

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

WHY IS PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT IMPORTANT?

In its recent consultation, Building a Greener Future December 2006, the Government confirmed its ambition to increase housing supply to 200,000 homes per year by 2016. New homes are targeted to be more sustainable and achieve zero carbon status from 2016 onwards.

The consultation confirms that the planning system and management of the construction supply chain have a key role in meeting these exacting targets along with Building Regulations and the Code for Sustainable Homes.

The draft Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change, published for consultation is the latest link in the proposed changes to planning designed to provide long term sustainable development.

In this climate of rapid change and pressure to dramatically increase the rate of house building, builders need to have a method of construction that they can rely on to perform in line with the latest Regulation requirements, be practical and easy to use on site and providing the flexibility of design and speed of supply chain that are vital to adapt to changes in demand.



HOW DOES AIRCRETE STACK UP?

Aircrete is already a popular building material with its inherent benefits of; greater energy efficiency, sustainability, low cost and speed of use. The recognition of Thin Layer Mortar Systems (more commonly known as 'Thin Joint' systems) as an MMC, it is proving to be a very attractive solution for housebuilders and housing associations.

EASE

Managing a development utilising Aircrete is far easier for a number of reasons.

- Lead-in and planning times are significantly reduced as there are no constraints of a pre-ordered frame design.
- Many builders consider the management and natural progression of different trade teams on site as much easier when building with Aircrete.
- Aircrete is a familiar building material with known characteristics and properties.

FLEXIBILITY

- The flexibility of design when using Aircrete is well recognised by housebuilders who are often required to make changes on site in response to sales pressure.
- This flexibility is not available with frame systems which are standardised and prepared before they reach the site.
- Builders are increasingly tending to avoid standard designs and Aircrete blocks provide them with the flexibility they need to provide variety to their houses.

SPEED

- Building with Aircrete is well known, tried and tested, and with the addition of thin joint masonry systems (technically known as 'thin layer' masonry systems), known materials can be used with a modern approach to the build process which improves build speed and quality.
- The Aircrete thin joint system uses a specially developed mortar of just 2-3mm that allows build times to be significantly reduced. The mortar is formulated to set within an hour, allowing more courses to be built in a day. This, especially when combined with large-format Aircrete blocks gives considerable labour and time savings. Further benefits include improved thermal efficiency, reduced waste and, by allowing earlier access to other finishing trades, much lower overall construction times.

RELIABILITY

- Aircrete has been one of the most popular building products available for over 50 years, and is one of the most widely used structural building materials for new houses in the UK.
- Aircrete has stood the test of time better than many other products because of its ease of use and familiarity to tradesmen.

COMPLIANCE

- Aircrete enables challenging designs to meet Building Regulations requirements; it has excellent thermal performance, offers good sound insulation, is produced using recycled materials.
- The Aircrete industry is committed to the continual development of new and innovative products that take advantage of its unique properties and respond to the changing needs of architects, builders and developers.



The Aircrete Products Association comprises H+H UK, Tarmac Topblock, Thermalite and Quinn Lite – the major manufacturers of Aircrete products in the United Kingdom. It is a non profit-making organisation dedicated to promoting the benefits of Aircrete building products.



H+H UK LTD
Celcon House, Ightham,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9HZ.
Tel: 01732 886333
Fax: 01732 886810
Technical Advice: 01732 880580
Sales Office: 01732 886444
www.hhcelcon.co.uk



Tarmac Topblock Limited
Millfields Road, Ettingshall,
Wolverhampton WV4 6JP.
National Sales Helpline: 0845 606 2468
Technical Helpline: 0870 242 1489
Literature requests: 08456 044 114
www.topblock.co.uk



Hanson Building Products
Stewartby,
Bedfordshire MK43 9LZ.
Tel: 08705 258258
Fax: 01234 762040
Technical Advice: 08705 626500
Sales Office: 08705 626500
www.hanson.biz/uk



Quinn Group
Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh,
BT92 9AU N.Ireland
Tel: 028677 48866
Fax: 028677 42309
Technical Advice: 028677 48866
Sales Office: 028677 48866
www.quinn-group.com