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Friday 1 February 2013 12:50 PM

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Published: 09/07/2010 09:34 - Updated: 09/07/2010 09:40

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Section of access road to be named after DNA scientist

Jack Grove

A road leading to a new £200 million Cambridge laboratory is to be named after legendary scientist Francis Crick.

Francis Crick Avenue will run through the Cambridge Biomedical Campus on the Addenbrooke's Hospital site to the new Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB), which is due to open in 2012.

It is the first time Crick, who with James Watson discovered the double helix structure of DNA at Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory in 1953, has been honoured outside the university in Cambridge, where he lived for 30 years.



Dr Francis Crick

The avenue will be part of the £26 million Addenbrooke's access road, which will link the M11 roundabout to the hospital site.

It will be known as Addenbrooke's Road until it joins the hospital when it will become Francis Crick Avenue, passing by the LMB before joining up with Robinson Way.

Megan Davies, from the Medical Research Council, which runs the LMB, said: "Although his early work was in the city of Cambridge, Francis Crick did a lot of research at the current site of this campus.

"So there is a real relationship to the work he did here before winning the Nobel Prize.

"It means the LMB will be on Francis Crick Avenue."

Crick is one of 14 Nobel Prize winners associated with the LMB, which is regarded as Britain's most successful research lab.

Others include double Nobel winner Fred Sanger, and last year's chemistry laureate Venkatraman Ramakrishnan.

Details on the operation of Addenbrooke's access road, which is for use of hospital staff and visitors only, have also been revealed.

Richard Howe, director of estates and facilities, confirmed the new £250,000 surveillance cameras at the entrance to the road would be used to stop motorists from using it as a rat run. A £60 fine would be issued to repeated rat runners, which would drop to £30 if paid promptly.

He said: "We are very happy there will be £26 million of infrastructure provided to the campus when the new road opens.

"We want to make sure that those who use the road have business around the site. We are pleased we are taking action to eliminate these

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