

## CASE STUDY

# BEGBROKE SCIENCE PARK

Oxford University continues to show faith in traditional roofing materials



Begbroke Science Park in the rural village of Yarnton, is one of the latest additions to Oxford University. Built on the site of a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Jacobean farmhouse, which has been restored and now houses some of the Science Park's offices and conference facilities, the site is a fascinating and subtle mix of the old and the new.

Phase 1 of the development see a two-storey building comprising a steel frame with a bison concrete roof structure. The building features a traditional roofing solution in the form of a mastic asphalt system installed by local experts, The Oxford Asphalt Co Ltd.

The colleges have always shown a great deal of faith in traditional materials and practices and have relied on mastic asphalt roofing for decades. The first of the roof areas at Begbroke was covered in two days with 280sq m covered in the first day alone. The speed of application certainly came as a surprise to the main contractor and architect who both watched the first day of the hot charge application.

It took a team of seven roofers, including three spreaders and four intermediates/apprentices to lay the Begbroke Science Park roof. The roof in this case features an inverted specification with two coats of mastic asphalt (giving an

**Project Sector:** New Build  
**System:** Inverted Specification Hot Applied Mastic Asphalt  
**Products Used:** Permanite Roofstar T  
Permanite Sheathing Felt  
**Contractor:** The Oxford Asphalt Co Ltd  
01865 395662  
**Size:** 2480m<sup>2</sup>  
**Project value:** £5.1million

overall thickness of 20mm) being laid on top of a separating layer of loose-laid black sheathing felt and then covered by Styrodur extruded polystyrene insulation, paving slabs and final covering of shingle. As a result, the mastic asphalt layer receives extra protection – not that it really needs it because one of the main advantages of mastic asphalt is its robust constitution, both during application and for the continued life of the building.

Mastic asphalt roofing can be applied to form a continuous waterproof covering over flat, sloped or curved surfaces and worked around pipes, roof lights and other projections, and can be laid on most types of rigid sub-structures such as concrete, timber and metal decking.

