

Marshalls

News

AUTUMN
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Published for stockists, specifiers and users of precast concrete products

BEANY BLOCKS COMPLY WITH NEW DTp SPECIFICATION

A lot of water has passed through Beany Blocks in just five short years since the revolutionary combined kerb and drainage system was introduced. During that time the Beany Block has been winning design awards and increasing sales – but it has now reached an even more important landmark.

The Beany Block complies fully with the newly introduced Clause 501 (Precast combined drainage



and kerb blocks) in Part 2 of the DTp's recently published "Specification for Highway Works." The specification will now be used on all future DTp schemes, mainly motorways and trunk roads, using the newly published associated "Method of Measurement".

As Clause 501 covers mainly dimensions and testing procedures for combined drainage and kerb blocks, Marshalls has revised its own detailed Beany Block Design Guide publication, in a format which is compatible with the DTp specification.

Hydraulically-pressed Beany Blocks have already been used extensively on road schemes in almost every County. Installations range from just a few metres to several Kilometres.

The reasons for the Beany Block's use, in preference to conventional systems, vary widely, according to individual cases. On one scheme it may be to avoid long gully connections, on another to prevent costly work in urban areas where there are conflicting levels of service mains and cables to contend with. On motorway and trunk road schemes the likeliest reason is the Beany Block's ability to quickly clear storm water from the carriage-way, without the build-up of a stream of water in the channel which could affect fast moving traffic as sometimes happens with conventional gullies.

Because it is such a simple ground level system, involving minimum excavation, the Beany Block has also been adopted for car parks, bus stations and a variety of other surfaced areas. In all cases it replaces kerbs, channels, gullies, gully connections, carrier drains and manholes.

Cost savings are continually being reported by highway authorities but there is also the important engineering advantage of "continual construction" on new carriageways. Each layer of material is laid in sequence without exposing the formation and sub-base surfaces to periods of

adverse weather, as is the case with conventional drainage.

Apart from base and top blocks which form the combined kerb and drain, the system requires

only four other concrete base block units to cope with outfalls, junctions and bends.

Specially designed for the system – and available ex. stock – are cast iron access covers and frames and galvanised steel cover plates. The cover plates are used where base units continue the drainage channel beneath road surfaces at junctions or vehicular crossings.



Nearly 1 in 3 stockists have learned how to drive up their block sales

At the last count, over 500 Marshalls outlets were stocking concrete block paving – and the number is growing fast. If the other 1300 Marshalls stockists are wondering if something is happening, the answer is an emphatic "yes".

See back page for one merchant's success story

After years of local authority and industrial use, block paving has become highly visible. Awareness has reached such a level that small building companies and the general public are now taking to it in a big way for domestic drive-ways, paths and parking areas.

Concrete block paving has already reached the stage where it is an essential stock item for large numbers of Marshalls stockists. For them it is no longer an "I'll order it for you" product. But for those who do not regularly sell block paving, lack of product knowledge may be an obstacle to taking in stock. Equally, sales can often depend on customers receiving knowledgeable advice at the all-important point of sale. To clear this Catch 22 situation Marshalls Mono has put together a package of educational and promotional measures.

For potential stockists these measures include a short and easily-understood staff training course (by demonstration and video), so that sales staff feel confident enough to advise customers – even if sales are still on a "we'll order it" basis. For the general public, the company is backing up this dealer training with press promotion, information leaflets and now a new 15 minute instructive video, designed for viewing either on the stockists' premises or at home.

(continued on back page.)

Rosedale — back in business

The Rosedale collection of hardwood outdoor furniture is now back in production, less than a year after the fire which completely destroyed the production plant. Rosedale is back better than ever, with designs to appeal both to the general public, local authorities and the landscaping industry.

Full advantage has been taken during the re-building period to review the markets and to subject the entire range to close design scrutiny. The results are improvements to styling, construction, life-expectancy and, not least, user comfort. Entirely new designs have also been developed and more are coming.

In this new and even more up-market Rosedale range there are now 18 designs of chairs, seats, benches and tables, including nine flat-pack designs for simple, but very secure, on-site screw

fastener assembly. As with the original range a major advantage is that the furniture can be purchased singly or in any combination of designs. Marshalls Mono has gone for construction details and timber treatment that will keep Rosedale designs looking good.

Because Rosedale is at the top end of the quality range for leisure furniture, many of the seats – ranging from 3'6" to 8' in length – are suitable for both the consumer and landscaping markets. They will be equally at home on suburban patios, in beer gardens, parks or sports grounds. As with its paving and walling products, Marshalls Mono is putting its full marketing weight behind stockists, with emphasis on strict quality control.

Rosedale is back in business after the fire, now there's just the will to fire the imagination of stockists and consumers.

A selection of the new and revised designs are shown here. Main picture, Caernarvon chairs and Belvoir table.



Colchester 5' seat



Caernarvon 6' seat



Rochester 3'6" seat (for self-assembly)



Pembroke 4'6" table (for self-assembly)



Belvoir table (for self-assembly)

NEW
PRODUCT
'87

NEW
PRODUCT
'87

Round and about with Arcadian

Laying Arcadian block paving arcs in a radiating circular pattern looks, at first sight, as if it could run the Rubik cube into second place in the frustration stakes.

It is, however, easy when you know how, as West Yorkshire builder, John Boggis, discovered when he decided on that arrangement as the centre-piece for his own driveway and parking area. As this was his first taste of block paving work (there's nothing like starting at the top), John called in technical assistance from Marshalls and found that, like so many things, success depended entirely on the first stage.

Once the vitally important starting position of the inner circle was accurately marked out, the laying was straightforward. In fact the two-arc-wide circle of Arcadian in John's installation took just two hours for two men to set out and lay.

The inside diameter of the first circle, made up of 52 complete arcs, was calculated very precisely on site, using a simple formula devised by Marshalls. The formula took into account the actual dimensions of a representative number of Arcadian blocks on site. In addition a template was used to check the correct angle of each arc as it was laid.

Starting correctly was very important because 52 complete arcs would have been difficult to reposition once they were down. If the inner circle had been scribed too small, all 52 arcs would not have fitted – and if too large, the joints between arcs would have been over-wide.

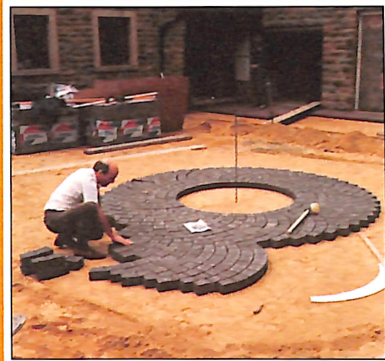
1 The end stones from 52 arcs were laid, on pre-compacted sand, to a carefully measured and scribed start circle.



2 Stones were laid to complete each arc, using a template, to check for correct angles, and a stout screw-driver for minor adjustments.



3 With the inner circle of 52 arcs completed, laying of the outer circle of 104 began.



4 A string line was used to check correct positioning of arcs in the outer circle – and regular checks on outer radius.



5 A rubber-faced hammer was used, where necessary, for final adjustment.



BAA FOR THE COURSE

A Marshalls Playscape sheep, made from glass reinforced cement, stands guard over the crazy golf course at North Inch Park in Perth. Keyblok block paving and Keykerb small element kerb provide the surrounds to the fairways.



Keeping it green under Sherwood's bough

With tremendous growth in the leisure industry, car parking is an increasing problem. Large parking areas and access roads can so easily turn a country park into a contradiction in terms, with rolling acres of sterile hard standing. But at the Sherwood Forest Country Park, Nottinghamshire County Council has imaginatively overcome one of the problems by the use of Monoslab grass/concrete units.

Outwardly the main picture shows the sort of woodland glade you would expect in Sherwood Forest yet, at weekends, that same glade rings not to Robin Hood's merry men but to the slam of car doors at peak visiting time. The Monoslab Type G pavers have been used to construct roads leading to overflow parking facilities, but without detracting from the sylvan setting.

The particular problem at the centre in Edwinstowe is a thin sandy soil which is very susceptible to destruction of grass cover by car traffic. The level of protection given by Monoslabs is shown in the small photograph where grass growth is vigorous to the end of the Monoslab area but non-existent where the road becomes a sandy track. Further areas at Edwinstowe are being completed in stages.



where's the concrete?

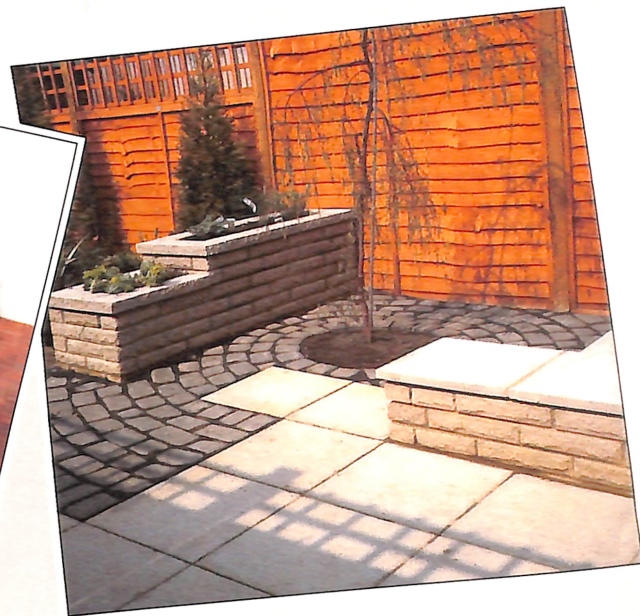
You can't see them, which is as it should be, but Monoslabs also feature in this sylvan scene, where they are used in conjunction with gabions and timber revetments to prevent bank erosion. Hard to believe that this is the River Irk, in Harpurhey, within a mile of the centre of Manchester, and that the area has been reclaimed by Manchester City Council from old industrial sites.



What the papers lay

Marshalls materials were used exclusively by "Today" and "Garden News" to build patios which formed the basis of recent editorial features. In both cases the

patios were designed for average small gardens and average pockets.



★ For the paved surfaces of its patio (above right), Garden News used Saxon coarse-textured pavings, mixed with Rialta sett paving. Raised beds were in Marshalite.

★ Today also used Marshalite for raised beds – and a kiddie's sandpit – but used Keyblok Brindle for the paved area to visually increase its size. The paving, circular motifs with a mixture of herringbone and basket weave, was laid by Hurco of Bolton.

New dished channel

A dished channel block, primarily for use with concrete block paving (but also suitable for other surfacings), is now available from Marshalls. The 200 x 200 x 65mm block, with a 10mm dish, is in the choice of natural, red and charcoal colours.



NEW PRODUCT '87

JETFLOOR SUPER

the advantages of beam and block combined with a structural screed

Trent Jetfloor has developed a suspended ground floor system which combines the advantages of beam and block flooring with those of a structural concrete screed finish. With new "Jetfloor Super," pre-stressed concrete beams and light EPS infill panels are overlaid with mesh reinforcement and a 50mm concrete screed.

The new system, for commercial, light industrial and domestic applications, cuts the time, labour and material elements involved in

the installation of conventional suspended insitu floors. The EPS panels act as easily assembled shuttering for the construction

phase, yet remain permanently in place and provide highly effective insulation. Only a 50mm concrete floor finish is required for the Super system because the concrete beams also become a structural part of the completed floor.

The EPS panels, developed exclusively for Trent Jetfloor by Vencel Resil, are light, easy to cut for installation purposes – and they are lipped so that the underside of each beam is insulated, to prevent cold bridging. How effectively they insulate is demonstrated by the fact that the completed floor has a U-value of 0.42.

Jetfloor Super is particularly suitable where poor ground conditions or sloping sites dictate that conventional ground-supported floors are not possible and where fill operations are required for both supported or suspended insitu floors. Where a concrete fin-



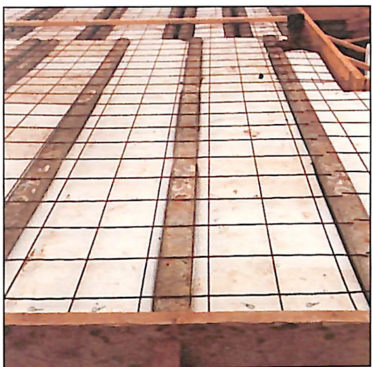
EPS panels are easy to fit...



...and carry



Panels can be cut easily



Mesh reinforcement overlays the beams and panels



A 50mm concrete screed completes the floor



Heritage — in a class of its own

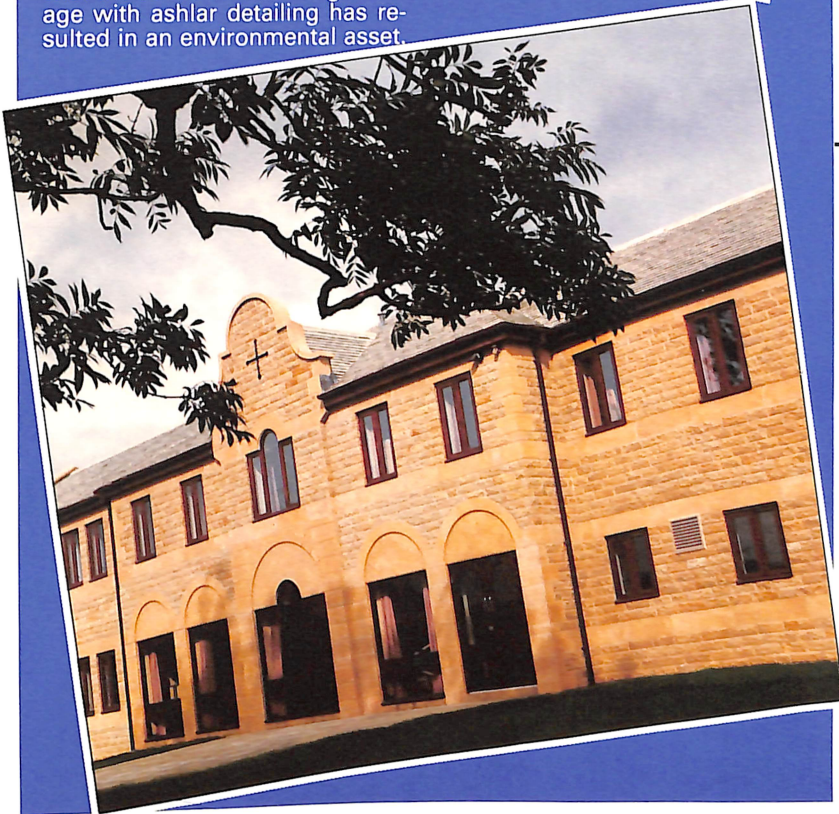
Natural stone is beautiful – but also costly – and it comes in non-regular sizes which are time-consuming to course and lay. In addition, the sizes may not readily tie-in with standard internal blockwork. It was for these reasons that Marshalls developed Heritage Walling, as a lower cost alternative to natural stone, both in material and construction terms.

In the case of a newly-completed building at Barnard Castle School it has provided all these benefits to the architectural practice of Darnton, Elgee, Wrightson, Jackman & O'Connor, while still being environmentally compatible with the Teesdale area. With a new 6th form accommodation block at the school the Stockton-based practice has found that Heritage, in Yorkstone colour, ideally matches the local character of stone buildings. The accommodation block cannot be seen from any public road but, as it is adjacent to the school's stone-built Victorian main block (Grade 2 Listed) and has a variety of other stone buildings in the immediate vicinity, anything other than stone – or Heritage – would have been unacceptable.

The new building demonstrates that lower cost does not equate with low architectural value. The attention lavished on the detailing of wall openings, string courses and quoin stones, has been repaid with a building that has been widely admired by all connected with the school. Combining Heritage with ashlar detailing has resulted in an environmental asset.

From the four course depths that Heritage is made in, the North East office of Shepherd Construction, the Darlington-based contractor for the new block, used just the 140mm size. With this course depth there are four different block lengths, so the random jointing characteristics of natural stone are faithfully reproduced.

Teesdale is one of the unspoilt areas of England, having only a sprinkling of small market towns and villages across its rolling countryside. Part of what makes it such a delight for country lovers is that, with few exceptions, its buildings are all of a piece, with stone used for everything from artisans' cottages to grand country houses. It is more a place to find conservationists than concrete – or rather it was until Heritage Walling proved that both can live happily together.



ish is required under these conditions Jetfloor Super eliminates the need for back-fill and compaction operations and has the considerable advantage of being a "known cost," irrespective of ground conditions. It does not require a vapour check and, being a truly suspended floor, it is free of any possibility of ground-heave, the single most common cause of concrete floor failure.

Reinstatement on a grand scale

Lifting areas of block paving to repair service mains, then replacing the blocks afterwards, has long been an advantage of block paving. But at Brighton Marina Village they've done some lateral thinking and taken the reinstatement factor a step further.

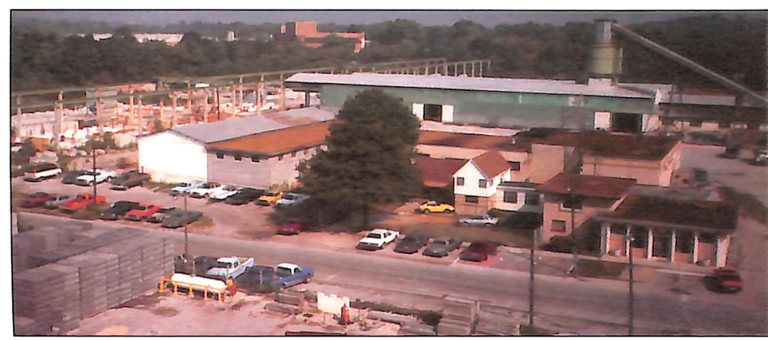
A large area of 80mm block paving, dating from 1984, was in the way of a new development at the Marina. But sensibly all the blocks have been lifted and palletised for re-use in other areas. Module 2, the project management company for a new superstore and housing development on the site, reports that the block layers are not experiencing any problems in re-using the blocks. The physical and aesthetic properties of the blocks are also undiminished by re-use.

Marshalls will be expanding the business and widening the sales area. Part of this development will be the production of some Marshalls products which are suitable for the American market.

Marshalls expands overseas

Marshalls has celebrated its 50th year in precast concrete with an acquisition in North America. The company has acquired Hamilton Concrete Products Co. Inc. of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The company, with a 30 acre production site, manufactures a wide range of construction, architectural and decorative products. Notable among them are masonry wall blocks and concrete flooring. Established in 1945 and built up as a family-run company, Hamilton Concrete sells in Tennessee and Georgia within roughly a 300 mile radius of the plant.



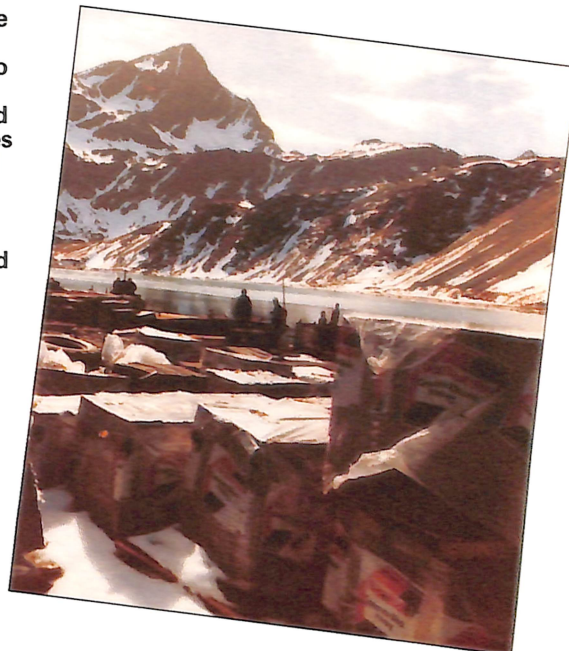
BLOCK GEORGIAN

Concrete block paving came along 200 years too late or it would surely have been an essential element of Georgian architecture. The Keyblok red and marigold blocks, shown here, sit so well with the late Georgian terrace.

It is actually as late Georgian as 1886, being a newly-built, and much sought after, office complex in the centre of Manchester. Architects for the Miller Developments scheme were Leach, Rhodes Walker.



In advertising parlance this is what is called a pack shot. If it was also a "guess where" competition we would have to say that entries could not be accepted from the P.S.A., or for that matter, from contractors and members of the armed forces who have been to South Georgia Island. A prize will go to the person who can let us have pictures of the finished block paving work.



Selling by example

Block paving its own yard has boosted sales for a Bradford builders' merchant

Bruce Turner, Mervyn Greenwood and Stephen Liles have increased the sales of concrete block paving in the Bradford area almost as a side-effect. They jointly run the builders' merchant, M. J. Moulson & Co., and, since they used Marshalls Keyblok to pave the main entrance yard, local builders have been clamouring for more details. More importantly they have been placing good orders.

Bruce Turner says, "There was great interest while the yard was being paved by L. & P. Childs. As builders called in for materials they were asking the layers, and us, about all the ins and outs of the construction." Bruce adds that many of the customers thought that so simple a construction couldn't possibly work and that the blocks would sink. But since they have seen the finished job and seen how completely unaffected it is by the heavy traffic of a merchant's yard, they've changed their tune.

Promoting concrete block paving wasn't the objective when Bruce and his partners decided to use it for the yard. They simply wanted a good, mud-free area of hardstanding where forklifts could operate easily. In wet weather the previous surface, a mixture of ballast and blacktop patches, was often likened to the Somme.

As far as costs were concerned the company found that there was nothing in it between cbp and re-inforced insitu. But cbp won the day because there would not be a

curing period to disrupt work in the yard, it would serve as a demonstration area and it could also be reinstated. Says Bruce, "If the need ever arises we can get to services for repairs and be able to restore the surface, as new, afterwards."

Previously all the interest – and most of Moulson sales of cbp – had come from DIY customers who had seen articles on it in consumer magazines and in the Marshalls Home & Garden book. "Typically they were buying up to half a dozen packs each to block-pave their driveways" says Bruce.

Obviously a different selling approach is needed with trade customers. If the Moulson experience is anything to go by they often need to see actual laid areas or a physical demonstration before they are sold on it. But when they are they have all the fervour of the newly-converted. A trade order for blocks, from a builder with no previous experience of block laying, was received even before the Moulson yard was completed. Many more orders have been coming in since then.

Marshalls
Mono

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(continued from front page.)

Videos can be purchased at £3 each, either for loan or sale to prospective purchasers of concrete block paving.

Being realistic, not all potential users of block paving intend laying the blocks themselves, but Marshalls can provide names of layers who will quote on a supply and lay basis. Only those layers who are prepared to quote for domestic work and purchase through stockists will be suggested.

Block paving has become a stock item because increasing numbers of small builders and property repairers see it as another service which they can offer – and a much sought after one at that. With D.I.Y. enthusiasts the attraction is that, compared with traditional building skills, block paving is simple to install and just as easy to correct if mistakes are made. For both groups the simple, non-messy and all-dry construction are appealing factors.

The demand for block paving in this market sector is growing and more stockists are taking the opportunity of growing with it. There is room for many more because the potential in this sector is enormous.

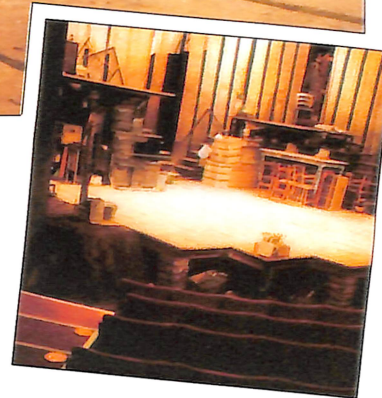
A walk on part

When the Derby Playhouse wanted a realistic country flavour for the stage adaptation of Laurie Lee's "Cider with Rosie," the stage staff thought hard. After talks with Marshalls they even came up with a hard answer – paving the stage. For the set design, evocative of a Cotswold farmhouse kitchen, 150 Heritage pavings provided instant atmosphere. For their walk on part (although they did have some good lines) the pavings were laid loose on carpet tiles.



R.I.P. H.I.C.

On good authority we have it from the Barnsley area that two 900 x 600 flags and two household inspection chamber sections have been used to form a Marshalls casket for a dog burial. Only those who have ever been owned by a dog can begin to understand.



Services blocked

Trust House Forte's newly-opened motorway service area at South Mimms, in Herts, will be welcomed by those motorists who, in the past, have inadvertently ventured onto the M25 with car and bodily fuel gauges at empty.

It is the first service area to be opened on the M25 and one of Europe's largest and most up-to-date. Designed and built by Kyle Stewart, South Mimms is also likely to be one of the busiest service areas.

No doubt with heavy trafficking in mind, concrete block paving was used to surface a 4500m² coach park. Keyblok Brindle, in 80mm thickness, was selected for the work, along with Saxon pavings for pedestrian entrances around the service complex. Boulevard street furniture has been used extensively.



Rialta concrete sett paving has been an outstanding new product introduction for Marshalls, finding wide use in everything from conservation areas to modern schemes and domestic applications. After a very successful first two years Marshalls has now

added to its versatility with some design updates.

The number of stone sizes has been increased, from four to five, and a wedge stone has been added to allow for the detailing of circular patterns, curves and fan-tails. In addition, there is now an alternative colour to the standard greyish brown. Buff-coloured Rialta can now be supplied to order.

Soon to be added to the range is a variant of Rialta, which is intended for light duty applications (including car parks) and areas where high landscape value is required. This particular type, in a 60mm thickness, has the same surface profiles of normal Rialta but without the wide top joint. When used in conjunction with wedge stones, this new Rialta can be laid in endless pattern permutations.

For English villages at their picturesque best we can thank the absence of mediaeval planning, the adoption of simple building styles and the textures of natural materials. Straight lines and regular-shaped modern materials are generally out of place.

Some purists would go so far as to say that such materials as con-

crete are totally out of place. But they don't say anything of the kind in this corner of a Nottinghamshire hamlet, where Rialta concrete sett paving is completely at one with its surroundings. That authentic look isn't acquired by the passing of generations of village feet or special weathering techniques – it's like that from new.

More of a good thing

Rialta — more sizes, another colour, wedge stones and more to come

