

Glossary of

Building and civil engineering terms —

Part 1: General and miscellaneous —

Section 1.0 General

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Technical Sector Board for Building and Civil Engineering (B/-) to Technical Committee B/500, Basic data, upon which the following bodies were represented:

Building Employers' Confederation
Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Department of Education and Science
Department of the Environment
Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors
Meteorological Office
National Building Specification Ltd.
National Council of Building Material Producers
National House-building Council
Royal Institute of British Architects
Society of Chief Architects of Local Authorities

The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard, through subcommittee B/500/4, Terminology:

Association of Builders' Hardware Manufacturers
British Development Association
British Cement Association
British Waterways Board
Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
Clay Pipe Development Association Limited
Department of the Environment (Property Services Agency)
Department of Transport
Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors
Federation of Plastering and Drywall Contractors
Glass and Glazing Federation
Guild of Architectural Ironmongers
Gypsum Products Development Association
Institution of Civil Engineers
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Timber Trade Federation

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Foreword

This Section of Part 1 of BS 6100 has been prepared under the direction of Technical Committee B/500, Basic data, and is a revision of BS 6100-1.0:1984 which is withdrawn. It serves three purposes, which are as follows.

- a) To incorporate the additional definitions from ISO 6707 *Building and civil engineering — Vocabulary — Part 1: General terms* published in 1989 by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
- b) To provide more up-to-date definitions of the same concepts where the terms have been reconsidered in the preparation of more specialized Sections of BS 6100.
- c) To incorporate additional terms of a general nature that were not considered in the work for ISO 6707-1.

Where there is a conflict between the preferred national definition and the ISO 6707-1 definition, the international definition is given in a note beneath the national definition. The UK took an active part in the preparation of the international standard. It should be noted that ISO 6707 itself is a bilingual publication in English/French and French/English versions and includes French terms for which there are no English equivalents.

This Section of BS 6100 includes all the English terms in ISO 6707-1.

Section 1.0 covers general terms upon which many of the terms in other Parts and Sections depend. The headings chosen, both nationally and internationally, have been drawn from features common to the classifications of the *Construction Industry Thesaurus (CIT)* [1] and the *Construction Index/SfB* [2] and are repeated for the other Sections of this Part. These contain more detailed or specialist terms and may also repeat the relevant general terms and definitions. Other parts of BS 6100 may also repeat terms from this Section.

A general introduction to and explanation of this glossary is given in Part 0 of BS 6100, which itemizes the Parts, Sections and Subsections into which the glossary is divided and provides a general alphabetical index of all terms in the Sections and Subsections already published. Those using individual Sections and Subsections of this glossary are urged to consult Part 0 when doing so.

The other Sections of this Part are as follows:

- 1.1 *Types of building*
- 1.2 *Spaces*
- 1.3 *Parts of construction works*
- 1.4 *Materials*
- 1.5 *Operations; associated plant and equipment*
- 1.6 *Persons*
- 1.7 *Characteristics and performance*
- 1.8 *Environment and physical planning*

Terms are listed alphabetically in the index and are referred to by numbers which are found against the term in the body of the Section. There they are arranged in a classified order, each term having an individual number consisting of seven digits in two parts, the first of three digits, the second of four. The three digits represent the number of the Part, Section and Subsection (in this case, the third digit is 0 as there is no division into Subsections). The fourth digit represents the group of terms, the fifth digit represents the subgroup of terms and the last two digits represent the place within the subgroup.

Alternative terms are given below the preferred term with their status indicated, e.g. “deprecated”. These terms are not individually numbered, but are included in the index with a reference to the number of the preferred term. Terms of more than one word e.g. “water tower”, are written in a direct style, not as “tower, water”. The inverted term is also included in the index with a reference to the direct term.

Italicized words indicate terms that are defined elsewhere in this Section.
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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 30, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

No.	Term	Definition
100 1 Types of building and civil engineering works		
100 11 Base terms		
100 1101	construction works	Everything that is constructed or results from construction operations.
100 1102	civil engineering works	<i>Construction works</i> that comprises a <i>structure</i> , such as a <i>dam, bridge, road, railway, runway or sewerage system</i> ; or the results of operations such as dredging, <i>earthwork</i> , geotechnical processes, but excluding a <i>building</i> and its associated site works. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Construction works comprising a structure, such as a dam, bridge, road, or the results of operations such as dredging, de-watering, soil stabilization, but excluding a building and its associated site works.
100 1103	building	<i>Construction works</i> that has the provision of shelter for its occupants or contents as one of its main purposes and is usually enclosed and designed to stand permanently in one place. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Construction works that has the provision of shelter for its occupants or contents as one of its main purposes and is normally designed to stand in one place.
100 1104	site	Area of <i>land</i> or water where <i>construction work</i> or other development is undertaken. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Area where construction works are undertaken.
100 1105	external works	<i>Construction works</i> or landscape work on <i>land</i> associated with and adjacent to <i>civil engineering works</i> or <i>buildings</i> .
100 12 Civil engineering works		
100 1201	substructure	Part of a <i>structure</i> wholly or mainly below the level of the adjoining <i>ground</i> (2) or a given level.
100 1202	earthworks	Result of <i>earthwork</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Works resulting from excavation or raising of ground.
100 1203	dewatering	Procedure to lower the level of groundwater locally.
100 1204	trench	Open <i>excavation</i> , the length of which greatly exceeds its width. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Long, narrow excavation.
100 1205	retaining wall	<i>Wall</i> that provides lateral support to the <i>ground</i> (2) or to resist pressure from a mass of other material. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Wall providing lateral support to the ground or to resist pressure from a mass of other material.
100 1206	tunnel	Horizontal or sloping underground enclosed way of some length. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Underground enclosed way of some length, horizontal or sloping.
100 1207	superstructure	Part of a <i>structure</i> above the <i>substructure</i> .
100 1208	bridge	<i>Civil engineering works</i> that affords passage to pedestrians, animals, vehicles, waterways and <i>services</i> above obstacles or between two points at a height above the <i>ground</i> (2). NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Civil engineering works affording passage to pedestrians, animals, road or rail vehicles, waterways and services above obstacles or between two points at a height above the ground.

No.	Term	Definition
100 1209	arch bridge	<i>Bridge</i> , the main <i>structure</i> of which is one or more <i>arches</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Bridge the main structure of which is an arch.
100 1210	bow string bridge	<i>Bridge</i> , the main <i>structure</i> of which is an <i>arch</i> and its <i>tie</i> .
100 1211	cantilever bridge	<i>Bridge</i> , the main <i>structural members</i> of which are <i>cantilevers</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Bridge in which the principal members are cantilevers.
100 1212	cable stayed bridge	<i>Bridge</i> , the main <i>structural members</i> of which are <i>beams</i> supported by one or more straight inclined cables supported by a tower. NOTE Term in ISO 6707-1: cable-stayed bridge. Definition: Bridge where the main elements are beams supported by straight, inclined cables.
100 1213	suspension bridge	<i>Bridge</i> , the main suspension elements of which are cables from which the <i>deck (2)</i> is suspended. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Bridge in which the main suspension elements are cables from which the deck is suspended.
100 1214	floating bridge	<i>Bridge</i> supported by water.
100 1215	movable bridge	<i>Bridge</i> over a waterway, the <i>deck (2)</i> of which can be moved to permit navigation. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Bridge in which the deck may be rotated, moved backwards or upwards to increase the size of the opening below.
100 1216	bascule bridge	<i>Movable bridge</i> , the <i>deck (2)</i> of which is counterbalanced and hinged on a horizontal axis. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Bridge where the deck is provided with a counterbalance and which is pivoted about its horizontal axis, to facilitate navigation.
100 1217	lift bridge	<i>Movable bridge</i> , the <i>deck (2)</i> of which can be raised vertically. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Bridge where the deck can be raised vertically to permit navigation.
100 1218	swing bridge	<i>Movable bridge</i> , the <i>deck (2)</i> of which can be rotated about a vertical axis. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Bridge where the deck can be rotated about a vertical axis to permit navigation.
100 1219	skew bridge	<i>Bridge</i> where the angle between the longitudinal axis and the lines of support is not a right angle.
100 1220	viaduct	<i>Bridge</i> composed of a large number of spans.
100 1221	footbridge	<i>Bridge</i> for the use of pedestrians.
100 1222	air-supported structure	<i>Structure</i> formed by a thin flexible membrane that is supported by causing the internal air pressure to exceed the external pressure. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Structure formed by a thin flexible membrane that is supported by air pressure.
100 1223	stressed skin structure	<i>Structure</i> formed with thin elements designed to contribute to the strength of the whole. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Structure clad with thin elements designed to contribute to the strength of the whole.
100 1224	space structure	Three-dimensional <i>structure</i> that resists <i>forces</i> that can be applied at any point, inclined at any angle to the surface of the <i>structure</i> and acting in any direction. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Three-dimensional structure resisting forces that can be applied at any point, inclined at any angle to the surface of the structure and acting in any direction.
100 1225	water tower	<i>Civil engineering works</i> that comprises a large water tank raised above <i>ground (2)</i> level. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Civil engineering works comprising a large water tank raised above ground level.

No.	Term	Definition
100 1226	silo	<i>Structure</i> for the storage of a large volume of loose material. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Civil engineering works for the storage of a large volume of loose materials.
100 1227	road	Surfaced way mainly for vehicles.
100 1228	highway	Way over which the public has the right to pass. The right may be restricted to specific classes of <i>traffic</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Road for use by the public, maintained at public expense.
100 1229	carriageway	That part of the <i>road</i> or <i>highway</i> constructed for use by vehicular <i>traffic</i> , including auxiliary <i>traffic lanes</i> , passing places, lay-bys and bus-bays. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: That part of the road or highway constructed for use by vehicular traffic. Auxiliary traffic lanes, passing places lay-bys and bus-bays are included.
100 1230	motorway	Limited access dual <i>carriageway road</i> not crossed on the same level by other <i>traffic lanes</i> , for the exclusive use of certain classes of motor vehicles.
100 1231	hard shoulder	Surfaced strip, usually of one <i>traffic lane</i> width, adjacent to and abutting a <i>carriageway</i> intended for use by vehicles in the event of difficulty or during obstruction of the <i>carriageway</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Strip adjacent to a carriageway and intended for vehicles in the event of difficulty.
100 1232	cycle track	Way or separate part of a <i>road</i> for use only by pedal cycles.
100 1233	kerb	Border, usually upstanding, of <i>stone</i> , <i>concrete</i> or other <i>material</i> at the edge of a <i>carriageway</i> , hard strip, <i>hard shoulder</i> or <i>footway</i> . NOTE Term in ISO 6707-1: road kerb. Definition: Border, usually upstanding, of stone, concrete or other material at the edge of a pavement.
100 1234	soft shoulder	Strip alongside a <i>carriageway</i> not intended to support vehicular <i>traffic</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Strip adjacent to a carriageway not intended for vehicle traffic.
100 1235	verge (2)	Part of <i>highway</i> alongside a <i>carriageway</i> and at approximately the same level, and that is exclusive of embankment or cutting slopes. NOTE 1 It may include <i>footways</i> and <i>cycle tracks</i> . NOTE 2 Definition in ISO 6707-1: Part of the highway outside the carriageway but at approximately the same level, i.e. exclusive of embankment or cutting slopes.
100 1236	central reserve central reservation, median <i>deprecated</i>	Area that separates the <i>carriageways</i> of a dual <i>carriageway road</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Strip of land that separates carriageways of a road and from which traffic is excluded.
100 1237	traffic lane	Strip of <i>carriageway</i> intended to accommodate a single line of moving vehicles, frequently defined by road markings. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Strip of carriageway intended to accommodate a single line of moving vehicles, frequently defined by carriageway markings.
100 1238	underpass	Way below another <i>road</i> or <i>structure</i> to facilitate <i>traffic</i> flow.
100 1239	flyover	Way above another <i>road</i> or <i>structure</i> to facilitate <i>traffic</i> flow.
100 1240	footpath	Way for pedestrians.
100 1241	footway	That portion of a <i>road</i> reserved exclusively for pedestrians.
100 1242	vehicle park	Area that is prepared and intended for the parking of a number of vehicles. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Area that is prepared and intended for parking a number of vehicles.

No.	Term	Definition
100 1243	parking space	Area intended for the parking of one vehicle.
100 1244	railway	Transport system established for guided passage of vehicles, usually steel wheeled. NOTE This term is not defined in ISO 6707-1.
100 1245	track	Assembly of rails, <i>concrete</i> or <i>timber</i> sleepers, fastenings, and ballast or other forms of support, for passage of vehicles. NOTE This term is not defined in ISO 6707-1.
100 1246	permanent way	<i>Track</i> together with all other ancillary installations. NOTE This term is not defined in ISO 6707-1.
100 1247	airport	Aerodrome used by civil aircraft for the carriage of passengers or cargo, or both, and having customs clearance facilities. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Whole of the land and installations necessary for air traffic serving a town or region.
100 1248	breakwater <i>mole deprecated</i>	Long <i>structure</i> in the sea to protect a harbour or shore from waves. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Civil engineering works to reduce or break the force of waves.
100 1249	dam	Barrier constructed to hold back water in order to raise its level, to form a reservoir or to prevent flooding.
100 1250	flood bank dyke, dike, levee <i>deprecated</i>	Embankment, usually of earth, built up to retain or control the level of flood water. NOTE Term in ISO 6707-1: dyke. Definition: Natural or artificial obstacle used to protect land from the inundation of river or sea water.
100 1251	cofferdam	<i>Structure</i> , usually temporary, built to support the surrounding <i>ground</i> (2) or to exclude water or <i>soil</i> sufficiently to permit work within it to proceed safely without excessive pumping. NOTE Term in ISO 6707-1: coffer dam. Definition: Construction, usually temporary, forming a watertight space to enable construction work to be carried out below water level.
100 1252	canal	<i>Channel</i> constructed to carry water, usually for navigation, water power or <i>irrigation</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Artificial water course.
100 1253	canalized river	River in which the water level has been changed to form a <i>canal</i> , with the use of <i>locks</i> placed at intervals along its course, to render it navigable. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: River in which the water level has been changed, with use of navigational locks placed at intervals along its course, to render it navigable.
100 1254	lock	Enclosure on a river, <i>canal</i> or at the entrance to a non-tidal dock, with movable watertight gates through which vessels pass and proceed from one water level to another. NOTE Term in ISO 6707-1: navigation lock. Definition: System of gates that makes navigation possible between two different levels of water.
100 1255	dry dock	Dock with gates from which water may be pumped out leaving it dry to enable a vessel to be built or repaired. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Large basin used for repair or construction of ships that can be sealed by watertight gates and pumped dry.
100 1256	pier (1)	<i>Structure</i> , usually open, that projects from the shore and is used as a promenade or to provide berths. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Civil engineering works projecting from the shore and serving as a landing space for ships.
100 1257	dolphin	Isolated <i>structure</i> or strong point used either to manoeuvre a vessel or to facilitate holding it in position in a berth. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Piled mooring.

No.	Term	Definition
100 1258	irrigation	Artificial distribution of water to <i>land</i> , usually for growing crops. NOTE This term is not defined in ISO 6707-1.
100 1259	pipeline	Long continuous line of <i>pipes</i> , including ancillary equipment, used for transporting fluids. NOTE This term is not defined in ISO 6707-1.
100 13 Buildings		
100 1301	housing	<i>Buildings</i> for residential use.
100 1302	dwelling	Unit of <i>housing</i> usually intended for a single family.
100 1303	flat	<i>Dwelling</i> mainly on a single level within a larger <i>building</i> .
100 1304	maisonette	<i>Dwelling</i> of more than one <i>storey</i> within a larger <i>building</i> .
100 1305	house	<i>Building</i> designed as one <i>dwelling</i> .
100 1306	bungalow	<i>House</i> of one <i>storey</i> .
100 1307	store	<i>Building</i> or <i>space</i> within a <i>building</i> devoted to the storage or distribution of supplies.
100 1308	office building	<i>Building</i> used principally for administrative or clerical work.
100 1309	shop	<i>Building</i> or <i>space</i> within a <i>building</i> for the sale of merchandise or the provision of services involving the receiving and returning of goods, and, where necessary, display to the public.
100 1310	factory	<i>Building</i> or group of <i>buildings</i> used principally for the manufacture of goods.
100 1311	workshop shop <i>deprecated</i>	<i>Building</i> or <i>space</i> within a <i>building</i> that serves as a work <i>space</i> for a particular manual activity.
100 1312	joinery shop	Place where <i>joinery</i> is manufactured.
100 2 Spaces		
100 21 Base terms		
100 2101	space	Area or volume bounded actually or theoretically.
100 2102	storey	<i>Space</i> between two consecutive <i>floors</i> or between a <i>floor</i> and a <i>roof</i> .
100 2103	room	Enclosed <i>space</i> within a <i>storey</i> , other than a <i>circulation space</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Enclosed space within a storey (other than a circulation space).
100 22 Spaces associated with particular parts of the building		
100 2201	loft	Accessible <i>space</i> not intended for habitation, frequently used for storage, within the <i>roof space</i> of a <i>building</i> .
100 2202	basement storey	<i>Storey</i> below the <i>ground floor</i> .
100 2203	ground floor	<i>Storey</i> that provides principal access at or near <i>ground</i> (2) level. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Storey providing principal access at or near ground level.
100 2204	mezzanine	Intermediate and partial <i>storey</i> within a lofty <i>storey</i> .

No.	Term	Definition
100 2205	balcony (1)	Accessible platform that projects from the external face of a <i>building</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Accessible platform projecting from the external face of a building.
100 2206	balcony (2)	Accessible platform recessed from the external face of a <i>building</i> .
100 2207	porch	<i>Space</i> in front of an external <i>door</i> , recessed into a <i>building</i> or covered by a projection from it. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Projecting or recessed covered space at the entrance to a building.
100 2208	cellar	<i>Basement</i> used for storage, heating <i>plant</i> (1) and for purposes other than habitation.
100 23 Functional spaces		
100 2301	activity space	<i>Space</i> required for an activity that comprises a working <i>space</i> together with <i>space</i> necessary for any equipment. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Area or volume reserved for a specific activity in a building.
100 2302	toilet	<i>Room</i> in which <i>water closet suites</i> and/or urinals, and wash basins are installed. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Room in which water closet suites and/or urinals and wash-basins are installed.
100 2303	WC	<i>Room</i> in which a <i>water closet suite</i> is installed.
100 2304	office	<i>Space</i> within a <i>building</i> used principally for administrative or clerical work.
100 2305	hall	Assembly <i>room</i> .
100 2306	terrace	External horizontal area, usually for persons, often fitted with a <i>balustrade</i> (1) or (2) and that may be a <i>roof</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: External horizontal area, usually for people, often fitted with a balustrade (1) or (2) and that may be a roof.
100 24 Spaces associated with circulation and movement		
100 2401	circulation space	<i>Space</i> for the movement of persons, goods or vehicles. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Space for the movement of people, goods or vehicles within a building.
100 2402	corridor	Narrow enclosed <i>circulation space</i> that gives access to <i>rooms</i> or other <i>spaces</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Narrow enclosed circulation space giving access to rooms or spaces.
100 2403	entrance hall	Large <i>circulation space</i> immediately within a <i>building</i> at the entrance.
100 2404	access balcony	<i>Balcony</i> (1) or (2) that gives access to a number of separate <i>dwellings</i> or other units of accommodation. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Balcony (1) or (2) intended to give access to a number of separate dwellings or other units of accommodation.
100 2405	crawlway	<i>Space</i> that provides access to <i>services</i> , high enough to be crawled through. NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Space providing access to services, high enough to be crawled through.
100 2406	service duct	<i>Duct</i> (1) that allows working <i>space</i> . NOTE Definition in ISO 6707-1: Passage within construction works to allow inspection or installation of services.
100 2407	air lock	Enclosed <i>space</i> with two <i>doors</i> , situated between two <i>environments</i> with different air conditions, that make it possible to pass from one <i>environment</i> to the other without significant disturbance to either.