

New Initiatives on Campus

As part of our sustainability strategy, we have implemented lots of new initiatives on the campus.

New Recycling Stations

This has created a universal approach to separating waste which is not only more cost effective but makes recycling our waste here at BRC much more efficient.

Glove Recycling

We started this initiative around 6 months ago for campus companies to recycle the gloves that they use. This has been successful, but we hope that as more companies produce gloves that are recyclable that we can expand this further!

Coffee Cup

We implemented a hugely successful coffee cup initiative that has saved using over 10,000 coffee cups in the last 7 months and we are about to start looking at all plastic that is used within the canteen and what we can do to reduce this – so watch this space!

Biodiversity & Estates Update

The Babraham Estate is managed by balancing three key underlying principles:

- Conservation & enhancement of habitat and environmental systems
- Provision of an amenity resource for the local community
- Sustainable management to support the research campus functions

The diverse landscape of the estate includes the River Granta corridor (a rare chalk stream), established woodland on a cyclical coppice/pollard system and a range of grassland & wetland meadows. Ecology projects, habitat enhancement works, and maintenance tasks are carried out by our own in-house Estates team.

Talking of our own in-house team they have been busy this month collecting the timber stacks from tree surgery and ash die back removal works and bringing them back to the yard for processing into firewood.

The team will be using our mulch (generated from meadow cuttings on the Estate) to lay down over newly planted hedgerows and trees.

We are experimenting with a spray treatment for coppice stool regrowth - and will be seen around newly coppiced areas applying this. It is totally harmless, as it is a product derived from lanolin (sheep's wool) that makes the growth bitter to deter deer browsing.

The hazel coppice cut last year, in the section of woodland near the ford, is being layered out to create new stands of hazel.

Repairs and surface works are being carried out on the footpaths across the Estate, now that they are drying out

Willows along the river corridor are being re-pollared – these are broken down into five sections, and one is worked per year.

Current Events

We always have lots of events on campus. They can range from Scientific training courses and conferences to wellness events and celebrating National Pie Week! This month saw an amazing event which we called “Back in Time at Babraham Research Campus”. We welcomed Dr Chris Wakefield and his team from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit for a fascinating presentation of archaeological finds from around the campus.

We were joined by over 90 attendees, including Campus staff and local residents for this fascinating event, all eager to learn how this landscape has been used throughout the ages.

One attendee said ***“It was truly an exceptional experience! I was captivated by the wealth of fascinating insights into the history of settlements here in Babraham—knowledge I hadn’t expected to learn.”***

News Items

We have so many amazing companies on the campus all doing amazing things for life science. I have picked out a few articles below which we hope you will find interesting!

1, Campus company RxCelerate CEO, Jill, joins “Women in Leadership: The Biotech CEO” panel at BIA’s Women in Biotech. Click the link to read the full article

<https://www.bioindustry.org/resource/empowering-the-future-women-in-biotech-cambridge-celebrates-female-leadership-and-unpacks-ongoing-challenges.html>

2, The Babraham Institute was pleased to welcome over 190 students to the labs on 6th March for Schools’ Day. Students participated in hands on experiments and bioinformatics analysis put on by 19 of the Institute’s research groups and 3 Babraham Research Campus companies.

This year saw the highest percentage of students yet attend from schools in historically underserved areas.

Since its launch, Schools’ Day has given over 3,000 students hands-on lab experience. As well as enriching the students learning, some have gone on to study biology at university, citing their experience of Schools’ Day as a factor in their decision. Click the link to read the full article

<https://www.babraham.ac.uk/news/2025/03/students-become-scientists-day-and-institutes-annual-schools-day>

We hope you have enjoyed this update from all of us at the Babraham Research Campus. Be sure to pop back next month for lots more!

If you have anything specific that you would like to hear more about, feel free to drop us an email at Nichola.Jones@Babraham.co.uk and we will try to include it in the next month’s update.