

What is the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway?

- The Busway will provide a reliable, fast and frequent bus service for the people of Cambridgeshire.
- The Busway is being built along the old railway line between St Ives and Cambridge.
- The railway line stopped running trains for people in 1979.
- This is what The Busway looks like:



The photos above show: (top left) a bus driving off of the track onto a road, (top right and bottom left) close up photos of the track, (bottom right) how the track looks from high above the ground.

Benefits of The Busway

- The bus stops have been built so that people can get on or off a bus without stepping up or down. This makes it easy for people with pushchairs, wheelchairs and the elderly.
- Fast service with buses going from St Ives to Cambridge in 33 minutes.
- Reliable journey times because there are no unexpected traffic jams.
- Frequent service with at least six buses per hour from St Ives to Cambridge from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday. On Sundays and in evenings buses will also run but they will be less frequent.
- Buses can leave or join the track at road junctions which means they can travel on lots of different routes.
- The Busway will go past new houses that are being built like Orchard Park and the planned new town of Northstowe, which will be as big as St Ives.



The photos above show: (top) up to date information on when buses will be arriving, (bottom) when getting on or off a bus there will be no step up or down.

The buses

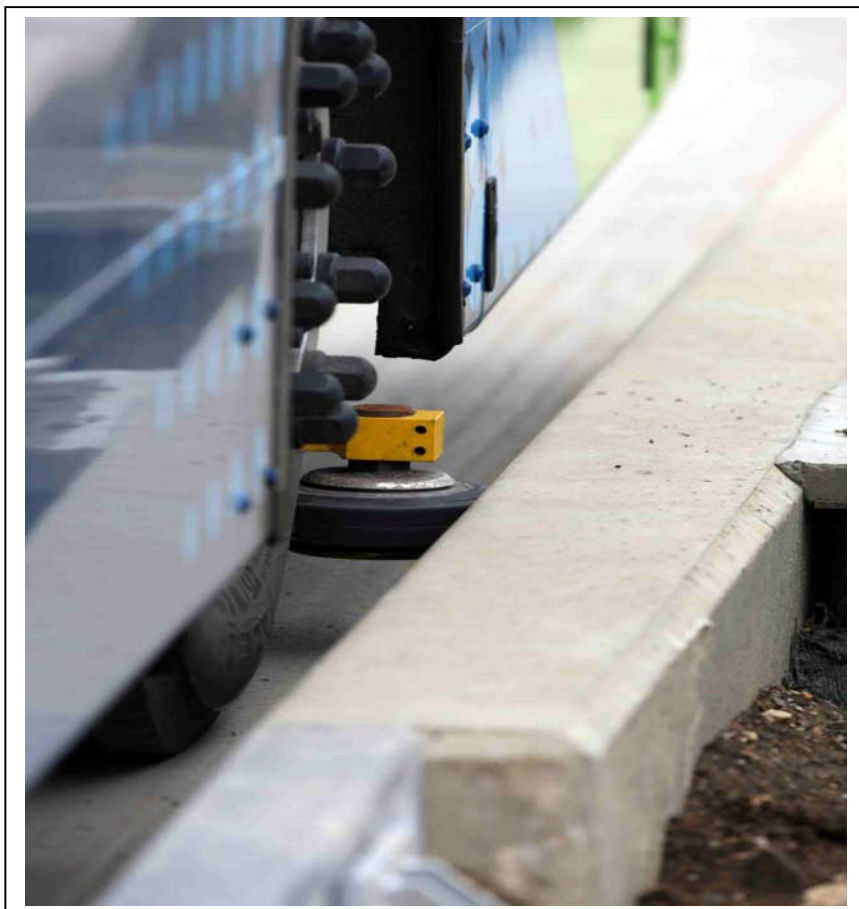
- Most buses will have leather seats, air conditioning and internet connection.
- This is what the guided buses look like:



The photos above show: (top left) a bus driving along the track, (top right and bottom left) what the buses look like inside (bottom right) a photo of a guided bus on the road.

How does The Busway work?

- Each bus that uses the track is fitted with two small guide wheels in front of the buses normal wheels.
- These wheels are used to guide the bus along the track, so the ride is fast and smooth.



The photos above show: (top) a close up of a guide wheel, (bottom) a close up of the guide wheel running along the track.

Design of The Busway

- The Busway was built like the guided busway in Essen, Germany.
- This busway has been open since 1980.
- It is a really popular way to get around Essen.
- There are spaces in the track to allow grass to grow.



The photos above show the Guided Busway in Essen, Germany.

How The Busway has been built

- Cambridgeshire County Council employed a company called BAM Nuttall Ltd to build The Busway.
- BAM Nuttall had offices near Longstanton, where they had a large building site and employed hundreds of people.
- The Busway is made of long concrete beams, which were all made in a factory on the site. The runny concrete was poured into big moulds and left to dry.



The photos above show: (top) the concrete beams used for the track, (bottom) The Gantry machine laying the beams.

- The beams were laid using a special machine called 'The Gantry'.
- They were moved along the track as it was made using a machine called a Terberg.
- Laying the beams like this makes sure the pieces of the track fit together nicely. This makes the track very smooth and when you ride along it on a bus it is comfortable.



The photos above show: (top left) some of the concrete beams, (top right) a beam on the Terberg ready to be moved, (bottom left) The Gantry laying a beam (bottom right) The Gantry from above.

- Each beam is 15 metres long and weighs 15 tonnes, which is heavier than two double decker buses.
- In the gaps between the beams there are recycled rubber tyres to help water run off the track.



The photos above show: (top left) a beam being lifted onto the Terberg, (top right) two guided buses on the track, (bottom left) a guided bus on the track (bottom right) shredded tyres in between the tracks.

How will The Busway affect the environment?

- The Busway will allow people to travel between Huntingdon and Cambridge easily, without having to use their own cars and getting stuck in traffic. This means there will be less cars on the roads.
- Most of the new buses running on the guideway will be using a fuel called bio diesel, which is cleaner than the fuel in a normal car.



The photos above show: (top) traffic on the busy A14 road, (bottom) one of the guided buses showing the fuel it uses.

- We wanted to make homes for animals and plants just like there were along the old railway line.
- We used pieces of the old railway line, rocks, stones, soil and replanted some plants to build 16 new wildlife areas which make up for the ones that were taken away.
- New areas include hedgerows, scrub, grassland, open water and woodland. In some areas there are bat boxes, bird boxes and ponds.
- One of the biggest ponds made is at the Longstanton site, which collects water from the track and car park. It is also a good home for wildlife.
- There are over 40 tunnels along the track, so all kinds of animals can safely make their way across.



The photos above show: (top left) a culvert starting to be made, (top right) a Grizzled Skipper butterfly, (bottom left) a pasque flower at Devil's Dyke (bottom right) a new hedge being planted.