

## Accessibility Help

- [Skip to content](#)
- [Skip to bbc.co.uk search](#)
- [Low graphics](#)
- [Accessibility Help](#)
- [Access keys help](#)



Search term

[Explore the BBC](#)

[BBC News Updated every minute of every day](#)

[LIVE](#) [BBC NEWS CHANNEL](#)

[News Front Page](#)



Page last updated at 16:53 GMT, Thursday, 6 November 2008

[E-mail this to a friend](#)

[Printable version](#)

# Jury discharged in fire bomb case

**The jury in the trial of an animal rights campaigner accused of fire bombing Oxford University colleges has been discharged.**



Mel Broughton denied conspiracy to commit arson

Mel Broughton, 48, of Semilong Road in Northampton, had denied targeting Queen's College with explosives.

The jury was unable to reach verdicts on charges of conspiracy to commit arson and possession of articles with intent to destroy property.

He was cleared of keeping an explosive substance with intent.

The jury was discharged by Judge Patrick Eccles QC but Mr Broughton will remain in custody until a further hearing.



**BBC Oxford**

[Sport, travel, weather, things to do, features and much more](#)



**BBC**

**Northamptonshire**

[Sport, travel, weather, things to do and more](#)

## SEE ALSO

[Bomb accused had laboratory plans](#)

04 Nov 08 | England

[Police 'war' against bomb accused](#)

04 Nov 08 | England

[Activist DNA evidence disputed](#)

31 Oct 08 | England

[Animal activist 'behind bombings'](#)

28 Oct 08 | England

## RELATED INTERNET LINKS

[HM Courts Service](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

## Related BBC sites

- [Sport](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [On This Day](#)
- [Editors' Blog](#)

- [UK Version](#)
- [International Version](#)
- [About the versions](#)

Two improvised devices, constructed with fuel and a fuse made from sparklers, exploded at Queen's College sports pavilion in November 2006, causing damage put at £14,000.

Two similar bombs were left underneath a portable building used as an office at Templeton College in February last year, but failed to go off.

The jury had been told that a DNA sample found on a match used as part of the fuse in one of the failed devices was almost certainly from Mr Broughton.

The accused told the court he was involved in organising legal demonstrations against the laboratory in South Parks Road and understood why people got involved in taking direct action in support of animal rights.

But he denied having anything to do with the devices at the colleges.

It is expected that Mr Broughton will face a retrial which is expected to take place next year.

---

## [TOP ENGLAND STORIES](#)

[Footballer denies 'cuffs' gesture](#)  
[Teenage girl wins right to die](#)  
[Bridegroom dies on stag weekend](#)

 | [News feeds](#)

 | [News feeds](#)

## [MOST POPULAR STORIES NOW](#)

- [E-MAILED](#)
- [READ](#)
- [WATCHED/LISTENED](#)
  
- [Nasa Mars mission declared dead](#)
- [Mystery of lost US nuclear bomb](#)
- [Teenage girl wins right to die](#)
- [Obama meets Bush at White House](#)
- [Boy, 8, on double murder charge](#)

[Most popular now, in detail](#)

## **Bookmark with:**

- [Delicious](#)
- [Digg](#)
- [reddit](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [StumbleUpon](#)

[What are these?](#)

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)

 [Printable version](#)



[Lost bomb](#)  
Missing US  
nuclear bomb  
mystery haunts  
Greenland



[Still unstable](#)  
Bombings show  
Baghdad is still  
highly volatile



[Word power](#)  
North Korea irked  
by subversive  
balloons

[Skip to top](#)

## [PRODUCTS & SERVICES](#)

- [E-mail news](#)
- [Mobiles](#)
- [Alerts](#)
- [News feeds](#)
- [Podcasts](#)

## Site Links

- [News Sources](#)
- [About BBC News](#)

## BBC links

- [About the BBC](#)
- [BBC Help](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Accessibility Help](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Privacy & Cookies](#)
- [Advertise With Us](#)

 © MMVIII

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

**This page is best viewed in an up-to-date web browser with style sheets (CSS) enabled. While you will be able to view the content of this page in your current browser, you will not be able to get the full visual experience. Please consider upgrading your browser software or enabling style sheets (CSS) if you are able to do so.**