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Natural Stone has Half the Environmental Impact of Clay Brick

In a ground-breaking report researched and compiled by independent environmental assessment consultant Halletec Associates, Lincolnshire-based quarry operator Goldholme Stone's range of limestone achieved a rating that showed it to have less than half the environmental impact of clay brick.

The study, 'A Comparison of the Environmental Impact of Various Building Materials', compares five construction materials to Goldholme Stone's natural stone. To produce a simple but scientifically sound comparison Clay Brick, Reconstituted Stone, Timber Cladding, Glass/Steel, Plastic Cladding and Goldholme Stone's natural stone were assessed and ranked for the following environmental impacts:-

- Energy in manufacture
- Pollutants emitted
- Waste in production
- Impact of processing plant
- Life of product
- Maintenance in service
- Carbon dioxide footprint
- Recycling potential

Goldholme Stone's natural stone is ranked at No. 1 for six of the eight environmental impacts listed above, and No. 2 for the remaining two. The study also shows that overall Goldholme Stone's natural stone has the lowest environmental impact score of the six materials assessed. With a score of 42 (the lower the number the lower the environmental impact) Goldholme Stone's natural stone is the environmental winner by a huge margin while the next best material, clay brick scores 91. The third ranked material is reconstituted stone with a score of 141.

The study gives piece of mind to the growing number of environmentally conscious specifiers and clients that previously had no data to support their decision to use natural stone. And what makes this study even better is its specific focus on one particular type of stone. In the stone industry we all know that the performance data for different natural

stones differs greatly, even among just the sedimentary stones there is a large variety of results. Where other environmental assessment studies use wide-ranging generic categories for example 'UK sourced limestone' this report assures specifiers and clients of the environmental impact of stone supplied from one specific source. Of course the other side of the coin is that the results are only applicable to Goldholme Stone's range of limestones.

Phil Kerry, Managing Director of Goldholme Stone explains, "Halletec Associates examined our extraction methods, processing facilities and the technical data of our limestones in detail. For example, the fact that we never use any form of explosives to extract our stone was taken into consideration for the 'Impact of Processing Plant'. And the specific geology was used to assess the 'Energy in Manufacture'. The environmental impact of buildings has become an important issue for the whole construction industry, and rightly so. It's something we've been serious about for a long time. We're so committed to helping safeguard our planet's future that we promise our customers that ten new trees will have been planted by one of our sister companies, for every lorry load of stone we deliver."

It's a promise they've been keeping since 2005, with thousands of trees, shrubs and hedges planted in numerous locations around the country from Leicestershire to Cornwall. It may not counter-act the effects of global warming but it will reassure many specifiers and clients that in choosing some of England's finest limestones they have made "The Environmentalist's Choice". Go to www.goldholme.com/impact to download the full study.

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535 words

To the editor:-

Goldholme Stone is one of the fastest growing and well respected names in the British stone industry. With locations spread across five counties, the company quarries and manufactures a range of limestones faithful to almost any regional colour and textural variation in the country.

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