CLAIMS

1. A cushion pad for use with a rapid load testing system, the cushion pad comprising

   a block having an array of recesses in a first face, and formed of an elastomeric material;

   said recesses each having a channel in fluid communication with an outside surface of the block, other than the first face, for venting air from said recess;

   said cushion pad is arranged to dampen an impact on a pile from a dynamic load;

   said at least one recess, of said array of recesses, arranged to receive a cushion insert;

   wherein a number of cushion inserts received by said array of recesses is controllable in said cushion pad so as to select a dampening and elastic performance of said cushion pad.

2. The cushion pad according to claim 1, wherein on insertion the at least one cushion insert is flush with the first face.

3. The cushion pad according to claim 2, wherein the cushion insert is formed from a material having a different stiffness than the material of the block.

4. The cushion pad according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the number of cushion inserts is less than the number of recesses.

5. A counter- weight assembly for use with a rapid load testing system, comprising a counter- weight;

   a pair of cushion pads according to claim 1 to 4, each of said cushion pads mounted to opposed ends of the counter-weight;

   said counter-weight assembly forming a drop hammer for use with said rapid load test.

6. The counter-weight assembly according to claim 5, further including a second pair of cushion pads mountable to the opposed ends of the counter-weight.

7. A hammer bucket assembly for use with a rapid load testing system, comprising:

   at least one counter-weight assembly according to any one of claims 5 to 6;

   a hammer bucket, said hammer bucket including at least one cavity for receiving the counter-weight assembly.

8. The hammer bucket assembly according to claim 7, wherein said hammer bucket includes an array of cavities, each cavity arranged to receive the counter weight assembly.