

Transcript - A167 Great North Cycleway

Cllr Peter Brookes – Durham County Council – Cycling Champion

[Peter Brookes is standing on the cycle path at the side of the A167. Vehicles and people cycling on the cycle path are passing him in both directions.]

My name is Peter Brookes, I am the Cycling Champion for Durham County Council and it is fantastic to be here on this newly refurbished cycle path on the A167 which was originally installed in 1936 As part of the government's programme and it's just a fantastic piece of infrastructure around Durham.

[Images: Picture of people working on the original installation of the cycle path. Picture of the original installation of the cycle path.]

[Video Clip: Cyclists on the cycle path taken from the air.]

[Peter Brookes] It is one of the first in the country, and of course now it has been refurbished its part of our strategy, our new cycling and walking strategy, to encourage more people to get out on their bikes, or to walk.

[Video Clips: Several men dressed in old fashioned clothes cycling on the cycle path. Shot of cycle way sign painted on the ground with people riding past it.]

[Peter Brookes] Because its safe, and it is segregated from the road, and it means that families and individuals can come out and enjoy cycling and walking on this route.

And what we want to do is get more people thinking about cycling and getting out on their bikes more frequently. Because it is great for fitness, it's great for leisure and it really, you know, there is a feel-good factor.

[Maureen Dewell is standing on the cycle path at the side of the A167. Vehicles and people cycling on the cycle path are passing her in both directions.]

[Maureen Dewell – Cyclist] Cycling is fantastic.

[Video Clip: People riding bicycles on cycle route.]

[Maureen Dewell] It gets you out and about you can enjoy the countryside. It's great on the social side, you can cycle by yourself, with other people it's just' it's, you get a sense of freedom when you are out on your bike, and to enjoy the countryside. When you go past in a car you go so fast you just don't see the beauty of the countryside.

[Peter Brookes] Cycling is becoming increasingly popular.

[Video Clips: People riding bicycles on cycle route.]

[Peter Brookes] People aren't going to go out on their bikes and get fit unless they feel safe and of course the roads are very busy. When this cycle path was first established in 1936 we didn't see the volume of traffic that we have now, of course, and so cyclists need a place where they can get out on their bikes, feel safe, not have any worries about the traffic and

that's why this piece of infrastructure, this resource, is so important because it means that people can cycle around the City of Durham and further afield.

[Susan Womersley is standing on the cycle path at the side of the A167. Vehicles are passing her in both directions.]

[Susan Womersley -Breeze Durham Ride Leader] I definitely think cycleways are great for people to get out, to build up their confidence if they are not very confident cycling on roads. Its more sociable because you have got the space to talk to people around you. Its good for families bringing children on them, because they feel safer. It's, kind of segregating the traffic from the bikes as well, so hopefully people in cars know that they don't have to sort of, have to give way too much to cyclists, because they are on a separate route.

[Peter Brookes] I use this path regularly, its part of the Great North Cycleway, so it is a fantastic piece of infrastructure.

[Video Clips: Person riding bicycle on cycle route.]

[Peter Brookes] It's a shame that we didn't keep cycle paths like this, not just in Durham but all over the country, you know, when we had the boom in car transport in the 1960's there should have been a bit more foresight in keeping infrastructure like this. But luckily in Durham we didn't get rid of it and it's a fantastic resource for all walkers and all cyclists and let's make sure we use it.

[Image: Collection of people, some on bicycles, standing on the cycle route and smiling at the camera.]

[Text: www.durham.gov.uk/greatnorthcycleway Find Out More]