



Babraham Research Campus

Flexible, strategic master plan enables life sciences campus in Cambridge, UK

Babraham Research Campus is a leading master planned hub in Cambridge, UK, with the purpose of starting, nurturing and growing bioscience business. The development vision for the 430-acre parkland estate is to create a sustainable ecosystem where private and government funded research come together with a shared scientific focus to accelerate innovation and strengthen links between academia and commercial.

As the Lead Consultant and Architect of the original masterplan and supplementary masterplans, NORR has been collaborating with the planning officers and community stakeholders since 2003. Located in the green belt, and on the edge of a conservation area, the campus contains listed buildings, areas of ecological significance and important archaeology that have resulted in both challenges and opportunities, particularly with respect to gaining planning consent to develop in such a sensitive setting.

To date, the team has designed and delivered individual plots within the master plan including 12 laboratory buildings, and support facilities including a biological support unit, conference centre, restaurant and sports amenities that are vital to a successful campus. A total of 500,000 square feet of buildings have been delivered over the course of the project.

Overall public realm improvements have also worked to achieve connectivity and support the wellbeing of employees and visitors. By adhering to the original master plan, visual continuity across the campus has been maintained while achieving a distinct identity for each building.

The success of Babraham Research Campus can be measured by the fact that it is home to over 60 companies, 2,000 employees and 300 academic researchers. It has a 98% occupancy level and a waiting list of companies wishing to locate on the campus.

In response to this success, the latest masterplan and vision document produced by NORR, and our partners, outlines a strategy for future growth, development and flexibility to respond to evolving requirements. It seeks to have the campus released from the green belt and allocated as a Special Policy Area within the ongoing Greater Cambridge Local Plan review.

Strategic master planning and design help to enable the translation of science into biomedical products that deliver social and economic impact and address global healthcare challenges.

[View Online](#)

CLIENT	Babraham Research Campus, Babraham Research Institute BBSRC
PORTFOLIO	Science & Research
SIZE	430 Acres (174 Hectares)
LOCATION	Cambridge, UK
DATE	Ongoing
SERVICES	Architecture Master Planning and Urban Design

Science & Research

Purpose-driven design for science and research facilities is a specialty at NORR. We are uniquely positioned to provide fully integrated services for complex research and development hubs, bio-incubators, flexible graduation spaces and all levels of laboratories. Our designs are integral to the life-saving work of our clients across life sciences, bioscience, pharmaceutical, medical, education and commercial.

Our Design Approach

There is a growing convergence of sectors, institutions and industries where partnerships are forming to advance research. The growth of "lab and collab" hubs is creating synergies for scientific research, promoting innovation and strengthening links between academia and the commercial world. Designing for growth and flexibility has never been more relevant to ensure collaborative scientific workplaces are resilient and can meet the demand for vital products and services today – and in the future.

Evolving at the Pace of the Sector

The success of any science and research project is underpinned by a holistic understanding of the vision. We consider all combinations of budget, technical requirements, manufacturing process, service distribution, spatial characteristics and user experience for all typologies. There is art and science in every design and program. We understand the needs of highly serviced facilities to maximize productivity, manage long-term operating costs and achieve sustainability targets.

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