

**Objection to planning application reference number:
14/1633/REM for the AstraZeneca global Headquarters
at the Cambridge Bio-Medical Campus.**

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Introduction: Havoc in the City!



Photo: Thousands March as Plans For An Animal Lab in Girton Are Scrapped.

Dear Cambridge City Council,

National Operation Anti-Vivisection (NOAV) is a grassroots decentralised network of animal rights activists in the UK. We are submitting this objection to AstraZeneca's plans to build their global headquarters and an animal testing lab at Cambridge Bio-Medical Campus.

AstraZeneca's move to Cambridge, if it is allowed to go ahead, will be the most controversial project in recent years! AstraZeneca is the target of an international animal rights campaign and since this will be the global headquarters for the company Cambridge is about to become the epicentre of the animal rights movement with activists descending on Cambridge from across the world.

AstraZeneca plans to use animals in experiments on the site despite the fact Directive 2010/63/EU creates an obligation on the government to reduce the numbers of animals used in research. This violation of this principle of EU legislation will bring even more protests to Cambridge with protesters coming from across the UK, EU and indeed the world.

If a project like this is to be approved anywhere, within the borders of a busy city is the wrong place for it. Something as controversial as this should be hidden in the depths of the countryside where protests can be held without disruption to the wider community.

We understand that AstraZeneca's abuse of animals is not a planning consideration. We know the 300,000 animals the company use each year do not get a say. However there are many genuine planning reasons to reject this development. In the following pages we intend to show you that this application does not meet planning standards and therefore must be rejected.

Yours for the animals,

James Westwood

James Westwood
National Operation Anti-Vivisection
www.noav.org

Public Safety: Virus Alert!



Photo: Lab Mouse Growing Human Ear. What 'Research' Will AstraZeneca Be Doing?

Animal labs are dangerous places where all sorts of compounds, illnesses and conditions are forced upon animals. AstraZeneca has not provided detailed information of the exact types of experiments to be conducted and what safety measures will be put in place in terms of bio-security.

What if animals escape? **Without knowing the exact type of research going to take place at the site how can the public comment on the risk they may face.** Will the site be using GM technologies and could an escape of animals destroy local biodiversity and human health? Are contagious illnesses going to be researched? Could human lives be at risk in the local community if something was to leak out or an animal was to escape?

The public cannot comment without knowing what the risks to public safety might be.

AstraZeneca must submit a detailed breakdown of the exact type of experiments, compounds and illnesses they will be using at this site. There must be a full independent risk assessment of the worst case scenarios including effect of the escape of infected animals, chemicals or illnesses. **Once full and detailed information has been provided there must be an adequate public comment period.**

Noise/Disruption: Ready to Rock?



Photo: Female with Megaphone. All Protests Involve Noise and Disruption.

If this site goes ahead lawful but loud demonstrations are inevitable, this is a material planning consideration.

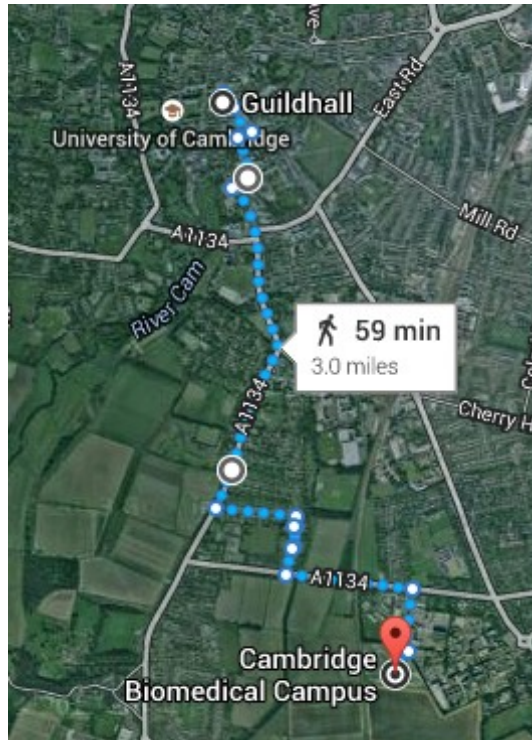
The surrounding area contains:

- **Residential Housing**
- **Addenbrookes Hospital**
- **Kids Unlimited Nursery**
- **Long Road Sixth Form College**

Noise and disruption will be caused by marches and static protests both for and against the development. These events will be regular and continuous. Many of the protests may be staged on Long Road and marches may go along residential streets.

The NOAV network will encourage activists to work with the police to minimise any disruption. However some activists may not do this (as a decentralised network we have no power to compel anyone) and even where all good-faith efforts are made some disruption will be inevitable.

Traffic: Gridlock



Possible March Route Through Cambridge

Marches will cause massive and unavoidable disruption to traffic in Cambridge. This will have an impact on the hospital and other amenities within Cambridge. AstraZeneca staff and animal rights protesters will increase the traffic flow on the road on a daily basis only further exacerbating the problem.

Animal rights activists and pro-animal research advocates coming to protest for and against the site will inevitably park in the near-by residential streets causing problems for residents and workers in the area. Protests can be expected daily and to be of a reasonable size, this must be considered before any application is accepted.

Policing Cost: £££



Picture: Police at Animal Rights Protest in Oxford.

NOAV respects the difficult and important job done by the police. If this development goes ahead there will be a long-term need to increased policing funds for Cambridge. Protests will need to be facilitated and if there is any criminality on either side there will need to be enough officers to deal with public order and any resulting investigations.

In order to deal with the increased risk to public order there may be a need to use undercover officers or police informants within groups either opposed or supportive of the development. This will cost large sums of money.

Cambridge needs its police out on the beat dealing with crime and antisocial behaviour not dealing with continuous protest. This development's location is totally inappropriate, this busy city is not the place for it. If this development was in the countryside protests, disorder and police would be easier to deal with.

Cambridge does not have the budget to waste on astronomical policing costs for the benefit of a single company, who are bringing in many of their staff from outside Cambridge!

Environment: Toxic Sludge Is Good For You



Picture: Toxic Waste

What kinds of chemicals and compounds are going to be kept at the site and what bio-security measures are going to be taken in storage and disposal? The application does not contain enough information for the public to be able to give informed comments on this.

What is the worst case scenario if something leaks/escapes from the site to the local ecosystem? How could it impact biodiversity? Are non-native species going to be held at the site? Without a full detailed breakdown of the exact type of experiments, the compounds, chemicals, species/breeds of animals to be held at the site it is impossible for informed comments to be made. All this information must be made available to the public. **Once full and detailed information has been provided there must be an adequate public comment period.**

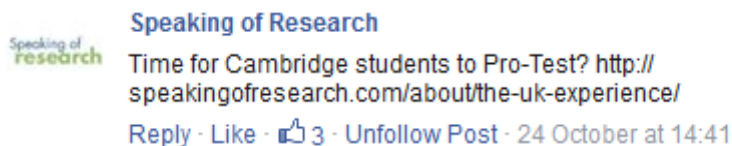
Public Safety: Danger! Danger!



Picture: Car Crash.

Long Road is likely to be used for protests for and against the development, this is a very busy road. Long Road and other surrounding roads provide emergency access to Addenbrookes Hospital. Having a controversial site at this location with possible clashes of demonstrators may put public safety at risk.

Animal experimentation public relations group Speaking of Research has asked Cambridge students to start a pro-animal testing protest group in Cambridge so such clashes are a real possibility.



Picture: Post by Speaking of Research on student newspaper The Varsity

The proposed location, near the hospital and busy roads, puts the safety of animal rights activists, pro-animal testing advocates and uninvolved members of the public at risk. For the safety of the people of Cambridge this application must be rejected.

National Interest/Animal Testing



Picture: Research. Progress and Science.

AstraZeneca plans to use animals in experiments on the site despite the fact **Directive 2010/63/EU** creates an obligation on the government to reduce the numbers of animals used in research. The Coalition government published its Delivery Plan in February 2014 (**ISBN 978-1-78246-4 BIS/14/589**). This means that the government must reduce the number of animals used in research. The current development is in direct opposition to this objective.

Animal experiments do not help scientific progress or medical advancement. Many studies have shown that animals predict correctly for humans less than 50% of the time. (See **Perel, P and colleagues. British Medical Journal (2007) 27: 197–200; Hackam, DG and Redelmeier DA. Journal of the American Medical Association(2006) 296: 1731–1732; Bailey, J. Biogenic Amines, vol.19, N° 2, pp 97-146, May 2005**).

When experiments are done on animals data relevant to the species experimented upon is obtained. The problem is data cannot be accurately extrapolated between species. Drugs that are found to be useful in other species harm or kill human beings once they make it to human clinical trials or to market.

92% of new drugs fail in clinical trials, after they have been found safe in animals (See **US Food and Drug Administration (2004) Innovation or Stagnation, Challenge and Opportunity on the Critical Path to New Medical Products.**)

We need to move forward and the government is legally committed to doing so. If you allow this development to go ahead you will be dragging science back into the dark ages!

Given the government's commitments this development is unsustainable and not in the national interest.

Conclusion: Reject The Application



Picture: Application Refused Stamp

In conclusion;

- The development is in the wrong place given its controversial nature (public safety),
- There is not enough information about the type of risk to human health and the environment if animals or compounds were to escape,
- The costs of policing will be unacceptably high,
- There is serious road safety issues;
- The use of animals at the site is against the governments own commitments.

Therefore the application in its current form cannot be responsibly approved by Cambridge City Council. If AstraZeneca wishes to address these issues, after they have done so, a further public comment period should be facilitated.

We urge you to make the right choice for Cambridge and to refuse the application in its current form.

If you have any questions for us please contact us via email. Our email address is info@noav.org