



Main Contractor – Liang O'Rourke
Screed Contractor – B+K Systems
Contract Value – £73 Million

DESCRIPTION

This is Oxford's biggest capital project to date and it will provide the second half of the new Biochemistry building, abolishing at last the notorious black plastic sheeting that covers the east end of the current building. It will also fill the only major empty site in South Parks Road. Housing about 550 scientists across six floors, when complete it will be a seamless whole with Biochemistry, the largest building in the Science Area, and architecturally striking.

Orlitech mesh 2.2mm 100x100 was chosen in addition with Retanol Xtreme Screed to be installed by B&K Systems at Liang O'Rourke's Biochemistry Completion Project at Oxford University. Orlitech mesh was favoured in place of steel mesh due to the ease of installation, 22.5M2 rolls of Orlitech mesh weighing less than 8Kg / roll were supplied and installed over four floors. The lightweight and high strength meant one person could install over 1000M2 in 1 hour.

Orlitech mesh combined with Retanol Xtreme Screed provided a guaranteed minimum C40 N strength screed, which is dry in 48 hours ready for tile finishes and for all other floor finishes, in 72 hours and achieves 90% of its final strength within the first 4 days of installation. Orlitech mesh is no more expensive than standard steel mesh and has a higher tensile strength than D49 steel.

After 7 days a BRE Drop Hammer Tests had a 4kg drop hammer indentation of 0.54mm, and the screed tested after 6 weeks had an indentation of just 0.35mm. Every drop hammer reading was Category A.

