Structural Movement

New Building structures are designed to carry their own weight and imposed loads so that they are kept within reasonable limits; safety factors are incorporated into the design to cater for variations in design, construction inaccuracies, variations in quality of materials and accidental forces.

All buildings move all of the time, the movement is normally very small and generally passes unnoticed.. Structural movement can occur through settlement, subsidence, heave, sway, expansion and contraction.

It is essential that the drainage pipework design mitigates the effect of structural movement to maintain the integrity of the system and pipework gradients,

Sketch 1 details a standard layout for low gradient drainage pipework crossing a structural building movement joint.