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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

TAKING A GRAND TOUR – BY BIKE

Sixteen intrepid cyclists set off on Sunday morning [7 May] to launch a new cycle route round the district. The Grand Tour of Pendle is a 38-mile circuit that shows off the best of the area's countryside.

Devised by Pendle Borough Council cycling officer Chris Wilding, the circuit can easily be ridden over two days, or even in one day for the enthusiastic cyclist. The route makes use of newly-developed traffic-free cycle paths such as the canal towpath and in Nelson's Victoria Park, and elsewhere keeps to quiet roads for much of its length.

It is hoped that the route will attract cycle tourists to the area, and a booklet describing the route has been put together by local cycling group, the Colne Cycling Campaign, with a tourism development grant from Pendle Council.

The chair of the cycling campaign, Steve Lax, said:

'This is a superb ride – we all had a brilliant time on Sunday. With new national cycling routes coming through Pendle, such as the Pennine Cycleway and the imminent Pennine Bridleway, we can expect more cyclists to visit Pendle for the first time. The development of routes like the *Grand Tour* will encourage them to stay a while and see what Pendle has to offer. But the *Grand Tour* is also a great way for local cyclists to remind themselves of the spectacular countryside that surrounds them.'

While the quickest cyclists on Sunday completed the whole route in a little over three hours, most took a more leisurely approach and enjoyed some of the stunning views, as well as refreshment stops at Greenberfield locks and Barley.

Copies of the Tour booklet are available in Council offices and tourism outlets, or by calling the Tourist Information Centre on 01282 661685.

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Notes:

1. Colne Cycling Campaign's aim is to make cycling better in Colne and to improve access between the town centre and the surrounding countryside. More at www.colnecycling.org.uk.
2. The Grand Tour of Pendle takes cyclists through many of Pendle's settlements: Colne, Trawden, Laneshawbridge, Earby, Salterforth, Barnoldswick, Barley, Newchurch, Fence and Nelson.