THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A flooring module for forming an access floor comprising:

a base component defining a cruciform channel formation for receiving cabling or the like, the channel formation having a floor defined by the base component;

a removable channel cover comprising one or more channel cover components for covering the channel formation, such that the channel formation and channel cover may combine to provide a closed channel for the cabling or the like, and such that removal of the cover allows access to the channel formation from above, in use;

wherein the sides of the base component define module connector clips for engaging with corresponding module connector clips on adjacent modules to lock the modules together in an array;

wherein said base component defines retaining formations for engaging with and retaining the channel cover components over the channel formation; and

wherein when the channel cover is engaged with the base component, the channel cover engages against one or more of said module connector clips when the module connector clips are in the closed position so as to limit deflection of said module connector clips and thus prevent disengagement of said module connector clips from the module clips of an adjacent flooring module in an array of flooring modules.

2. A flooring module as claimed in claim 1 wherein

said channel cover defines an end segment at each end of the channel cover which is hinged to a central portion of the channel cover so that when the channel cover is engaged, in use, on the base component, the end segments may rotate away from the base component from a closed position to an open position.

3. A flooring module as claimed in claim 2 wherein

said end segments, when rotated out of the closed position, will cause displacement of the retaining formations and thus allow disengagement of the channel cover from the base.

4. A flooring module as claimed in claim 3 wherein

when said end segments are rotated out of the closed position in addition to allowing disengagement of the channel cover from the base, they simultaneously disengage from the

said module connector clips to allow deflection of said module clips and permit disengagement of the module from adjoining modules in an array.

5. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which each side face of the base component is rotationally symmetrical, so that when assembled into an array abutting module connector clips interlock with each other.

6. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein each outward-facing side wall segment either side of the channel has at least one projection with an upward-facing engagement face and at least one projection with a downward-facing engagement face; wherein

said projections are arranged so as to interlock when adjacent modules are joined and prevent vertical misalignment of adjacent modules.

7. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 in which the base component has a first set of said module connector clips that interlock with the module connector clips of adjoining modules in an array to restrict relative lateral displacement of the modules, in use, and a second set of said module connector clips that inter-engage with the module connector clips of adjoining modules to restrict relative vertical movement of the modules, in use.

8. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein each side face of the base component has a vertically oriented key element and a vertically oriented socket element, disposed such that said key will engage with a corresponding socket on an abutting module, and said socket on the first base will engage with a corresponding key on the second module, to prevent separation of the two modules and to permit limited rotation of the assembly in the horizontal plane, such that the assembly can accommodate to slight undulations in the supporting sub-floor; and

when the overlying channel-cover element is in the closed position, blade elements on each side of said channel-cover engage against the module connector clips and prevent disengagement of the module from an attached module.

9. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein each module has a single cruciform removable channel cover which defines four hinged ends.

10. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the channel cover components comprise for each module a first elongate channel cover which defines two hinged ends which covers one channel extending from one side of the module to an opposite side and two hinged channel covers each extending from the first elongate channel cover to another side of the module

11. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein each channel cover has an upper portion and one or more depending elements/side rails which locate behind the walls of the channel formation.

12. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 10 wherein each channel cover defines a recess either side of the hinge which when the cover is engaged in the base component in use form a continuous recess, into which retaining formations of the base component locate.

13. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the base component is square in plan and is rotationally symmetrical.

14. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein pads are defined at corners of the base module which are infilled or overlaid with a structural cover plate.

15. A flooring module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein the channel cover is formed from a metal such as steel.

16. A plurality of modules as claimed in any preceding claim assembled into a rectangular array.

17. A rectangular array of flooring modules as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14 including at least one removable channel cover strip incorporating a plurality of linked segments covering the channels of multiple modules.