



PRESS RELEASE

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BREEAM Excellent rating for Composite's prison houseblock at Long Lartin

A three-storey, 180-cell precast concrete prison houseblock at HMP Long Lartin, Worcs, constructed by design and build specialist Composite, has been awarded a BREEAM Excellent rating. This reflects Composite's holistic approach to delivering environmental sustainability.

Composite was responsible for the design, supply and construction of the entire houseblock above slab level. The quad blocks (four cells cast as one monolithic unit) were factory-fitted with M&E services, sanitary ware, lights, grilles and windows. As a result, fewer operatives were needed on site, security risks were minimised, and the MoJ's stringent requirements for quality, speed of construction and life expectancy were complied with.

Composite constructs prison houseblocks on behalf of Precast Cellular Structures Ltd (PCSL), its joint venture partnership with Tarmac. PCSL is a supply partner to contractors forming the Ministry of Justice's Strategic Alliance for Prison Building. At Long Lartin, Strategic Alliance contractor Galliford Try was responsible for the foundations and slab

Composite's Business Development Director and PCSL Board Member, Vincent James, said: "We are delighted with our achievement at Long Lartin. Completion in 41 weeks at this Category A prison, which required us to work in an extremely high security environment, is a clear testament to the use of offsite construction techniques."

Steve Battye, Senior Project Manager at construction consultants E C Harris LLP, said: "PCSL have been a beneficial member of the project team because of their positive attitude to delivering the client's needs. Their proactive performance on site and the quality of the finished product means I look forward to working with them on other projects."

Composite is also about to complete a 349-cell houseblock at HMP Nottingham, and a 180-cell houseblock at HMP Swaleside, Kent, its fourth unit on this site. Both have also achieved BREEAM Excellent ratings.

Since 1997 Composite has completed 32 houseblocks for all prison categories in the British Isles, including six for the Scottish Prison Service, and one in Guernsey.

Ends

Photo caption: Composite's precast concrete, 180-cell houseblock for PCSL at HMP Long Lartin, Worcs.

Notes to Editors

Composite is a leading design and build contractor, specialising in the construction of precast concrete frames and modular buildings. Offering a high quality structure, combined with fast on-site erection rates, it has been involved in more than 400 projects throughout the UK for the health, education, retail, rail, commercial and detention sectors. Current and future projects include a teaching block for Tipton Academy in the West Midlands, and multi-storey car parks for hospitals in Bournemouth, Bridgend, Swansea and York.

Founded in 1983, it has achieved its industry-leading position through highly skilled project management, expertise in design solutions and offsite construction expertise.

As well as speed, offsite construction means fewer personnel and trades onsite, and a reduction in deliveries and site storage, all of which can help minimise health and safety risks. By lowering levels of waste, noise and dust, it also makes less of an impact on the environment. These benefits contribute to making offsite construction a practical and cost-effective option

BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) is the leading and most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings, setting the standard for best practice in sustainable design. It has become the de facto measure for describing a building's environmental performance.

Media contacts

Helen Symes or Phil Bryant
Hallmark PR

T: 01962 774833

E: helen.symes@hallmarkpr.com or phil.bryant@hallmarkpr.com

