

# BRE Institute of Sustainable Engineering



7 Academics

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# BRE Institute of Sustainable Engineering



Vision = to pave way to new generation of digital buildings with

lifelong **resilience** and **adaptability** to their **environment**, **usage** and **occupancy**,

enabled by

smart materials and products,  
integrated design and manufacturing systems,  
total lifecycle approaches.

2 research challenges underpinning the vision:

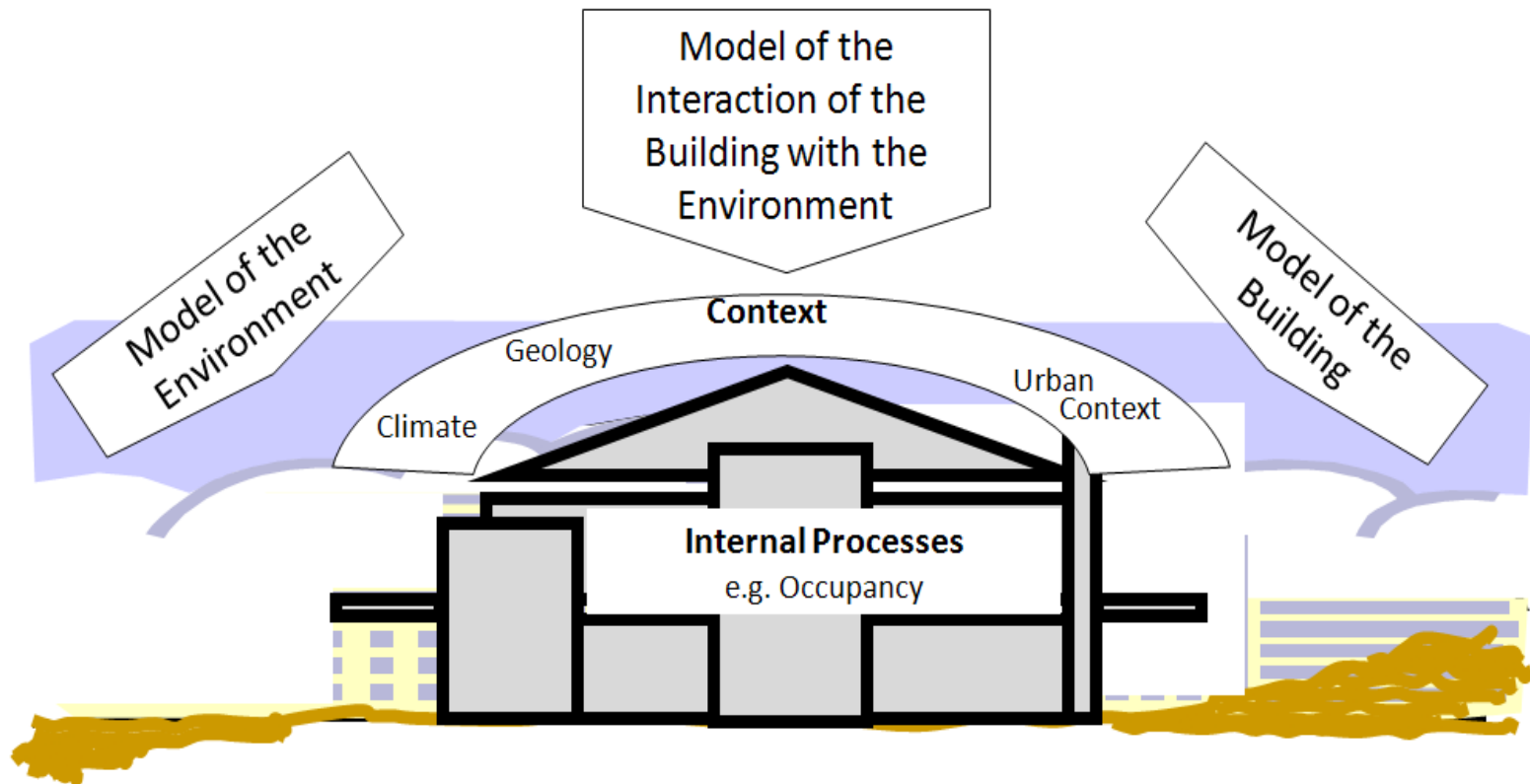
How confer **optimum resilience, sustainability** and **continual fitness for purpose** on existing building stock?

How deliver new or retro human-centric buildings address **lifetime requirements** and **capacity of performing optimally** in constraints of unknown future scenarios?

**adaptability & resilience**

# Key Research challenges

- Design and simulation models simplify building physical phenomena, assuming **linear relationship** based on **Newtonian mechanistic view of the world**.
- Design approaches based on **serviceability requirements**.



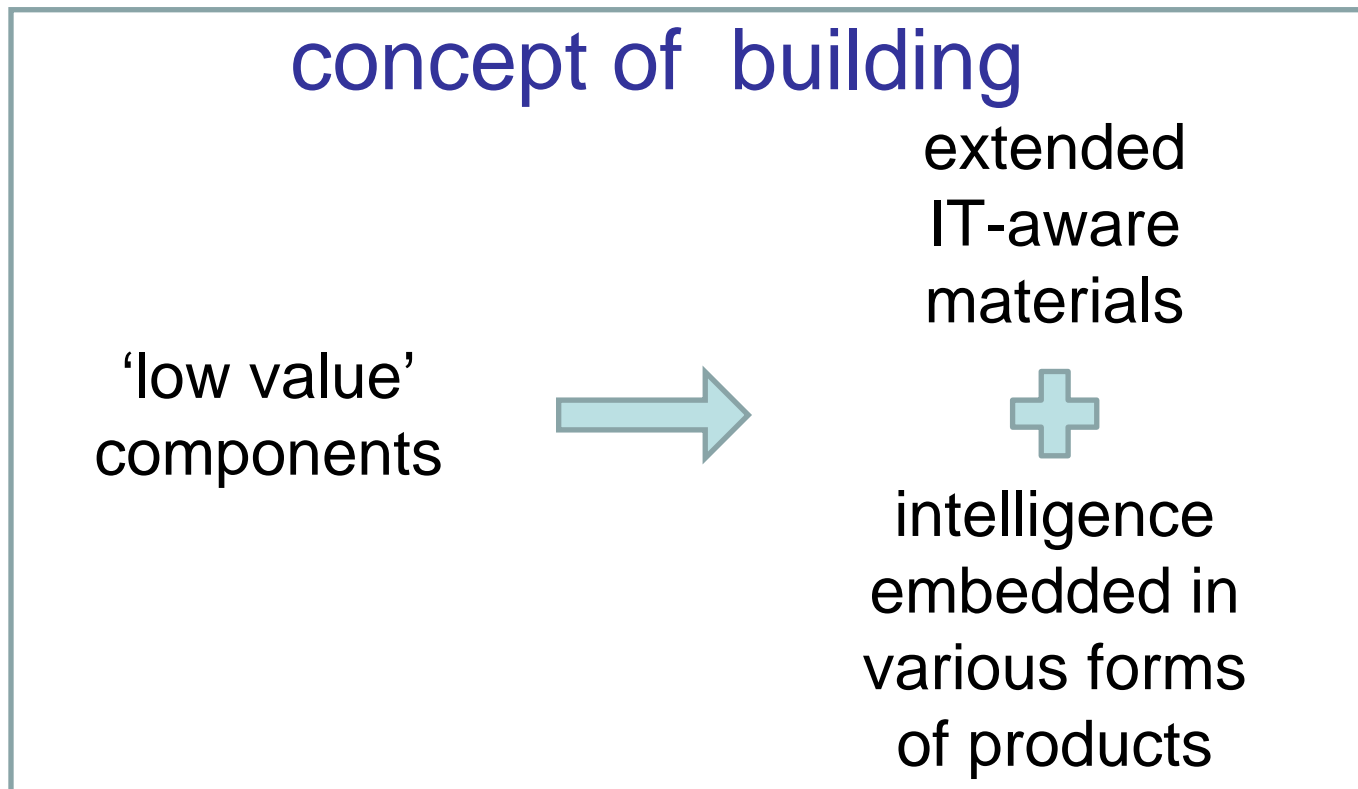
- Buildings and infrastructures are **highly complex** composed of **dynamically nonlinear** interacting systems and components.

# Approach to resilience

- Resilience should be embedded within materials, components and systems, thereby enabling the capability to adjust to any potential state change induced by **environmental** or **technological stimuli** or **adverse event**.
- Building components should have the capability to collaboratively respond through a “modulated response”
- Thus state of the building can be defined at the moment of the stimuli and resilience and emergency response can be optimized on the basis of the building state change.

# Approach to resilience – “hardware to liveware”

Buildings should have ability to be context-aware  
environmental and occupancy aspects  
thus be adaptive to change.



# Approach to resilience – “hardware to liveware”

concept of building being  
dynamic and

self-updatable digitalised

fully exploits latest ICT, inc pervasive sensing  
tech

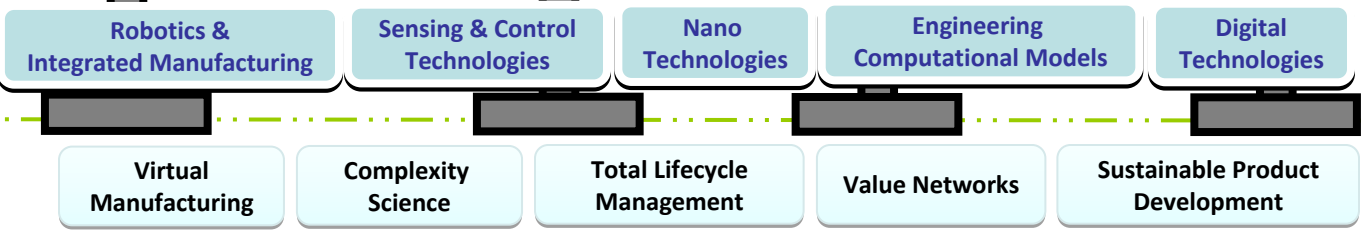
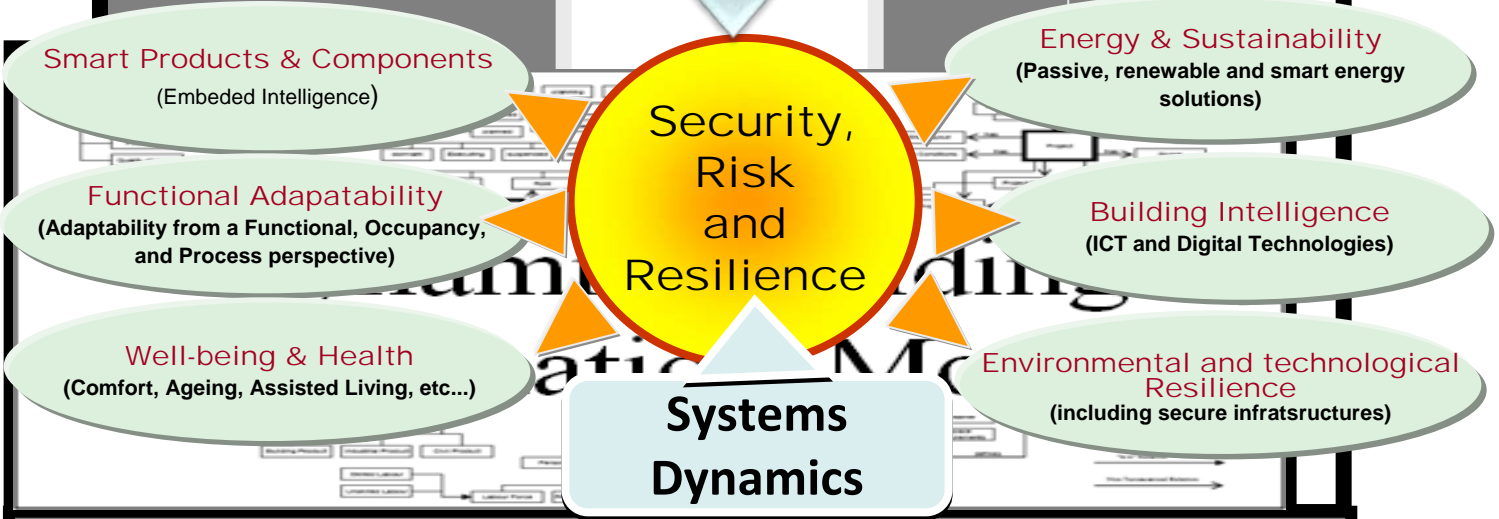
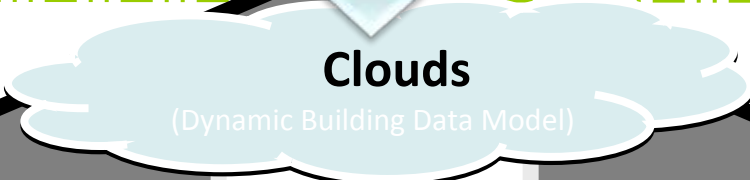
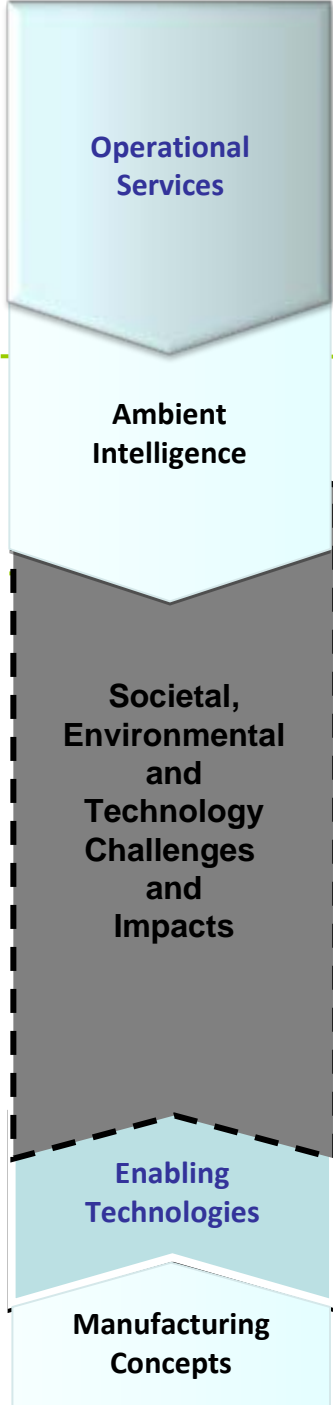
Digital technologies allow

dynamic representation of a building

provide real-time building performance

(including energy consumptions)

and ensure lifelong adaptability to its usage  
and environment.

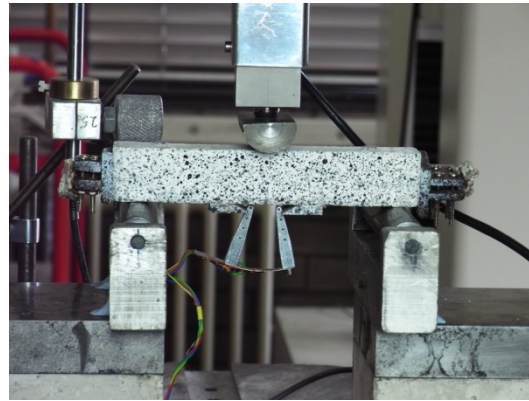




# Underpinning research themes



- **Smart materials and products**  
with embedded resilience & enhanced structural performance subject to combinations of influence/impact
- **Functional adaptability**  
continuous fitness for purpose and adaptability to building function, occupancy and activities
- **Building intelligence**  
design and deployment of digital interventions that confer enhanced resilience across the building lifecycle
- **Environmental and technological resilience**  
embedding risk and resilience management into design and manufacturing processes.
- **Energy and sustainability**  
management of energy in buildings with a view of delivering lifelong sustainable and secure facilities
- **Comfort, health and well-being (socio-technical)**  
human-centric digital-interfaced buildings that support healthy living



# Cementitious, Self-Healing, Intelligent, Construction Materials

research and development of design,  
analysis and  
simulation of  
innovative, smart and sustainable composites  
for building and construction industry

# Self Healing materials

## New Composite Materials

Intelligent Materials    Smart Materials    Smart Structures    Sensory Structures

## Self-Healing Materials

Autonomic Healing

Passive

Autogenous Healing

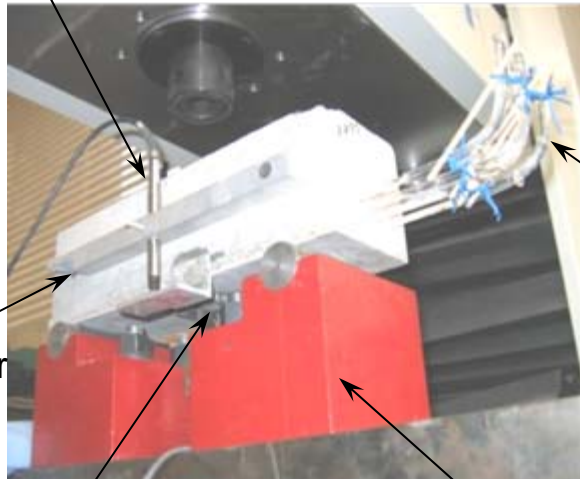
Active

Passive

Active

Central deflection transducer

20kN load cell



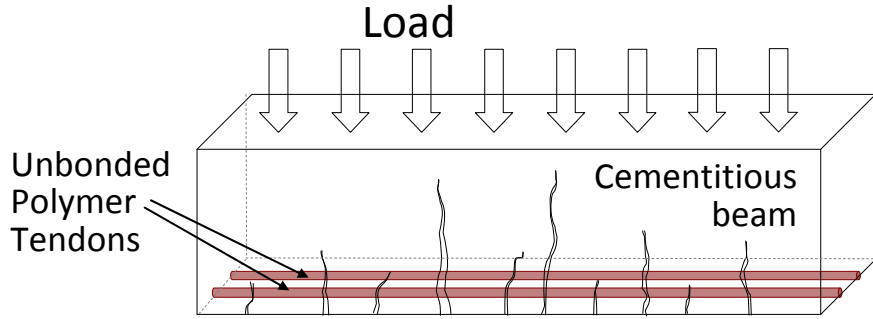
Support armature for transducer

Adhesive supply tubes

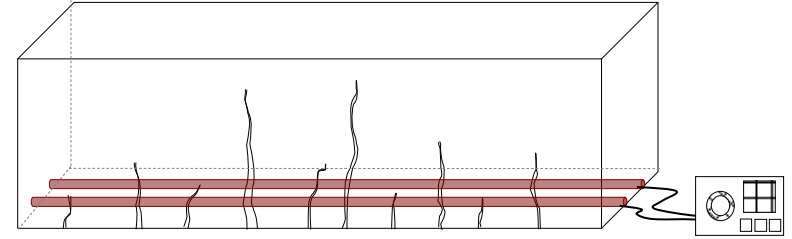
CMOD clip gauge

Base support block

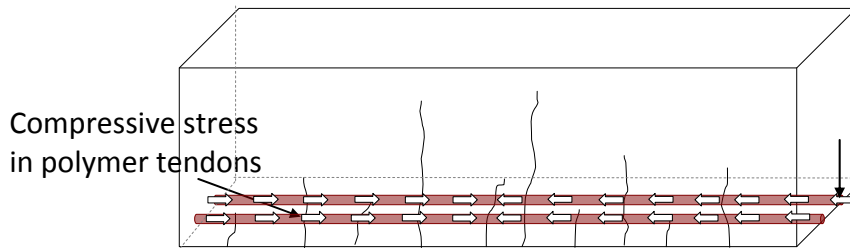
# Enhancing Self Healing – shape memory polymers



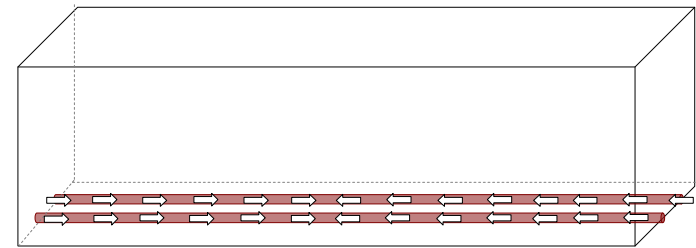
**1** Cracking induced due to applied load/shrinkage



**2** Activation of polymer tendons by heat/electrical supply (post-tensioning)



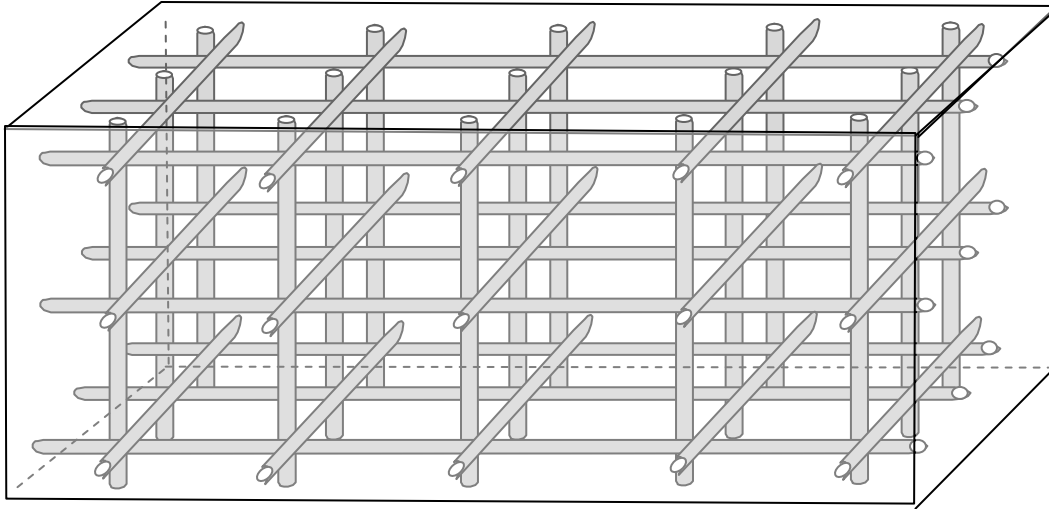
**3** Crack closure effect of activated polymer tendons



**4** Healed beam with post-tensioned polymer tendons

Schematic representation of 4 stages of enhanced autogenic healing procedure

# Enhancing Self Healing – shape memory polymers



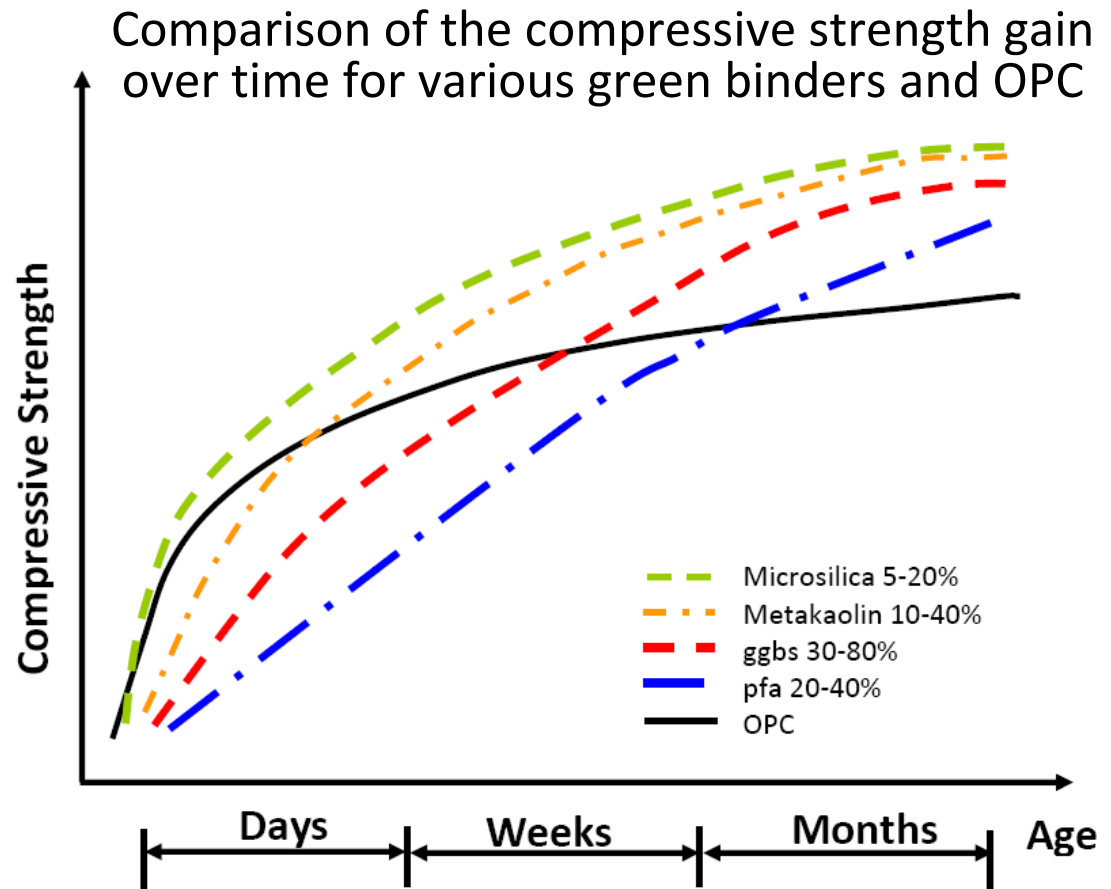
Schematic representation of tendon arrangement in cementitious beam to achieve full triaxial confinement

**Not only a self healing material ...**

Possibility of *matrix* of shape memory polymer tendons to provide sufficient prestress force to allow full triaxial confinement of the material

# Green binders

- Strength and durability popular cement replacement materials (CRMs, e.g. PFA and GGBS) are well known.
- Self healing properties ... less so.
- So what is the basis of replacement levels?
- Alternative binders:
  - Magnesium oxide cement
  - Alkali-activated cement
  - Geopolymer cement

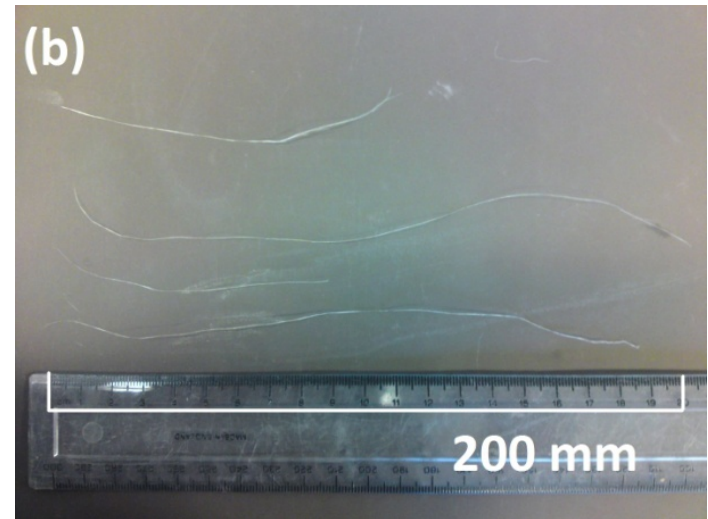


# Green fibres

- Fibres afford ductility and abate crack growth and propagation.
- Possible use of green fibres in a cementitious matrix.
  - Hair
  - Hemp
    - High yield
    - Relatively cheap
    - Tensile strength 500-900MPa
    - Wet and dry properties vary greatly
    - High alkali resistance
  - Straw
  - Feather
  - Recycled plastics

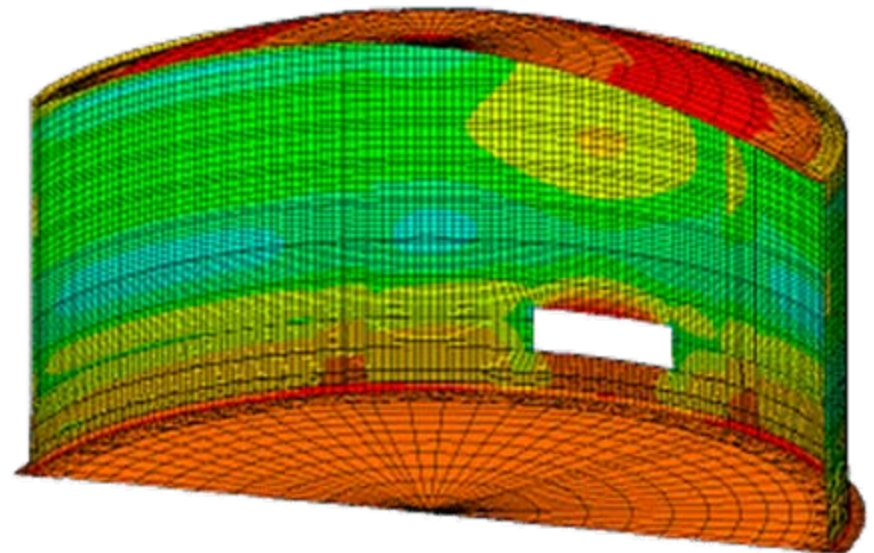


(a) Fibre bundle in its original state



(b) varying lengths of fibres.

- Finite element Company LUSAS Sponsored Readership at Cardiff + 2 researchers + KTP Associate
- Past work. Models now in commercial version of code
  - Plastic-Damage-Contact constitutive model . (The Craft model) (*IJSS 2003., IJNMAG 2007, Engng Comp 2008*)
  - Interface models (*ASCE J Engng Mech, 2002*)
  - Soil models based on critical state soil mechanics
  - Modelling gas flow through concrete (*Cem & Conc Res. 2008*)



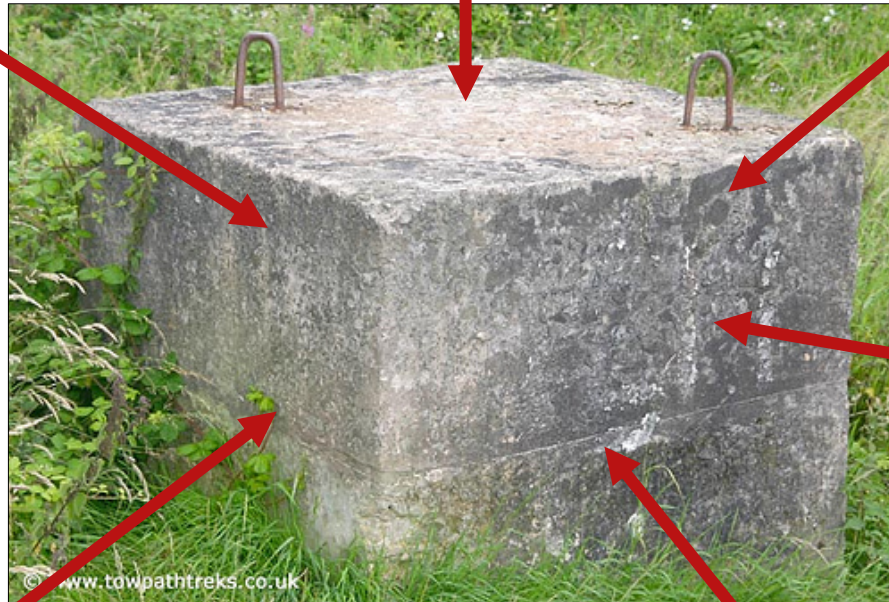


# A sustainable system

Tools to measure sustainability

Green binders

Green fibres

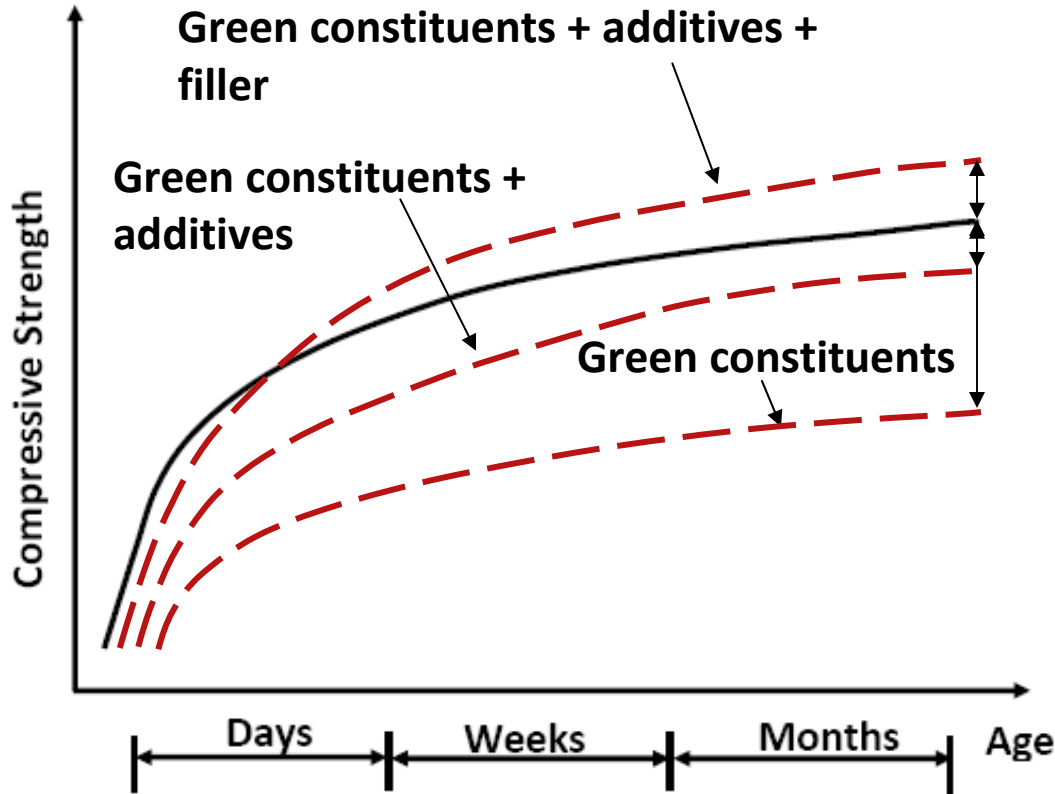


Enhanced healing

Alternative aggregates

Numerical Modelling

# How do they all work?



Enhancing compressive strength sustainably

simultaneous contribution to the material performance from all constituents

- Reduce cement content
- Include additional admixtures to generate further hydration products/liberate reactive products from fine aggregates

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Virtual Building - Life Long BIM

e-Collaborative Design, FTF, CMC, NVC

Preparedness for disaster

adoption of e-Gov services

Adoption for e-services in utilities

Future adaptability of buildings

CardiffGA

bonding of reinforced concrete

Couples chemical-thermo-hydro-mechanical analysis (cementitious)

Low-c composites

Digital Building - from conceptual design through to life-long management

manufactured sand in concrete

corrosion control on the bond strength in high yield reinforcing steels.

Renewable Energy Solutions in the Domestic Sector

strength of brickwork walls subject to flooding.

Flow Properties of Self-Healing Agents In Damaged Zones

BIM based Sustainable Design and Development/Architectural Engineering "

Ductility and Bond of Reinforcement

"Building Physics - Passivhaus and Zero Carbon Buildings

"Total Quality Management in Public Research and Technology Organisations to Develop National Impacted Innovations "

Micro-Mechanically Based Fi Models For Cementations Materials.

Deployable Structures

Applications of waste quarry dust

Computational Imagination

Home centred healthcare (assisted living)

m-Gov in Oman

