

From: info@pesticidefreecambridge.org
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Cambourne to Cambridge Busway Objection
Date: 07 January 2025 08:15:24

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing to object to the proposed Cambourne to Cambridge busway as it has been put forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

As Pesticide-Free Cambridge

([https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.pesticidefreecambridge.org/_:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCGM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDgDoiFcGofvXxE\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.pesticidefreecambridge.org/_:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCGM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDgDoiFcGofvXxE$)) we

are extremely supportive of Coton Orchard which has grown fruit for decades without the use of pesticides. Sadly, managing an orchard of this size and age without the use of synthetic pesticides is very unusual. It is, therefore, all the more precious and worth preserving.

The evidence for links between pesticide use and chronic health conditions in humans continues to grow

([https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.pesticidefreecambridge.org/pesticides-and-health_:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCGM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDgDoiFcGofc3usLT0\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.pesticidefreecambridge.org/pesticides-and-health_:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCGM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDgDoiFcGofc3usLT0$)), as does

the evidence that pesticides are a major factor in the biodiversity crisis. Their use is also a disability rights issue given the disproportionately negative impact that low-dose pesticide exposure can have on people with allergies and hypersensitivities to active

ingredients([https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.pan-uk.org/campaigner-voices-cambridge/_:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCGM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDgDoiFcGofx4hhpl\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.pan-uk.org/campaigner-voices-cambridge/_:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCGM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDgDoiFcGofx4hhpl$)). These

alone would be strong reasons to switch the busway away from Coton orchard and green belt and run it instead along existing roads (as

detailed in Cambridge Past Present and Future's proposal here

[https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.cotonbuswayaction.com/uploads/2/6/1/9/2619440/cppf-cambourne-cambridge-alternative-4e-extract.pdf_:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCGM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDgDoiFcGofa-GUo9A\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.cotonbuswayaction.com/uploads/2/6/1/9/2619440/cppf-cambourne-cambridge-alternative-4e-extract.pdf_:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCGM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDgDoiFcGofa-GUo9A$)).

There are a number of other, highly compelling, reasons not to proceed with the busway in its current form, detailed below.

The proposed busway would be both an environmental and climatic disaster. It would destroy huge areas of natural habitat including Coton Orchard, itself a County wildlife site, as well as precious green belt. Run-off from the busway would be into Bin Brook. As a chalk stream, this is a globally rare habitat in itself. In addition, losing hundreds of veteran fruit trees, many over 100 years old, as well as scrub and meadow habitat simply is not compensated for by planting even thousands of saplings. The biodiversity contained within the orchard and surrounding areas will be lost forever, at a time when we are losing species at an unprecedented rate. In the Greater Cambridge Partnership's own words, 'Vegetation loss required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme will result in the release of an estimated 10,145 tCO₂e [tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent] of sequestered carbon' (1) and even with newly planted trees this 'would lead to a decrease in sequestration (i.e., an increase in carbon emissions) of 1,910 tCO₂e' (2). Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the busway's construction are estimated at 29,130 tCO₂e (3) yet GHG savings from a shift to bus use is expected to yield a reduction in carbon emissions of just 4,500 tCO₂e over 60 years (4). The scheme is estimated to cost £200 million+ yet it promises to save only minutes of journey time. In a biodiversity and climate emergency, the C2C busway is a catastrophic step in the wrong

direction. Coton Busway Action Group

([https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.cotonbuswayaction.com/!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGofCMw8TqU\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.cotonbuswayaction.com/!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGofCMw8TqU$)) with Cambridge PPF show there is an on-road alternative that is far less environmentally damaging and cheaper, see here ([https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.cambridgeppf.org/cambourne-cambridge-busway!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGof1fbBrqY\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.cambridgeppf.org/cambourne-cambridge-busway!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGof1fbBrqY$)).

Best regards

Ben Greig & Julia Shaw, Pesticide-Free Cambridge

(1) CAMBOURNE TO CAMBRIDGE Technical Report 06

([https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/asset-library/Sustainable-Transport/Public-Transport/Cambourne-to-Cambridge/C2C-TWAO/Draft-documents/8-ES/6.-Technical-Report-GHG.pdf!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGoffDd30gk\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/asset-library/Sustainable-Transport/Public-Transport/Cambourne-to-Cambridge/C2C-TWAO/Draft-documents/8-ES/6.-Technical-Report-GHG.pdf!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGoffDd30gk$))

– Greenhouse Gasses page 12, point 5.4.1

(2) CAMBOURNE TO CAMBRIDGE Technical Report 06 – Greenhouse Gasses page 12, point 5.4.2

(3) CAMBOURNE TO CAMBRIDGE Technical Report 06 – Greenhouse Gasses page 11, point 5.2.3

(4) CAMBOURNE TO CAMBRIDGE Technical Report 06 – Greenhouse Gasses page 11, point 5.3.1

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Julia Shaw and Ben Greig

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Pesticide-Free Cambridge

Drawing on Ecological Public Health as a model for effective environmental activism

info@pesticidefreecambridge.org

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Campaigning for a healthy city, healthy environment, healthy people | Drawing on Ecological Public Health as a model for effective environmental activism.

Recent PAN-UK interview and campaign profile

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Our 2024-25 Manifesto

(<https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.pesticidefreecambridge.org/2024->

[manifesto___:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGofcRwaK5s\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.pesticidefreecambridge.org/events___:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGofcRwaK5s$))

Our Events

([https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.pesticidefreecambridge.org/events___:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGofS9bPu6E\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.pesticidefreecambridge.org/events___:!!HEBAkwG3r5RD!_4OQPZiutg5of3VxQ_Qio37HF85j5stfPYG65icPQqqvqb4o9jVMNANYU5Z8cxuCgM7zrqhZOIzoTTfcKpAkEDEgDoiFcGofS9bPu6E$))

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