

Pile cap details pdf

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Pile caps are constructed to hold the pile and superstructure together at the ground level or below the ground level while transferring loads of the superstructure to the foundation. Generally, pile caps are constructed to connect one pile, two piles, three piles, four piles or a group of piles. Dimensions of the pile caps are decided based on the loads and connecting arrangement of the superstructure and the pile foundation. Pile caps can be designed using the truss analogy or using the bending theories. Mostly, up to the four numbers of piles are connected by a pile cap to support the concentrated load from the superstructure, truss theory is used to design the pile caps. Equations derived considering the strut and tie model are available to calculate the area of reinforcement. The following figure indicates the typical equations that can be used to calculate the area of tension reinforcements. It was copied from the book Reinforced concrete design to BS 8110. When there are more piles, the design could be done using finite element software which makes the analysis easier. In general, the gap between the piles is kept at 2.5 times the diameter of the piles. It is done to avoid the interaction of one pile on others. In addition to the calculation of the tension reinforcements, different shear checks like punching and vertical line shear shall be done. When there are more than two piles, the selection of the critical shear perimeter shall be done very carefully. The guideline given in BS 5400 can be used to select the shear perimeter. Worked Example: Design of Pile Cap Consider the design of a pile cap supporting two piles and a single column on the pile cap. Data: Pile Diameter: 600mm; Design Load: 3000 kN; Cover to the reinforcement: 50mm; Grade of concrete: 30; Characteristic strength of steel as 500 N/mm²; Size of the column on the pile cap: 500x500mm. Calculate the dimensions of the pile cap. Consider 150mm offset from the pile and space between piles as 2.5 times pile diameter. Width = 500 + 150 + 150 = 800mm; Length = 2.5 x 600 + 250 + 250 + 150 + 150 = 2150mm; Consider depth of 1000mm and main bar diameter as 20mm; Effective depth, $d = 1000 - 50 - 20/2 = 940$ mm; $> 750\text{mm}$; ($2.5 \times 600/2$) Ok. Consider truss theory. Tension Force, $T = N_i / 2dT = 3000 \times 0.75 / (2 \times 0.94) = 1197$ kN; $A_s = T / 0.87f_y = 1197 / (0.87 \times 500) = 2752$ mm². Provide 7 T25 (As provided = 3430 mm²). Check for Punching Shear: $V_c = 3000 \times 103 / (4 \times 500 \times 940) = 1.596$ N/mm²; $V_{all} = 0.8 \times (250) \times 5 = 0.8 \times 1250 < 5$ N/mm². Hence, punching shear is Ok. Check for Vertical Line Shear: The critical section of the pile shall be considered as 20% of the diameter of the pile inside of the face of the pile. The following figures extracted from the code (BS 8110) provide a clear location to be considered for shear design. When this section is considered as a critical section, and the spacing between the piles is less than or equals to three times the pile diameter, enhancement ($2d/\pi v$) for V_c can be considered. Here, v is the distance from the face of the column to the critical section. In this example, we considered only two piles as shown in the following image. V_c and V_{all} can be calculated from Table 3.8 of BS 8110 based on the 100As/bd value. $100A_s / bd = 100 \times 3430 / (1000 \times 940) = 0.365V_c = 0.446$ N/mm². Enhanced shear capacity: $(2d/v)V_c(2d/v)V_c = (2 \times 940 / 320) \times 0.446 = 2.62$ N/mm². Desing shear stress = $1500 \times 103 / (1000 \times 940) = 1.596$ N/mm². Hence Ok. Calculate Area of Distribution Steel: Consider the minimum reinforcement requirement. $100A_s / A_c = 0.13A_s = 0.13 \times 1000 \times 1000 / 100 = 1300$ mm². Provide T16@150 mm c/c. (As Provided = 1340 mm²). Area of Horizontal Binders: Provide 25% of the design reinforcements. As binder = $0.25 \times 2752 = 688$ mm². Provide T12@150 (As provided = 754 mm²). Similarly, other types of pile caps can also be designed following the same procedure. However, when the number of piles is increasing in a pile cap, the manual calculation becomes more complicated. Computer packages could be used for ease of design while verifying the design outcome with simple calculations. A pile cap is one of the types of foundation that consist of a thick concrete pad that is usually supported by piles. This is commonly used in building foundations with the geographical locations having a very low soil bearing capacity. Pile cap serves to transmit the load of the building into the hard strata of the soil via a pile or group of piles. Design-wise, the pile cap design uses a truss system principle that can be designed using a strut and tie method. Designing a pile cap seems to be complicated because a lot of considerations need to take into account to achieve a safe and sound foundation. These considerations include the proper spacing of each pile, the pile cap thickness and so on. To achieve this will only be done by understanding its design principles and proper detailing of pile caps. The designer's struggle on pile cap design begins with the consideration of what dimensions or pile cap geometry to assume at first. But knowing the correct pile cap dimensions can be considered as a halfway already in design completion. In this article, we will be dealing with the standards in determining pile cap geometry and dimensions as well as its design considerations. To make it simple, we will break down our design assumption with the following. 1. Recommended Shape and Its Dimensions: The first thing to consider in the pile cap design is to determine the shape of the pile cap to use. The shapes vary according to the number of piles in the pile cap that can be deriving according to the load in a column supporting it. The figure below shows the most common use shapes of the pile cap and the recommended dimensions. READ ALSO: Hydrostatic Uplift Check in Basements & Substructures Corrections for the above image: for 2-Pile Group, length of the pile cap should be $(a+1) \times \phi_p + 300$ and for the 5-Pile Group, pile to pile spacing would be: $s = \sqrt{2(a)} \times \phi_p$. One of the important things to consider in a pile cap design is to determine enough thickness. Pile cap thickness must also be sufficient to meet anchorage-bond length requirements of starter bars and normal punching shear requirements. Here is how to assume the thickness of the pile cap: If diameter of pile $< 550\text{mm}$: thickness = $2 \times$ diameter of pile. If diameter of pile $> 550\text{mm}$: thickness = $1/3(8 \times$ diameter of pile) - 600. 3. Punching Shear Check: Punching shear along the column perimeter should be satisfied according to the standard codes. Also, punching shear due to piles should also be considered in the design check. Further details in punching shear design considerations will soon be published in the succeeding article. 4. Recommended Details: Proper detailing of the pile cap is another thing to consider for design completion. Drawing details should be clear and simple as possible so the contractor can follow it accordingly. Refer to the image below for the recommended typical details of the pile cap. 5. Pile Cap Design Approach: There are so many ways to design a pile cap. Technically, it can be designed manually using a principle of strut and tie method. But if you are considering a wide pile cap supported by multiple numbers of piles, computer-generated structural design softwares are available to design a massive pile caps. READ ALSO: Retaining Wall: A Design Approach: Otherwise, refer to the Design of PILE CAPS for two, three, and four piles available in excel spreadsheets below. Kindly select the image to avail! PILE CAP Design Spreadsheets TWO-PILESTHREE-PILESFOUR PILES: The above design assumptions and recommendations are considered as guidelines in considering pile caps as your choice of foundation. Kindly bear in mind that at the end of the day, it is always the structural engineer's decision and judgment will still follow depending on your guts and prerogative, but at least the above basic knowledge can help you dig in and explore pile cap designing. Check out the video presentation of the above article that has been presented below. Please be sure to subscribe to our youtube channel as well! Reference: Reinforced Concrete Designer's Handbook 10th Edition by Charles F. Reynolds and James C. Steedman. Tell us your thoughts, how did you design a pile cap? Leave your message in the comment section below. Feel free to share this article, subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on our social media pages. 75,875 total views, 34 views today. Copyright secured by DigiProve © 2018-2019 The Structural World. Join TheConstructor to ask questions, answer questions, write articles, and connect with other people. When you join you get additional benefits. Have an account? Log in Foundations provide support for structures, transferring their load to layers of soil or rock that have sufficient bearing capacity and suitable settlement characteristics to support them. Very broadly, foundations can be categorised as shallow foundations or deep foundations. Pile foundations are deep foundations. They are formed by long, slender, columnar elements typically made from steel or reinforced concrete, or sometimes timber. A foundation is described as 'piled' when its depth is more than three times its breadth. Pile foundations are principally used to transfer the loads from superstructures, through weak, compressible strata or water onto stronger, more compact, less compressible and stiffer soil or rock at depth, increasing the effective size of a foundation and resisting horizontal loads. They are typically used for large structures, and in situations where soil is not suitable to prevent excessive settlement. Piles can be used individually, or they can be grouped together and linked by a reinforced concrete cap. Pile caps create a stable foundation and offer a larger area for the distribution of the building load onto the piles. They act in a similar way to piled raft foundations, where a concrete slab rests on soil which may be susceptible to movement, above a group of piles. The number of piles in the group, and the spacing between them, determines the shape and plan dimensions of the pile cap. The shapes of pile caps are typically either: Triangular (for 3 piles), Hexagonal (for 6-7 piles), Rectangular (for all other number of piles). It is usual for a pile cap to be of a greater depth than a comparable pad footing as it is typically subject to higher bending moments and shear forces. The pile cap achieves greater rigidity from the increased depth, which enables it to evenly spread the load to all piles in the group. The factors that determine the depth of the pile cap include: As it is very difficult to bore or drive piles exactly vertically, the pile cap should be able to accommodate some deviation in the final position of the pile heads. The pile cap should overhang the outer piles, typically by a distance of 100-150 mm on all sides, depending on the size of the piles. Pile caps are constructed by excavating an area around the group of piles to enable formwork to be inserted. The pile tops may be trimmed to ensure they are at the same height. A reinforcement cage is then built and positioned in the formwork cast box and fastened to the piles. The concrete is then poured and left to cure, after which the formwork is removed. [edit] Related articles on Designing Buildings Wiki

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