

June 10, 2016

Question for Ross Charters -

Thank you Ross and "Complete Preservation" for taking the time to discuss this in an authoritative manner and expose those who speak from confusion. I gained a much better understanding of the process.

I am not a building scientist, but rather, an industrial Hygienist, and during building inspections for mould growth I have often observed visual displays consistent with the photos of "rising damp" presented on the web site:

<https://blog.completepreservation.co.uk/2015/01/07/rising-damp-is-a-myth-you-may-think-so-if-you-read-the-book-now-read-this-and-decide/>

Perhaps because I am not a building scientist, and perhaps in part because of my background in geosciences, I have presumed the observed damp to be primarily the result of vadose zone water.

Occasionally, I have observed buildings where the top of the observed water line (often indicated by the efflorescence) is higher than surrounding grade level.

Where this has occurred, and the gradient of the topology allows, I have presumed the primary driving force was an hydraulic gradient and the top of the water line indicated the piezometric for the steady-state conditions at the time.

I then further presumed, perhaps incorrectly, that attainment of the actual water line in the wall toward the static head would be facilitated with increasing porosity in the building materials. (An effect similar to that observed with artesian water intrusion).

I would like to know the author's thoughts on the significance or probability of this phenomenon as an explanation.

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