



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

A new Master Outline Plan for the Animal and Plant Health Agency site:

Woodham Lane, New Haw, near Weybridge



Introduction

We are preparing a new Master Outline Plan for the world-leading Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) site on Woodham Lane, New Haw, near Weybridge, to allow us to consolidate existing facilities into a new state-of-the-art science centre.

This leaflet outlines why this work is so important, how it will be delivered and the steps we are taking to minimise impact on our neighbours.

What does the Animal and Plant Health Agency do?

APHA works to protect animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the economy and the environment.

We employ over 3,500 staff, including world-leading scientific experts, and we play a key role in nurturing the next generation of UK scientists and specialist engineers. This includes over 1,000 people based at the New Haw site.

The science carried out by APHA is world-renowned, and we collaborate with national and international partners from government, academia and industry on a wide range of research projects.

Why do we need a new masterplan?

APHA has been at New Haw for over 100 years and many of the buildings on our main site need significant investment and upgrading to allow us to continue to deliver world-leading science in the future.

Our new masterplan will be delivered through a major government investment project – the Science Capability in Animal Health (SCAH) Programme. This 12–15-year project will create a state-of-the-art science centre to safeguard and improve the UK's capability to deliver research and respond to emerging disease threats to animals, people and the environment.

The masterplan will be within the boundary of the existing site, replacing a large number of buildings with a modern, aesthetically pleasing science centre. We will initially seek planning approval for the principle of the masterplan and will then submit separate detailed proposals for individual elements. We will consult you and you will have a chance to comment at all stages.



Whilst some work will take place before this, we hope to begin most of our main building work in 2027 to complete the main buildings by 2032 so we want your views to help us plan the change.

What this offers the local community

- The site is a large local employer, and this investment will ensure that it continues to thrive. It will create employment opportunities for local people and benefit the local economy
- We are committed to supporting local community groups. A large area of Defra owned land is already being used by the Holme Farm Community Workshop and Gardens. (Since becoming a charity in 2022 Holme Farm has been working to become a hub for local people that will include workshops, gardens, and wildlife).
- The plans include work to improve flood management along the River Bourne. The improved landscape will increase habitat across the site and surrounding areas attracting wildlife and increasing biodiversity.
- The programme will embed sustainability in building design and construction activities
- We are committed to working closely with the local community throughout the development, keeping you informed and listening to your views

How to find out more

We will be holding a three-week online consultation which opens on 5 June and closes on 23 June. There will be a series of ‘drop-in’ events at the New Haw Community Centre on Woodham Lane where you can view the vision for the redeveloped science campus and talk to senior staff leading the programme. These will take place on the following dates and times:

- Thursday 8 June from 4:00 – 7:00pm
- Thursday 15 June from 5:00 – 8:00pm
- Thursday 22 June from 4:00 – 7:00pm

Information about how you can share your views or attend these events is available at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/scah-programme/have-your-say>

If you would like to know more but cannot attend an event you can contact us at: localengagement@defra.gov.uk or write to Local Engagement – SCAH Programme, Building 33, APHA-Weybridge, Woodham Lane, KT15 3NB

Artist's impression

