

Cycling 2020

Cycling 2020 is a new initiative being launched later this year by Cambridge Cycling Campaign, a local voluntary group pushing for more, better, and safer cycling.

Cycling 2020 will involve a brochure (printed and available on our website, www.camcycle.org.uk) and roadshow, intended to inspire policy-makers, private developers, employers, and citizens of Cambridge by making the case for Cambridge as a world-class cycling city, as well as dispelling some of the myths about cycling and cyclists.

There exist many good cycle facilities in Cambridge, for instance the cycle bridge over the station and new bridges and paths across the commons.

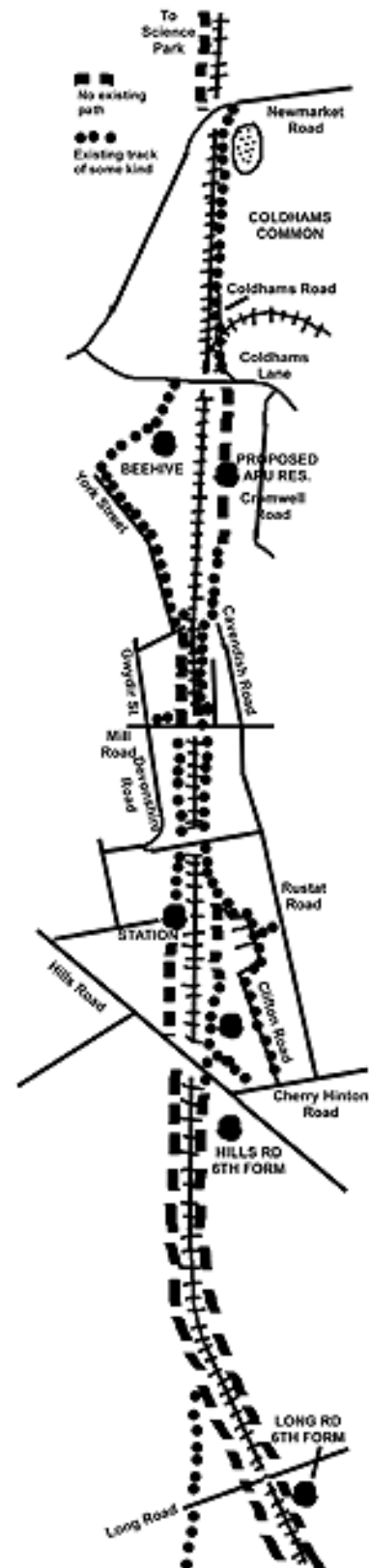
But in many other cases, cycling suffers from loss of priority at side roads, danger from fast traffic and parked cars, a severe shortage of cycle parking, indirect routes, obstructions in the middle of cycle paths, and are often pushed onto the pavement. These problems stop some people seeing cycling as a viable alternative to the car.

We want to make the case to decision-makers and private developers for giving cyclists more priority in transport planning, as happens on the continent, to make cycling a form of transport that everyone will actively want to choose for its many benefits:

- Cycling is key to better health and increased freedom. Indeed, it is sometimes said that cyclists on average have a fitness level of someone ten years younger.
- Cyclists make a huge contribution to reducing congestion in the city: imagine traffic queues if there were no bikes!
- Cycling is often the quickest form of transport in Cambridge, and is a much more efficient use of space
- And of course, cycling makes a big contribution to the quality of Cambridge's environment, being quiet and pollution-free.

The Councils and private developers have a key role to play in prioritising cycling more heavily, to remove the barriers that exist, and to open up new routes, particularly as new housing is brought to the area.

One such key route the Campaign wants to see opened up is the 'Chisholm Trail' – our proposal for a 'cycle super-highway', joining up the Science Park with Addenbrooke's. This would make cycling the quickest and easiest form of transport between the very many employment, housing and leisure locations



The Chisholm Trail: One new route to open up many areas of Cambridge to cycling

across a wide area. We estimate most of the route could be made accessible for £4m – a fraction of the cost of the proposed Guided Bus scheme and around the cost of one park and ride site. Parts of the route are now mentioned in the Draft Local Plan prepared by the City Council.

Cambridge Cycling Campaign wants to see Cambridge as a world class cycling city. More, better and safer cycling is in the interests of all.



Martin Lucas-Smith
Co-ordinator, Cambridge Cycling Campaign

Background information about Cambridge Cycling Campaign

Cambridge Cycling Campaign is a local organisation with over 700 members. We are entirely volunteer-run. We work closely with local government and others to improve conditions for cyclists in Cambridge. More people (25%) cycle to work in Cambridge than anywhere else in the UK.

We have an extensive website at www.camcycle.org.uk, where information on our activities and about cycling in Cambridge can be found. We also publish a bi-monthly Newsletter for our members and for decision-makers, which is also available on our website.

Background information: why provide for cyclists?

Promoting and catering for increased levels of cycling is in the interests of all, including motorists. Cyclists make a huge contribution to the well-being of the city. For instance, every new cyclist is potentially one fewer car in a traffic queue.

Together with the associated benefits of a less-polluted city, a more efficient transport network, and benefits to the individual of cycling, it makes sense to give greater priority to providing a high-quality cycling environment. Although levels of cycling in Cambridge are high by comparison with other cities, we believe that it is important to promote cycling to increase levels further.

We believe that responsible, legal cycling is in the best interests of cyclists themselves and of the wider community. We strongly support higher levels of enforcement of all traffic regulations, for all categories of road user, to reduce conflict and road danger.