

[REDACTED]

The Secretary of State for Transport,
Department for Transport,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London SW1P 4DR



2nd November 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

I wish to express my opposition to the Cambourne to Cambridge Busway plan.

1. Such a development will wreak havoc on the West Fields area of Cambridge, which I believe is Green Belt. Also, the construction of the busway will inflict unthinkable and permanent damage on the village of Coton by destroying its orchard, and other disastrous environmental effects.
2. There is a feasible alternative plan via the existing Madingley Road to the A428, which leads directly to and from Cambourne, without creating such chaos and distress to so many.
3. The journey to and from Cambourne would be reduced by only 3 minutes by the busway. Most of the time is spent picking up passengers in Cambourne.
4. The £8 million cost of the proposal, presumably to be paid out of taxpayers' money, is shocking, considering the obviously low cost of the alternative.
5. The present proposal is for the busway to come into Cambridge along the old rifle range track which runs alongside Clare Hall, a modern Grade 2 listed building, already badly flooded by the Bin Brook, a chalk stream which flows through the College.
6. The proposed route of the busway is over flood plain. The busway will have to cross a new bridge two and a half metres above the Bin Brook bridge (incurring huge costs, unlike the alternative plan) The enormous embankment needed to support this will inevitably act as a dam in torrential rain sending water into the already full Brook.
7. The Brook runs under the Barton Road, A603, joins the run-off water from the M 11, often turbulent, and then either branches off up the relief channel, along the backs of the Gough Way estate houses facing onto the West Fields, or it flows under Gough Way and comes out along the edge of or close to the houses in the side streets at the far end of Gough Way. The two courses join up near Dane Drive.
8. I live close to the Brook. In times of severe weather, ground water seeps up through the lawn because the water level is already too high for it to drain away. It is worrying to watch the water in the Brook rising higher.
9. Given the terrible forecasts of climate change, now experienced in other parts of the country, the Bin Brook will flood Clare Hall again, and the houses in Gough Way, probably regularly and severely. Is this the future we want for our children?
10. Why has no thought been given, in the planning of this busway, to the inevitability of flooding in the Gough Way area, of the suffering caused to the house owners on the estate, of the rising costs of their insurance, and of the impossibility of selling their properties?
11. **The plan represents an illegal contravention of national planning policy because it makes no provision for flooding, therefore it should be rejected.**

I trust you are aware of the distress in this neighbourhood that an unelected body, the so-called Greater Cambridge Partnership, should be presenting such thoughtless and bad plans for our area, the present submission being only one of them, and I hope that you will please take into account all the arguments, founded on very real experience, when considering your decision.

All best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Dr Beryl Jane Hawking

[REDACTED]