Suspended Brickwork

Four ways to create attractive soffit details
Under the Leviat brand, we have united the expertise, skills and resources of Ancon and its sister companies to create a world leader in fixing, connecting and anchoring technology.

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Leviat.com
Suspended Brickwork
Four ways to create attractive soffit details

Deep reveals and soffits are an increasingly popular design feature that add an extra depth and dimension to masonry façades. Creating these effects can be key to the aesthetics of the building but can pose engineering problems as the main building façade must be maintained across an opening, while seeming to be unsupported by structural steelwork.

The unique expertise of Leviat in the design and manufacture of high integrity steel components has enabled the company to develop four effective solutions to achieve this popular design feature – allowing architects greater freedom in design.

Solutions range from the suspension of factory-made brick faced steel or precast concrete units that are simply lifted and bolted to the underside of an Ancon MDC brick support system, to more complex hanger systems that are assembled on site using Ancon stirrups and stitching rods or channels and dowelled wall ties.

All systems are manufactured to meet individual project specifications. System designs vary depending on factors such as load, cavity, soffit dimensions, brick pattern and coursing.

Our experience shows a prefabricated soffit offers contractors a far easier and more cost-effective solution. Nexus®, has been developed in partnership with cut-brick specialist Ibstock Kevington and offers a lightweight steel alternative to cast concrete. The latest innovation, Nexus® XI, is a mechanically fixed brick-faced support system and lintel range which further enhances the already popular Nexus® offering.

See pages 4-5 for more information.

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Brick Slip Systems
Ideal for large/numerous soffits
• Nexux® lightweight steel system – bolted to MDC brick support
• Precast concrete system – bolted to MDC brick support

Full Brick Systems
Ideal for the occasional/small opening
• Hanger tie system – channel on underside of MDC brick support to carry hanger ties
• Stirrup and stitching rod system – attached to MDC brick support
Nexus® XI mechanically fixed, lightweight brick faced soffit system

Designed and manufactured in partnership with

Offering 30+ years’ brick-cutting experience and nationwide operations

Brick Support Specialist
Free Technical Advice and Design Service
Bespoke Solutions
Manufactured in the UK
ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001

100% Corrosion Resistant Stainless Steel
Hidden Support - No Exposed Steelwork
Animated Installation Video
UKCA & CE Marked to BS EN 1090-1
NEXUS® Next Generation Brick Faced Support System

- Lightweight, prefabricated system
- Developed by two industry experts
- Two-part system allows full adjustment for perfect alignment
- Easier to handle than precast concrete systems
- Quick to install - no mechanical lifting

NEXUS® combines a lightweight, steel-backed, brick faced unit manufactured by Ibstock Kevington with our tried and tested Ancon MDC stainless steel bracket angle support system.

The system offers considerable benefits over cast concrete alternatives (page 5). It cuts the weight by more than half, which in most cases will allow the brick faced units to be installed without specialist lifting equipment and provides significant savings in installation time, making it particularly appropriate for fast-track or time-limited projects.

Individual Nexus® units are designed and prefabricated off-site to suit the soffit dimensions so there is no cutting required on-site. They are simply offered up to the pre-fixed and pre-drilled Ancon MDC angle and then bolted into position using T-head fixings in a continuous channel.

The two-part design allows maximum adjustability, both vertically and horizontally, for quick and simple alignment on site. Being the first brick-faced soffit unit recognised by the BBA to offer a working life commensurate with the building on which it is installed, Nexus® should now be specified with even greater confidence than ever before.

NEXUS® XI, the latest addition to the NEXUS® family, provides an innovative mechanically fixed suspended brickwork soffit and lintel solution. NEXUS® XI has secured an ‘A’ fire safety rating from the BBA, meaning it can be specified and installed with confidence on high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres, in compliance with the recent amendment to Approved Document B of the Building Regulations.

For more detailed product information please refer to the Nexus® brochure.

NEW NEXUS® XI

- ‘A’ Fire Rating
- Suitable for buildings over 18m
- Complies with Building Regulations
- Approved Document B: Fire Safety 2019
- Brick slips mechanically fixed to stainless steel soffit unit

SIMPLE INSTALLATION

1. Install Ancon MDC Nexus® support system ensuring fixing bolts are fully torqued.
2. Fix Nexus® brick faced unit to pre-installed support system by finger tightening bolts.
3. Adjust vertical and horizontal alignment. Fully tighten bolts to correct torque.
4. Point to match main brickwork.

A full installation guide is available to download from www.ancon.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 114 275 5224 www.ancon.co.uk
Ancon MDC systems can be designed and manufactured to suspend precast, prefabricated masonry units (supplied by others). Like Nexus, this system removes the build of complicated, time-consuming masonry soffits from a tight site schedule. Unlike Nexus, however, these offsite-manufactured units require a mechanical lifting device when bolting to the underside of an Ancon MDC angle.

**HOW IS THIS SYSTEM INSTALLED?**

Install Ancon MDC support system ensuring fixing bolts are fully torqued. Lift and support the precast masonry unit and fix to pre-installed masonry support system by finger tightening bolts. A mechanical lifting device will be required. Adjust vertical and horizontal alignment. Fully tighten bolts to correct torque. Point to match main brickwork.

Contact us with your project requirements
Hanger Tie System

- Ideal for solid bricks
- Suitable for small, simple openings
- Assembled on site

A brickwork soffit without visible means of support can be created when suspending a soldier course of brickwork using a stainless steel hanger system. The Ancon system comprises wall ties complete with welded dowels that fix to Ancon 36/8 channel welded to the underside of the Ancon MDC masonry support angle. The soldier course is constructed by positioning pre-drilled bricks onto the dowelled hanger ties.

**HOW IS THIS SYSTEM INSTALLED?**

Install Ancon MDC support system ensuring fixing bolts are fully torqued. Brickwork is built up to support angle level on each side of the opening. A temporary support is built for the soffit bricks.

- 7mm diameter holes are drilled through each soffit brick at the dowel positions. Position first brick on the temporary support.
- Insert dowelled hanger tie into channel by turning head through 90° and slide towards brick. Press into and cover with mortar.
- Push next brick onto hanger tie. Cover side of brick with fresh mortar and position next brick.

Repeat until all bricks are installed. Ensure that the vertical joints are fully filled with type M12 (or equivalent) mortar. Brickwork is pointed. Temporary support is removed. A full installation guide is available to download from www.ancon.co.uk.
Stirrup & Stitching Rod System

- Ideal for cored bricks
- Suitable for small, simple openings
- Assembled on site
- Suitable for the skilled tradesman

A brickwork soffit without visible means of support can be created by suspending a soldier course of brickwork on stainless steel stirrups located at 225mm centres. The stirrups fit over the angle and stitching rods span between the stirrups, supporting cored or holed bricks.

**HOW IS THIS SYSTEM INSTALLED?**

Install Ancon MDC support system ensuring fixing bolts are fully torqued. Brickwork is built up to support angle level on each side of the opening. A temporary support is built for the soffit bricks.

- Clip stirrup onto support angle upstand. Offer a brick either side of the stirrup, filling the joint and brick cores completely with mortar.
- Position another two bricks, filling joints and cores with mortar. Stitching rods are fed through the brick cores with a 75mm overlap.
- Clip next stirrup onto support angle and repeat with stirrups at 225mm centres until all bricks are installed.

Ensure that type M12 (or equivalent) mortar is used. Once mortar has achieved design strength, temporary support is removed and brickwork pointed. A full installation guide is available to download from www.ancon.co.uk.

**Contact us with your project requirements**
Innovative engineered products and construction solutions that allow the industry to build safer, stronger and faster.
# Worldwide contacts for Leviat:

**Australia**  
Leviat  
98 Kurrajong Avenue,  
Mount Druitt Sydney, NSW 2770  
Tel: +61 - 2 8808 3100  
Email: info.au@leviat.com

**Austria**  
Leviat  
Leonard-Bernstein-Str. 10  
1740 Ternat  
Tel: +43 - 1 - 259 8770  
Email: info.at@leviat.com

**Belgium**  
Leviat  
Industrielaan 2  
1740 Ternat  
Tel: +32 - 2 - 582 29 45  
Email: info.be@leviat.com

**China**  
Leviat  
Room 601 Tower D, Vantone Centre  
No. A6 Chao Yang Men Wai Street  
Chaoyang District  
Beijing · P.R. China 100020  
Tel: +86 - 10 5907 3200  
Email: info.cn@leviat.com

**Czech Republic**  
Leviat  
Business Center Šafránkova  
Šafránkova 123/1  
155 00 Praha 5  
Tel: +420 - 311 - 690 060  
Email: info.cz@leviat.com

**Finland**  
Leviat  
Vädersgatan 5  
412 50 Göteborg / Sweden  
Tel: +358 (0)10 6338781  
Email: info.fi@leviat.com

**France**  
Leviat  
6, Rue de Cabanis  
FR 31240 L’Union  
Toulouse  
Tel: +33 - 5 - 34 25 54 82  
Email: info.fr@leviat.com

**Germany**  
Leviat  
Liebigstrasse 14  
40764 Langenfeld  
Tel: +49 - 2173 - 970 - 0  
Email: info.de@leviat.com

**India**  
Leviat  
309, 3rd Floor, Orion Business Park  
Ghodbunder Road, Kapurbawdi, Thane West, Thane, Maharashtra 400607  
Tel: +91 - 22 2589 2032  
Email: info.in@leviat.com

**Italy**  
Leviat  
Via F.Ili Bronzetti 28  
24124 Bergamo  
Tel: +39 - 035 - 0760711  
Email: info.it@leviat.com

**Malaysia**  
Leviat  
28 Jalan Anggerik Mokara 31/59  
Kota Kemuning, 40460 Shah Alam  
Selangor  
Tel: +603 - 5122 4182  
Email: info.my@leviat.com

**Netherlands**  
Leviat  
Oostermaat 3  
7623 CS Borne  
Tel: +31 - 71 - 267 14 49  
Email: info.nl@leviat.com

**New Zealand**  
Leviat  
2/19 Nuttall Drive, Hillsborough, Christchurch 8022  
Tel: +64 - 3 376 5205  
Email: info.nz@leviat.com

**Norway**  
Leviat  
Vestre Svanholmen 5  
4313 Sandnes  
Tel: +47 - 51 82 34 00  
Email: info.no@leviat.com

**Philippines**  
Leviat  
2933 Regus, Joy Nostalg, ADB Avenue  
Ortigas Center  
Pasig City  
Tel: +63 - 2 7957 6381  
Email: info.ph@leviat.com

**Poland**  
Leviat  
UL. Obornicka 287  
60-691 Poznań  
Tel: +48 - 61 - 622 14 14  
Email: info.pl@leviat.com

**Singapore**  
Leviat  
14 Benoi Crescent  
Singapore 629977  
Tel: +65 - 6266 6802  
Email: info.sg@leviat.com

**Spain**  
Leviat  
Polígono Industrial Santa Ana  
c/ Ignacio Zuloaga, 20  
28822 Rivas-Vaciamadrid  
Tel: +34 - 91 632 18 40  
Email: info.es@leviat.com

**Sweden**  
Leviat  
Vädersgatan 5  
412 50 Göteborg  
Tel: +46 - 31 - 98 58 00  
Email: info.se@leviat.com

**Switzerland**  
Leviat  
Grenzstrasse 24  
3250 Lyss  
Tel: +41 - 31 750 3030  
Email: info.ch@leviat.com

**United Arab Emirates**  
Leviat  
RA08 TB02, PO Box 17225  
JAFZA, Jebel Ali, Dubai  
Tel: +971 (0)4 883 4346  
Email: info.ae@leviat.com

**United Kingdom**  
Leviat  
President Way, President Park,  
Sheffield, S4 7UR  
Tel: +44 - 114 275 5224  
Email: info.uk@leviat.com

**United States of America**  
Leviat  
6467 S Falkenburg Rd.  
Riverview, FL 33578  
Tel: (800) 423-9140  
Email: info.us@leviat.us

**For countries not listed**  
Email: info@leviat.com

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For more information on these products, contact:

Leviat
President Way
President Park
Sheffield, S4 7UR
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 114 275 5224
Fax: +44 (0) 114 276 8543
Email: info.ancon.uk@leviat.com

For sales enquiries:
Email: sales.ancon.uk@leviat.com

For technical enquiries:
Email: tech.ancon.uk@leviat.com

www.ancon.co.uk
www.leviat.com