

# Spread foundation design - EN 1997

This document shows a design calculation to obtain the width of foundation based on EN 1997 - Eurocode 7. In the calculation, the minimum width of foundation is calculated in order to satisfy ULS with 3 design approaches.

References:

- [Workshop : Towards the Eurocodes era](#)
- [EN 1997 - Eurocode 7 : Geotechnical design, section 3 and section 6](#)
- [Eurocode 7: Geotechnical Design Worked examples](#)
- [EN 1997](#)

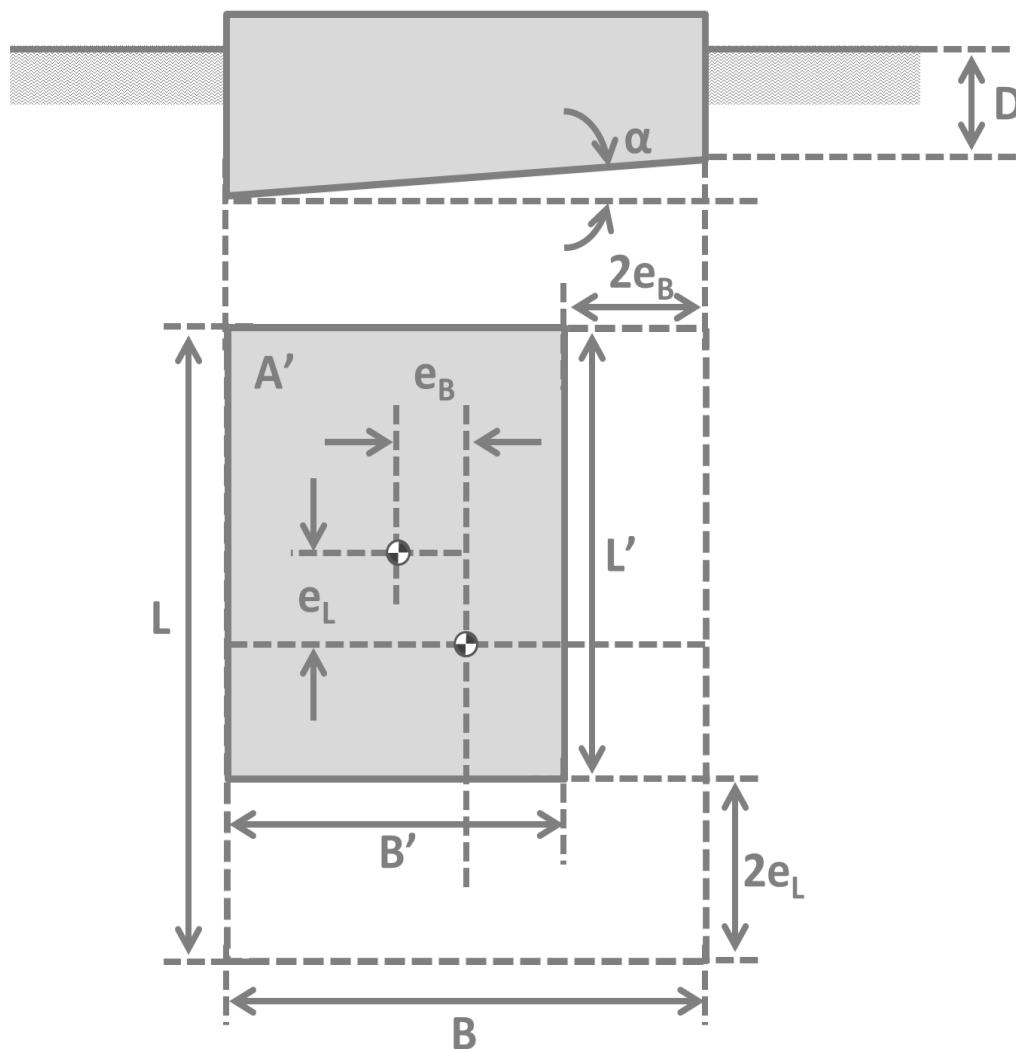
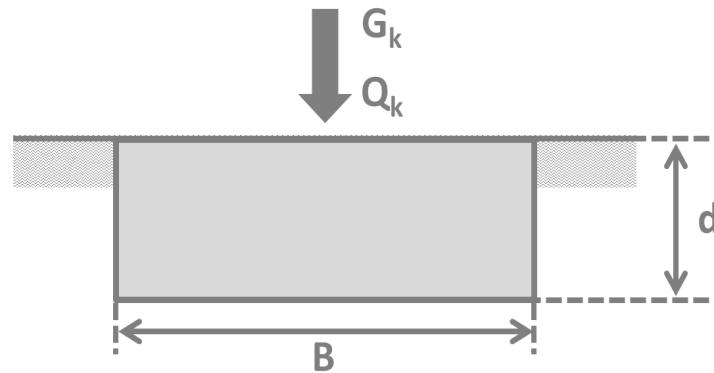


Figure 1 : Notation defined in EN 1997 Annex D

# 1. Design parameters and conditions

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**Figure 2 : Design situation / Square pad foundation**

## Value of actions

Permanent vertical load  $G_k := 900 \text{ kN}$

Variable vertical load  $Q_k := 600 \text{ kN}$

Concrete weight density  $\gamma_c := 24 \frac{\text{kN}}{\text{m}^3}$

## Ground properties

Undrained shear strength  $c_{u,k} := 200 \text{ kPa}$

Cohesion intercept  $c_k := 0 \text{ kPa}$

Angle of shearing resistance  
in terms of effective stress  $\phi_k := 35 \text{ deg}$

Soil weight density  $\gamma_k := 22 \frac{\text{kN}}{\text{m}^3}$

Horizontal load  $H := 0$

## Geometrical properties

Inclination of foundation base to the horizontal	$\alpha := 0$
Height	$d := 0.8 \text{ m}$
Effective foundation area	$A := (B \cdot m)^2$

## 2. ULS : Undrained conditions

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### 2-0. Equation of undrained design bearing resistance

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Reference : EN1997 Annex D

Equation to calculate Design bearing resistance	$Eq_{\text{undrained}} := \frac{R_{u,d}}{A} = \frac{(\pi + 2) \cdot c_{u,d} \cdot b_c \cdot s_c \cdot i_c + q_{u,d}}{\gamma_R}$
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Inclination of Foundation base	$b_c := 1 - \frac{2 \cdot \alpha}{\pi + 2}$
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Shape of foundation	$s_c := 1 + 0.2 \cdot \frac{B}{B} = 1.200$
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Inclination of the load by horizontal load	$i_c := 0.5 \cdot \left( 1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{H}{A \cdot c_u}} \right)$
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Overburden pressure at the level of foundation base	$q_{u,d} := \gamma_k \cdot d$
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Design shear strength	$c_{u,d} := \frac{c_{u,k}}{\gamma_{cu}}$
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## 2-1. Design Approach 1 - Combination 1 (A1 + M1 + R1)

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### A1 of partial factors on actions

Permanent action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_G := 1.35$

Variable action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_Q := 1.5$

### M1 of partial factors for soil parameters

Undraied shear strength  $\gamma_{cu} := 1.0$

### R1 of partial resistance factors for spread foundations

Bearing  $\gamma_R := 1.0$

### Based on ULS design requirement

Design value of vertical action  $V_{u,d} := \gamma_G \cdot (G_k + G_{pad,k}) + \gamma_Q \cdot Q_k$

Characteristic weight  
of concrete pad  $G_{pad,k} := A \cdot \gamma_c \cdot d$

Equation to calculate  
Design bearing resistance  $Eq_{undrained} := \frac{R_{u,d}}{A} = \frac{(\pi + 2) \cdot c_{u,d} \cdot b_c \cdot s_c \cdot i_c + q_{u,d}}{\gamma_R}$

Design value of  
bearing resistance  $R_{u,d,sol} := solve(Eq_{undrained}, R_{u,d})$

Solve  $V_d \leq R_d$ , to get  
the mimum value of pad length  $B_{u,DA1_1} := fsolve(R_{u,d,sol} = V_{u,d}, B = 0 .. 10) \text{ m}$   
 $B_{u,DA1_1} = 1.314 \text{ m}$

## 2-2. Design Approach 1 - Combination 2 (A2 + M2 + R1)

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### A1 of partial factors on actions

Permanent action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_G := 1.0$

Variable action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_Q := 1.3$

### M2 of partial factors for soil parameters

Undraied shear strength  $\gamma_{cu} := 1.4$

### R1 of partial resistance factors for spread foundations

Bearing  $\gamma_R := 1.0$

### Based on ULS design requirement

Design value of vertical action  $V_{u,d} := \gamma_G \cdot (G_k + G_{pad,k}) + \gamma_Q \cdot Q_k$

Characteristic weight  
of concrete pad  $G_{pad,k} := A \cdot \gamma_c \cdot d$

Equation to calculate  
Design bearing resistance  $Eq_{undrained} := \frac{R_{u,d}}{A} = \frac{(\pi + 2) \cdot c_{u,d} \cdot b \cdot s_c \cdot i_c + q_{u,d}}{\gamma_R}$

Design value of  
bearing resistance  $R_{u,d,sol} := solve(Eq_{undrained}, R_{u,d})$

Solve  $V_d \leq R_d$  to get  
the mimum value of pad length  $B_{u,DA1,2} := fsolve(R_{u,d,sol} = V_{u,d}, B = 0 ..10) \text{ m}$

$$B_{u,DA1,2} = 1.382 \text{ m}$$

## 2-3. Design Approach 2 (A1 + M1 + R2)

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### A1 of partial factors on actions

Permanent action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_G := 1.35$

Variable action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_Q := 1.5$

### M1 of partial factors for soil parameters

Undraied shear strength  $\gamma_{cu} := 1.0$

### R2 of partial resistance factors for spread foundations

Bearing  $\gamma_R := 1.4$

### Based on ULS design requirement

Design value of vertical action  $V_{u,d} := \gamma_G \cdot (G_k + G_{pad,k}) + \gamma_Q \cdot Q_k$

Characteristic weight  
of concrete pad  $G_{pad,k} := A \cdot \gamma_c \cdot d$

Equation to calculate  
Design bearing resistance  $Eq_{undrained} := \frac{R_{u,d}}{A} = \frac{(\pi + 2) \cdot c_{u,d} \cdot b_c \cdot s_c \cdot i_c + q_{u,d}}{\gamma_R}$

Design value of  
bearing resistance  $R_{u,d,sol} := solve(Eq_{undrained}, R_{u,d})$

Solve  $V_d \leq R_d$  to get  
the mimum value of pad length  $B_{u,DA2} := fsolve(R_{u,d,sol} = V_{u,d}, B = 0 .. 10) \text{ m}$   
 $B_{u,DA2} = 1.561 \text{ m}$

## 2-4. Design Approach 3 (A1 + M2 + R3)

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### A1 of partial factors on actions

Permanent action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_G := 1.35$

Variable action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_Q := 1.5$

### M2 of partial factors for soil parameters

Undraied shear strength  $\gamma_{cu} := 1.4$

### R3 of partial resistance factors for spread foundations

Bearing  $\gamma_R := 1.0$

### Based on ULS design requirement

Design value of vertical action  $V_{u,d} := \gamma_G \cdot (G_k + G_{pad,k}) + \gamma_Q \cdot Q_k$

Characteristic weight  
of concrete pad  $G_{pad,k} := A \cdot \gamma_c \cdot d$

Equation to calculate  
Design bearing resistance  $Eq_{undrained} := \frac{R_{u,d}}{A} = \frac{(\pi + 2) \cdot c_{u,d} \cdot b_c \cdot s_c \cdot i_c + q_{u,d}}{\gamma_R}$

Design value of  
bearing resistance  $R_{u,d,sol} := solve(Eq_{undrained}, R_{u,d})$

Solve  $V_d \leq R_d$  to get  
the mimum value of pad length  $B_{u,DA3} := fsolve(R_{u,d,sol} = V_{u,d}, B = 0 .. 10) \text{ m}$   
 $B_{u,DA3} = 1.556 \text{ m}$

### 3. ULS : Drained conditions

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#### 3-0. Equation of drained design bearing resistance

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Reference : EN1997 Annex D

Equation to calculate  
Design bearing resistance

$$Eq_{\text{drained}} := \frac{R_{d,d}}{A} = \frac{(c_d \cdot N_{c,d} \cdot b_{c,d} \cdot s_{c,d} \cdot i_{c,d} + q_{d,d} \cdot N_{q,d} \cdot s_{q,d} \cdot i_{q,d} + 0.5 \cdot \gamma_d \cdot (B \cdot m) \cdot N_{\gamma} \cdot b_{\gamma} \cdot s_{\gamma} \cdot i_{\gamma})}{\gamma_R}$$

Bearing resistance

$$N_{q,d} := e^{\pi \cdot \tan(\phi_d)} \cdot \tan^2\left(45 \cdot \text{deg} + \frac{\phi_d}{2}\right)$$

$$N_{c,d} := (N_{q,d} - 1) \cdot \cot(\phi_d)$$

$$N_{\gamma} := 2 \cdot (N_{q,d} - 1) \cdot \tan(\phi_d)$$

Inclination of  
foundation base

$$b_{c,d} := b_q - \frac{(1 - b_q)}{N_{c,d} \cdot \tan(\phi_d)}$$

$$b_{q,d} := (1 - \alpha \cdot \tan(\phi_d))^2$$

$$b_{\gamma} := b_{q,d}$$

Shape of foundation

$$s_{q,d} := 1 + \left(\frac{B}{B}\right) \cdot \sin(\phi_d)$$

$$s_{\gamma} := 1 - 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{B}\right)$$

$$s_{c,d} := \frac{s_{q,d} \cdot N_{q,d} - 1}{N_{q,d} - 1}$$



Inclination of the load  
by horizontal load

$$i_{c,d} := i_{q,d} - \frac{(1 - i_{q,d})}{N_{c,d} \cdot \tan(\phi_k)}$$

$$i_{q,d} := \left( 1 - \frac{H}{V + A \cdot c \cdot \cos(\phi_k)} \right)^{m_d}$$

$$i_{\gamma} := \left( 1 - \frac{H}{V + A \cdot c \cdot \cos(\phi_k)} \right)^{m_d + 1}$$

$$m_d := \frac{2 + \left( \frac{B}{B} \right)}{1 + \left( \frac{B}{B} \right)}$$

Effective weight density  
of the soil

$$\gamma_d := \gamma_k - \gamma_w$$

$$\gamma_w := 9.81 \frac{\text{kN}}{\text{m}^3}$$

Effective overburden pressure  
at the level of foundation base

$$q_{d,d} := \gamma_d \cdot d = 9.752 \text{ kPa}$$

Design value of angle of  
shearing resistance

$$\phi_d := \arctan \left( \frac{\tan(\phi_k)}{\gamma_M} \right) = \arctan \left( \frac{0.700}{\gamma_M} \right)$$

Design value of  
cohesion intercept

$$c_d := c_k$$

### 3-1. Design Approach 1 - Combination 1 (A1 + M1 + R1)

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#### A1 of partial factors on actions

Permanent action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_G := 1.35$

Variable action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_Q := 1.5$

#### M1 of partial factors for soil parameters

Shearing resistance  $\gamma_M := 1.0$

#### R1 of partial resistance factors for spread foundations

Bearing  $\gamma_R := 1.0$

#### Based on ULS design requirement

Characteristic weight  
of concrete pad  $G_{\text{pad}_k} := A \cdot (\gamma_c - \gamma_w) \cdot d$

Design value of vertical action  $V_{d_d} := \gamma_G \cdot (G_k + G_{\text{pad}_k}) + \gamma_Q \cdot Q_k$

Equation to calculate  
Design bearing resistance

$$Eq_{\text{drained}} := \frac{R_{d_d}}{A} = \frac{(c_d \cdot N_{c_d} \cdot b_{c_d} \cdot s_{c_d} \cdot i_{c_d} + q_{d_d} \cdot N_{q_d} \cdot s_{q_d} \cdot i_{q_d} + 0.5 \cdot \gamma_d \cdot (B \cdot m) \cdot N_{\gamma} \cdot b_{\gamma} \cdot s_{\gamma} \cdot i_{\gamma})}{\gamma_R}$$

Design value of  
bearing resistance  $R_{d_d_{\text{sol}}} := \text{solve}(Eq_{\text{drained}}, R_{d_d})$

Solve  $V_d \leq R_d$ , to get  
the mimum value of pad length  $B_{d_{DA1_1}} := \text{fsolve}(R_{d_d_{\text{sol}}} = V_{d_d}, B = 0..10) \text{ m}$

$$B_{d_{DA1_1}} = 1.618 \text{ m}$$

## 3-2. Design Approach 1 - Combination 2 (A2 + M2 + R1)

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### A1 of partial factors on actions

Permanent action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_G := 1.0$

Variable action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_Q := 1.3$

### M2 of partial factors for soil parameters

Shearing resistance  $\gamma_M := 1.25$

### R1 of partial resistance factors for spread foundations

Bearing  $\gamma_R := 1.0$

### Based on ULS design requirement

Characteristic weight  
of concrete pad  $G_{\text{pad}_k} := A \cdot (\gamma_c - \gamma_w) \cdot d$

Design value of vertical action  $V_{d,d} := \gamma_G \cdot (G_k + G_{\text{pad}_k}) + \gamma_Q \cdot Q_k$

Equation to calculate  
Design bearing resistance

$$Eq_{\text{drained}} := \frac{R_{d,d}}{A} = \frac{(c_d \cdot N_{c,d} \cdot b_{c,d} \cdot s_{c,d} \cdot i_{c,d} + q_{d,d} \cdot N_{q,d} \cdot s_{q,d} \cdot i_{q,d} + 0.5 \cdot \gamma_d \cdot (B \cdot m) \cdot N_{\gamma} \cdot b_{\gamma} \cdot s_{\gamma} \cdot i_{\gamma})}{\gamma_R}$$

Design value of  
bearing resistance  $R_{d,d_{\text{sol}}} := \text{solve}(Eq_{\text{drained}}, R_{d,d})$

Solve  $V_d \leq R_d$  to get  
the minimum value of pad length  $B_{d_{\text{DA1}_2}} := \text{fsolve}(R_{d,d_{\text{sol}}} = V_{d,d}, B = 0 \dots 10) \text{ m}$

$$B_{d_{\text{DA1}_2}} = 2.071 \text{ m}$$

### 3-3. Design Approach 2 (A1 + M1 + R2)

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#### A1 of partial factors on actions

Permanent action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_G := 1.35$

Variable action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_Q := 1.5$

#### M1 of partial factors for soil parameters

Shearing resistance  $\gamma_M := 1.0$

#### R2 of partial resistance factors for spread foundations

Bearing  $\gamma_R := 1.4$

#### Based on ULS design requirement

Characteristic weight  
of concrete pad  $G_{\text{pad}_k} := A \cdot (\gamma_c - \gamma_w) \cdot d$

Design value of vertical action  $V_{d,d} := \gamma_G \cdot (G_k + G_{\text{pad}_k}) + \gamma_Q \cdot Q_k$

Equation to calculate  
Design bearing resistance

$$Eq_{\text{drained}} := \frac{R_{d,d}}{A} = \frac{(c_d \cdot N_{c,d} \cdot b_{c,d} \cdot s_{c,d} \cdot i_{c,d} + q_{d,d} \cdot N_{q,d} \cdot s_{q,d} \cdot i_{q,d} + 0.5 \cdot \gamma_d \cdot (B \cdot m) \cdot N_{\gamma} \cdot b_{\gamma} \cdot s_{\gamma} \cdot i_{\gamma})}{\gamma_R}$$

Design value of  
bearing resistance  $R_{d,d_{\text{sol}}} := \text{solve}(Eq_{\text{drained}}, R_{d,d})$

Solve  $V_d \leq R_d$ , to get  
the minimum value of pad length  $B_{d_{\text{DA2}}} := \text{fsolve}(R_{d,d_{\text{sol}}} = V_{d,d}, B = 0 \dots 10) \text{ m}$

$$B_{d_{\text{DA2}}} = 1.867 \text{ m}$$

### 3-4. Design Approach 3 (A1 + M2 + R3)

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#### A1 of partial factors on actions

Permanent action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_G := 1.35$

Variable action  
(unfavourable)  $\gamma_Q := 1.5$

#### M2 of partial factors for soil parameters

Shearing resistance  $\gamma_M := 1.25$

#### R3 of partial resistance factors for spread foundations

Bearing  $\gamma_R := 1.0$

#### Based on ULS design requirement

Characteristic weight  
of concrete pad  $G_{pad,k} := A \cdot (\gamma_c - \gamma_w) \cdot d$

Design value of vertical action  $V_{d,d} := \gamma_G \cdot (G_k + G_{pad,k}) + \gamma_Q \cdot Q_k$

Equation to calculate  
Design bearing resistance

$$Eq_{drained} := \frac{R_{d,d}}{A} = \frac{(c_d \cdot N_{c,d} \cdot b_{c,d} \cdot s_{c,d} \cdot i_{c,d} + q_{d,d} \cdot N_{q,d} \cdot s_{q,d} \cdot i_{q,d} + 0.5 \cdot \gamma_d \cdot (B \cdot m) \cdot N_{\gamma} \cdot b_{\gamma} \cdot s_{\gamma} \cdot i_{\gamma})}{\gamma_R}$$

Design value of  
bearing resistance  $R_{d,d,sol} := solve(Eq_{drained}, R_{d,d})$

Solve  $V_d \leq R_d$ , to get  
the mimum value of pad length  $B_{d,DA3} := fsolve(R_{d,d,sol} = V_{d,d}, B = 0..10) \text{ m}$

$$B_{d,DA3} = 2.287 \text{ m}$$