



Figure 5: Cutting of blocks is quick and easy.



Figure 6: The blocks are extremely lightweight.



Figure 7: Pumping the concrete.

- 'Super R' blocks. These are 350mm thick, providing an internal EPS skin of 50mm, a 150mm concrete core and 150mm external skin. They are only used for external walls. Styrostone states that the exceptional insulation values achieved are such that sunlight and energy used by the occupants can be used to provide the sole source of heat. Sound insulation is also greatly improved.

STYROSTONE

Quick, easy and efficient to use, the Styrostone permanent formwork system is produced from high-quality expanded polystyrene interlocking blocks. An extremely economic and environmentally friendly method of wall construction, it provides optimum insulation for living accommodation.

The system is suitable for:

- office blocks
- warehouses
- basements
- houses
- multiple-occupancy accommodation
- swimming pools.

For more information on the Styrostone system, telephone:

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Sound transfer and heat insulation in walls and floors are two of the topics covered in the proposed changes to Parts E *Resistance to sound* and L *Energy efficiency of the Building Regulations*, to be introduced in Spring 2002. Both of these favour the use of higher density materials such as concrete, and are enhanced by the insulating properties of EPS. The two 'standard' blocks have U-values of 0.29W/m² K, whereas the 'Super R' blocks are 0.16W/m² K. The thermal mass of the concrete stores heat or coolness, gradually releasing it back into rooms as outside temperatures fluctuate, maintaining a constant temperature and reducing energy consumption. An added benefit of the high insulation is the reduction in the thickness of exterior walls, increasing interior space. The system is particularly suitable for basement construction.

Styrostone has produced its own CAD package, which can be used to assess the quantities and types of blocks required, available for download from www.styrostone.com. It can also translate existing plans to accommodate the standard block thicknesses of 250 and 350mm to reduce on-site cutting. The package has a built-in safety margin of 3%. All blocks are marked at 50mm intervals to facilitate accurate cutting. Owing to the low weight of the product, it is possible to easily transport large quantities of blocks at one time. All the blocks used for the Hythe project were transported on a single flat-bed lorry, and craneage was not required for off-loading.