



Cambridge

From June to August 2011, we participated in a variety of cycling cultures in Cambridge. We explored the many parks and paths into centre of town and locked up our bikes in the *Park Street Cycle Park*. We cycled along the river and into the Fens with the *CTC group*. We tinkered on our bikes and chatted with members of the *Owl Bike Repairs* and *Reworks Cambridge*. We attended the bike ride launch of the *Cambridge Guided Busway/Cycleway* and presented some of our findings at a *Cambridge Cycle Campaign* meeting and at *Cambridge University*.

Our research built upon a pilot study conducted by Rachel in 2008. In addition to documenting our own experiences we interviewed 25 people who were a mix of stakeholders and people who had heard about our research in the media, cycling networks or via postcards left on their bikes. Many thanks to everyone involved in the project.

Available at: www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

2001 Census
 Percentage of cycling/all employed*
 Cambridge 25.9%
 East of England 3.9%
 England 2.8%

Cambridge was one of the 12 cycling cities and towns funded through Cycling England between 2008 and 2011. It also has a relatively large Cycling Campaign, with a strong web presence. CC members set up the *Cyclestreets* web site which is a way for cyclists to share routes and information.

Cambridge was chosen because it has the highest levels of cycling in the UK. A unique city, it is flat, dry, and historic – its core was not redeveloped to accommodate the rise of the motorcar post World War Two. Cyclists can take advantage of parks and river paths as well as roads and (bumpy!) cobbled streets.

Cycling in Cambridge

FOLD

Cycling places in Cambridge



Cambridge is renowned for its many bridges over the River Cam and there are a number of purposely built pedestrian and cycle bridges. One of them is the *Riverside Bridge*, opened in 2008. It is a steel bridge that joins Riverside and Chesterton.



Cycle parking spaces can be hard to spot in a city that seems full of bicycles. As a result, people tend to use one of two strategies. They either lock the bike to itself directly outside shops or utilise special *Cycle Parking stations* that provide under-cover secure parking for 600 bikes.



The *Cambridge Guided Busway/Cycleway* is a public transport route that extends for 40 miles, 16 of which are dedicated bus and cycle route. Located on either side of the city, the north section extends to *St Ives* and the south goes to *Trumpington Park and Ride* station. The surface is smooth concrete but a section of the path is expected to flood at different times during the year. It was launched with a *Cambridge Cycling Campaign* organised ride on August 7, 2011.



B - Stick to A

CUT

www.CyclingCultures.org.uk

CyclingCultures is a multi-method sociological research project that focuses on four relatively high-cycling cities in the UK to find out why cycling thrives in particular areas.

The four chosen fieldsites are Hull, Hackney, Bristol and Cambridge. All have differing social structures, spatial characteristics, political contexts and political environments.

The project is run by the Sustainable Mobilities Group in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of East London. It is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

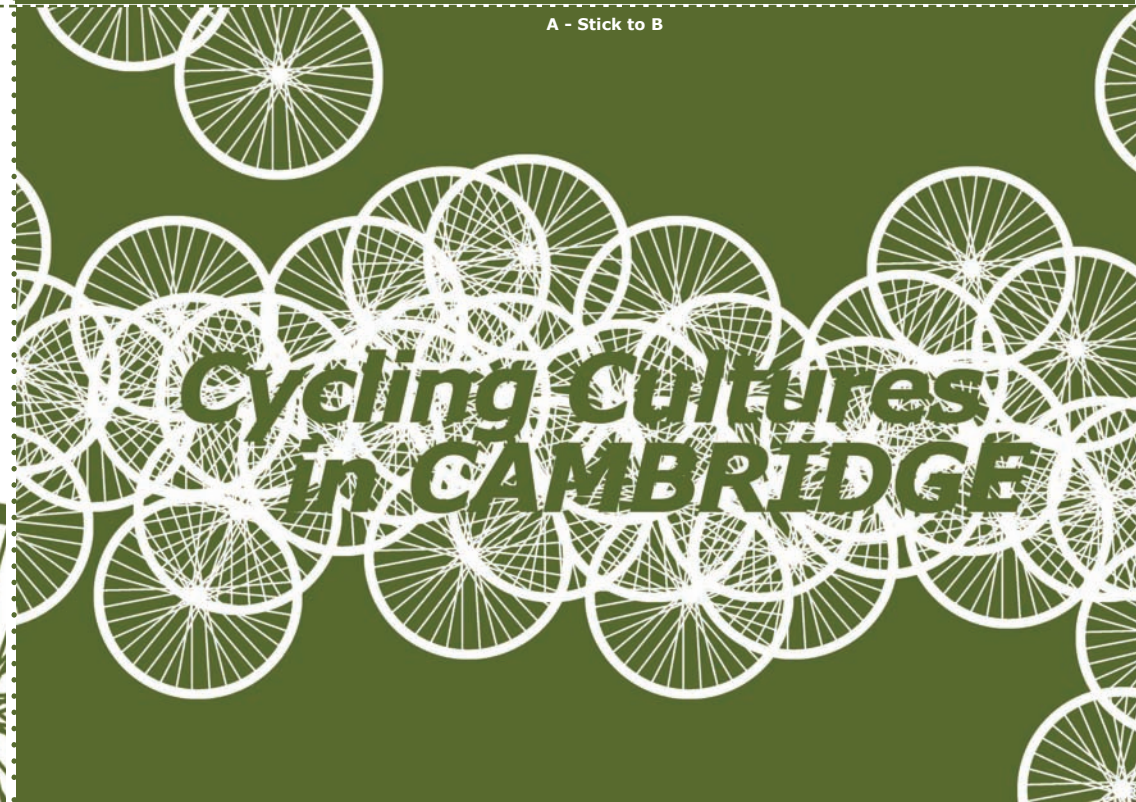
Would you like to learn more about the **Cycling Cultures** project? We are looking for people to contribute by telling us more about what it's like to cycle in the UK. If so, please add your bike experiences to www.cyclingcultures.org.uk/bikestories

This zine presents some of our findings from ethnographic research and interviews conducted in Cambridge between June and August 2011. During this time we visited and lived in the city and undertook participant observation in many cycling clubs and activities.

For more information or to participate in the project please contact Rachel Aldred on R.E.Aldred@uel.ac.uk or Katrina Jungnickel on K.E.Jungnickel@UEL.ac.uk

A - Stick to B

Cycling Cultures in CAMBRIDGE





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Some people who cycle in Cambridge



Bike Portrait - Hazel, near Jesus Green

This is one of a series of portraits taken of people in Cambridge with their bikes that aims to represent the rich diversity of cyclists, bikes and places to ride in the city.

C - Stick to D

CUT

D - Stick to C

Cultures of cycling in Cambridge

Many people in Cambridge use 'town bikes' for everyday rides into the city. These are usually older, second hand sit-up-and-beg style bikes. Some are decorated with stickers or flowers. Most have baskets. When official parking is not available, many people lock bikes to themselves and leave them directly outside shops.



Lycra is rarely seen in Cambridge. Most people wear their 'everyday clothes' to ride into and around the city.

Cambridge Cycling Campaign is a very active campaign group. It has produced various reports including most recently a Cycling Vision 2016, and a report on cycle provision in new developments. In 2006 the Campaign launched its Journey Planner and Photo-map, which later led to the creation of Cyclestreets.net



There are a number of active community cycling projects operating in the city. Two examples are: Reworks, a community workshop space hosting various people and projects, and OWL Bikes, which refurbishes and sells second hand bikes, and provides training in bike maintenance.

Some Cycling References

Organisations:

- Cambridge City Council - www.cambridge.gov.uk/
- Cambridge CTC - www.ctc-cambridge.org.uk/
- Cambridge Cycling Campaign - www.camcycle.org.uk/
- Cambridge Cycling Club - www.cambridge-cycling-club.co.uk/
- Cambridge Cycle Couriers - www.outspokendelivery.co.uk/
- Cambridge Cycle Streets - www.cyclestreets.net/
- Cambridge Recycles - www.cambridge-recycles.com/
- Cambridgeshire Council - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/
- Cyclestreets - www.cyclestreets.net/
- Fixed Gear & Single Speed forum - <http://www.lfgss.com/forum18.html>
- Owl Bike Repairs - www.owlgroup.org.uk/
- Park'n Ride - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/parkandride/
- Reworks Cambridge - www.reworkscambridge.org/
- School Run Centre - <http://schoolruncentre.co.uk/>
- Sustrans - www.sustrans.org.uk/sustrans-near-you/
- Team Cambridge Cycling Club - www.team-cambridge.co.uk/



Bike stories

Everyone has a bike story. Read a story or submit your own: www.cyclingcultures.org.uk/bikestories