



Durham

Structherm

INCA Awards 2019 Finalist

Category: Refurbishment



Working with Westdale Services Ltd., Structherm provided external wall insulation for Durham County Council in 2018. While the scheme as a whole included over 200 properties, the first Phase of 98 stone properties was completed in 2018. These 98 houses were of a solid wall construction, which meant they were suitable for our standard EWI system.

This build type provided insufficient thermal efficiency, with a U value of 1.78W/m²K. The Structherm system was able to improve the U value to 0.30W/m²K, a much-needed improvement from the original U value which did not meet current targets for refurbished properties.

The houses were made of traditional stone, and the client wanted to match the new finish to the existing masonry, which had weathered severely over the decades. This meant that bespoke brick slips were not an option for this project due to the patterning of the original stone.

The decision was made to use a bespoke AB Stone finish, as developed by ArtBrick. This finish was matched to the existing stone in layers of pigment.

First a base colour was applied to the basecoat before the stone pattern was scored into the render (see attached images in supporting documents). To match the wear and natural colouring of the stone, various pigments were applied to the layer, before 'mortar' was applied and sealed to protect the finish.

This painstaking approach and craftsmanship in the finish ensures this project stands out from standard brick effect and render finishes. While rejuvenating the thermal efficiency of the building, Westdale have gone above and beyond to ensure the finish matches and remains true to the existing stone of the local area.

