



NEW MUSEUMS SITE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The New Museums Site at the University of Cambridge houses many of the university's science departments, two museums and several lecture halls. Following a major refurbishment, the David Attenborough Building on the New Museums Site has become a focal point for conservation research and practise. The building houses the 450-seat Babbage Lecture Theatre, ~500 work stations, Museum of Zoology and a café. Connectivity to the rest of the site and circulation efficiency at peak times is key to the smooth operations for the building.

BuroHappold's Smart Space team carried out an assessment to optimise the layouts and capacities of the stair connectivity between the site's Second Court and the David Attenborough Building. The stair connects the Podium level, including the 450-seat Babbage Lecture Theatre, with the rest of the site.

Our study used capacity analysis and dynamic people flow modelling to review and optimise layouts for accessibility, wayfinding and efficient circulation. The analysis demonstrated that the layouts promote natural wayfinding from the Babbage Lecture Theatre and provided recommendations for signage placement to improve wayfinding from the site entrances.

The dynamic flow modelling confirmed that the stairs have sufficient capacity for smooth and continuous student and staff movement during peak times - contributing to efficient circulation and overall positive user experience.

CLIENT
University of Cambridge

ARCHITECT
Wilkinson Eyre Architects

SERVICES PROVIDED BY SMART SPACE
People Flow Consultancy
