
LOLER Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998
LP lamp post (survey)
LSL laminated strand lumber
LSV lockshield valve (services)

M:

m metre
MC mass concrete *or* moderately conservative
MCW mains cold water (services)
MDF medium density fibreboard
MH manhole
MHSW Management of health and Safety at Work Regulations
MICE Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers
MIStructE Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers
mm millimetre
MMMMF man made mineral fibres
MS mild steel

N:

N Newton
NASC National Access and Scaffolding Confederation
NF near face (reinforcement)
NRV non return valve (services)
NTS not to scale

O:

OD outside diameter *or* Ordnance datum
OH over head
OPC ordinary Portland cement

P:

P post
PALF palisade fence (survey)
PC precast concrete
PCC Portland cement concrete
PF picket fence (survey)
PFA pulverised fuel ash
PFC [parallel flange channel](#)
PKT pocket (RC)
PL *or* PLT plate (steel connection)

PPE	personal protective equipment, Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations
PRF	post and rail fence (survey)
PWD	Permanent Works Designer
PWF	post and wire fence (survey)
Q:	
QS	quantity surveyor
R:	
R	render (survey)
RAD	radiator
RC	reinforced concrete
RE	rodding eye (survey)
RHPC	rapid hardening Portland cement
RHS	rectangular hollow section
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects
RICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
RMC	ready-mixed concrete
RSA	rolled steel angle
RSJ	rolled steel joist
RWP	rain water pipe
S:	
SC	stop cock
SE	structural engineer
SHS	square hollow section
SI	Systeme Internationale
SL	soffite level <i>or</i> sky light <i>or</i> sill level
SOL	setting-out line
SOP	setting-out point
SP	soil pipe (services); arch springer height (survey)
SPDT	single pole double throw switch (electrical)
SPS	stone paving slabs (survey)
SPST	single pole single throw switch (electrical)
SRC	sulphate resisting cement
SS	stainless steel <i>or</i> simply supported <i>or</i> special structural (timber)
SSL	structural slab level
SSSO	single switched socket outlet (electrical)
STG	staggered (RC)
STR	strainer (services)
SV	safety valve (services)
SVP	soil and vent pipe
SW	stone wall (survey)
T:	
TA	to above (services)
TBM	temporary bench mark

TIStructE Technician of the Institution of Structural Engineers
TMICE Technician Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers
TOB top of beam
TOC top of concrete
TOS top of steel
TOW top of wall
TP town planning *or* trial pit
TPO tree preservation order
TPRV temperature/pressure relief valve (services)
TWC temporary works coordinator
TWS temporary works supervisor
T&G tongued and grooved

U:

UB [universal beam](#)
UC [universal column](#)
UF urea formaldehyde
UNO unless noted otherwise
U/S underside
UTL unable to lift (survey)

V:

V vent (survey)
VP vent pipe (survey)

W:

W window (survey)
WAHR Work at Height Regulations
WL water level (survey)
WMF wire mesh fence (survey)
WPF wooden panel fence (survey)

∅ diameter