CLAIMS

1. A method of forming a cement-based material pad comprising a plurality of drainage holes, the method comprising:

providing a form comprising a sheet and a plurality of straight conduits, each conduit having an upper end and a lower end, wherein each conduit has a constant cross-section and forms a channel from the upper end to the lower end that passes through the sheet; and the form being an open-top form whereby a cement-based material can be poured onto the sheet to surround the conduits;

placing said form; and

pouring the cement-based material into said form until the cement-based material surrounds the conduits, leaving the upper ends of the conduits exposed;

wherein the plurality of conduits are arranged such that a cement-based material pad having porosity of 1 to 50 % is formed; and

wherein the form further comprises a connecting means holding each of the plurality of conduits parallel to one another and wherein when the cement-based material is poured onto the sheet to surround the conduits, the upper ends of the conduits and the connecting means are left exposed; and

wherein the method further comprising the step of trimming a portion of each of the plurality of conduits exposed from the cement-based material.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of conduits are arranged substantially perpendicular to the sheet and/or wherein each of the plurality of conduits are arranged parallel to one another.

3. The method of any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the sheet is a flexible sheet.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the sheet and the lower end of the conduits are adjacent.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein each of the plurality of conduits has a circular cross-section.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of conduits independently has a diameter of about 1 to about 20 mm, optionally about 2 to about 15 mm, optionally about 3 to about 10 mm.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein each of the plurality of conduits and/or the sheet is formed from plastic or a biodegradable material.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the form further comprises side walls to contain the cement-based material.

9. The method of any preceding claim further comprising the step of setting the cement-based material, optionally further comprising the step of curing the cement-based material.

10. The method of any preceding claim wherein the plurality of conduits are arranged such that a cement-based material pad having porosity of 2 to 40 %, optionally 3 to 30 %.

11. The method of any preceding claim wherein the form is be placed on a sub-base layer formed of packed coarse aggregates or a geocellular layer.

12. The method of any preceding claim wherein the method is carried out on site.

13. The method of any preceding claim wherein the cement-based material is a construction material that comprises a binder and optionally an aggregate.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the binder is a cement binder or a binder suitable for use in a construction material as an alternative to a cement binder in conventional cement concretes (for example bitumen materials or polymer binders or resins).

15. The method of any preceding claim wherein the cement-based material is a material that comprises a cement binder and optionally an aggregate (such as particles of stone or sand), optionally wherein the cement-based material is mortar (for example, self-compacting mortar) or concrete.

16. The method of any preceding claim wherein the cement-based material is self compacting mortar.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the cement-based material is a bitumen bound material, such as asphalt, or a polymer concrete or any other cement alternative.

18. The method of any preceding claim wherein the cement-based material pad formed from the method has a compressive strength of 50 MPa or greater.

19. A form for use in producing a cement-based material pad comprising a plurality of drainage holes, the form comprising:

a sheet; and

a plurality of straight conduits, each having an upper end and a lower end;

wherein each conduit has a constant cross-section and forms a channel from the upper end to the lower end that passes through the sheet; and the form being an open-top form whereby a cement-based material can be poured onto the sheet to surround the conduits, leaving the upper ends of the conduits exposed;

wherein the plurality of conduits are arranged such that the form is for use in producing cement-based material pad having porosity of 1 to 50 %; and

wherein the form further comprises a connecting means holding each of the plurality of conduits parallel to one another and wherein when the cement-based material is poured onto the sheet to surround the conduits, the upper ends of the conduits and the connecting means are left exposed.

20. A cement-based material pad comprising a plurality of drainage holes formed by a method as described in any of claims 1 to 18.