

WEB PAGES CONTAINING INFORMATION ON MOUNTAIN BIKING AT GISBURN FOREST

PENNINE MOUNTAIN BIKE ACTION

www.pmba.org.uk

WEB PAGES 30/01/2013

History of the Trails

Gisburn has undergone a massive evolution in its trails over the last few years and is continuing to develop. For a long time there were three pretty basic and mainly fire road routes, good for stretching the legs but not the most exciting riding (you can download a copy of the old trails map [here](#)). At the other end of the scale was the downhill sections and cheeky trails that the locals had been quietly building and using. This changed in 2008 when Martin Colledge, the Beat Forester for Gisburn with help from Nigel Pilling started to hand build some new singletrack. They quickly realised they needed help and a volunteer group was set up to speed the trail construction. At this point a master plan was born with the expert guidance of Rowen Sorrel from Back on Track. Possible lines were walked and marked out (you may still see odd pieces of Marzocchi tape hanging from the trees) and a master map of how the trails could look was created.

In 2009 a significant injection of cash from Sport England (£ 60k), along with £ 60k provided by Forest of Bowland AONB, Ribble Valley BC, Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership, UU and the FC meant things could really start to change. The FC also contributed the equivalent of another £ 60k in materials. This all allowed contractors to add around 6km of singletrack to the 1km the volunteers had already laid. Since then the [volunteers](#) have continued to build and have now opened a total of 2.5km of hand built trail. Hope Technologies have also been involved and generously funded the Hope Line.

The trails continue to evolve with ambitious plans for a new car park with better facilities, skills loops and a pump track. Plans also exist for ever more singletrack, extending the existing trail north beyond Hully Gully and to remove even more of the fire road. Whilst Martin continues to provide the gravel the volunteers will continue to build.

NEWS

25.10.12 - Gisburn on NorthWest Tonight



Gisburn Forest was featured on BBC NorthWest Tonight and not necessarily for the right reasons. The phenomenal success of the new trails (50,000 visitors a year can't be wrong) has brought with it the unwelcome side affect of people needing rescuing having crashed. Bowland and Pennine Mountain Rescue have had 10 mountain bike related call outs this year alone, accounting for nearly thirty percent of their total callouts. The latest one at the start of the 8 prompted the TV article. This increased workload is now putting some strain on

the team. In addition to BPMRT the Cave Rescue Organisation has also regularly attended mountain bike incidents in the forest and of course we've all heard the air ambulance flying in as we've been riding.

You can see the full report on the Bowland and Pennine Mountain Rescue Team's [Facebook page](#). (You may need a facebook login to view the clip).

23.04.12 - Free Car Parking for Volunteers at Gisburn & Beyond



Work is now underway on the new car park at Gisburn with the area having been marked out and cleared of trees. The power lines running along the road have now been buried and the telegraph poles removed and a significant amount of stone has been dug out up in the quarry for surfacing the new area. The forestry team were out brashing through the route of the new singletrack

links last week in preparation for the trail building contractors coming on site this week.

Car parking charges will come into force once the new car park is completed (the pay and display machine was delivered last July!). Charges are being set at a very reasonable rate of £3 per day with monies raised going back into trail maintenance and construction (actually the money will be supplementing the already significant investment the Forestry Commission spends each year to keep the trails rideable and the volunteers expanding the network).

Facilities:

There are currently no facilities at Cocklett Hill car park (although ambitious plans are being hatched).

Food:

The closest place for good food is the [Dog and Partridge](#) in Tosside.

Bike Shop:

The [Dog and Partridge](#) in Tosside carries a range of spares and other biking essentials as well as being a dealer for Hope products. Bike shops can also be found in Clitheroe ([Pedal Power](#)) and Skipton ([The Bicycle Shop](#)).



Accommodation:

The [Dog and Partridge](#) in Tosside provides excellent B & B accommodation with direct access to the trails.

Bike Hire:

[Cycle Adventure](#) will deliver bikes directly to the forest by prior arrangement.

Key Contact:

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Article from

Cycle Junkies

30/01/2013

Gisburn Forest Car Park Is Go

After a rather quiet start to the year news wise things are really picking up for 2012. Funding has been secured for the first phase of development of a small visitor hub at Gisburn Forest. The Hub will be created in the forest near to the Stephen Park outdoor centre and is intended to make visits to the forest more enjoyable and memorable. In line with what many visitors showed support for during a recent online survey (thank you to all of you who responded, the excellent response helped considerably with the funding applications) , the scale of development will be relatively low key.

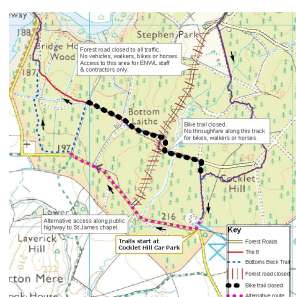
The first phase of work will include the creation of a new car park (100 spaces), 500 metres of multi-user trail, a bike skills training facility with blue, red and black grade features and circa 1500 metres of blue grade cross country bike trail to link the new car park to the existing trails. The development will take place on land that is owned by United Utilities and managed by the Forestry Commission. Funding for this part of the project has been secured from: the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership and the Forestry Commission. The combined funding package is worth a whopping £300,000. Planning permission has been secured for this phase of the project and work is expected to start soon and be ongoing throughout the spring.

Work is also ongoing with the design and fund raising for other hub features; these will include a much requested toilet facility and some work to enhance the wildlife interest of the site. Watch this space for news as the project develops.

Planning permission for the development was passed last summer, the plans for this phase of the development are below.

This is a massive boost for Gisburn and is down to the efforts and perseverance of the local forestry team led by Martin Colledge. It also shows how seriously the Forestry Commission is about the trails as they have injected a significant amount of cash into this project along with the support again from the Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership.

some disruption is likely on the trails in the short term with closures currently in place on the '8' above the quarry (see the Gisburn trail guide for more details) and additional closures next week as detailed below.



The gravel access road to Stephen Park is closed to all traffic from Monday 27th February to Friday 2nd March. At short notice the F.C. have agreed to Electricity North West Limited occupying this road for works. They are using large machinery to dig a trench to bury an electricity cable along the whole length of the road. For safety reasons there is no access to this road while work is ongoing. You may wish to delay your visit to the forest. Alternatively it is possible to bypass this section of forest road by following the tarmac public

highway from Cocklet Hill car park to St James chapel. The trail network can be rejoined here. Please respect the closures as we'll all benefit from them soon enough and they are in place for your safety (one squashed rider will really mess up the timetable for the works ;-)

In addition to all this the volunteers are continuing to extend the lower loop on the red trail, starting the next 1/2 kilometre of singletrack on Sunday the 26th of February, to complete the fire road bypass and link the mega swoop into the rest of the trail network. If you want to help us get this section finished have a look at the Gisburn Forest volunteers page or drop us an email to contactus@pmba.org.uk for more details and to be added to the mailing list.

Article from www.pmba.org.uk

Web pages
Visit Ribble Valley-Things to do

Cycling

With traffic free routes, cycle friendly cafes and expert cycling guiding services available, there's no where better to get on your bike than in Ribble Valley.

Gentle peddlers can meander along quiet country lanes passing through our extraordinary villages whilst mountain bikers can dart off road towards the rugged terrain of the Forest of Bowland.

Challenging Gisburn Forest

Test your limits to the max at Gisburn Forest, one of the newest and most challenging mountain biking centres in the country.

Steer round the newly improved waymarked trails, opened in 2009, including an easy 8km 'blue' route for families and beginners, and a 22km 'red' course for the more experienced and daring cyclists!

Gisburn Forest is the largest forest in Lancashire, with existing and newer routes flowing around its forest roads and wilder terrain. The trails, set in the incredible backdrop of the Forest of Bowland, include tricky downward and boardwalk sections overlooking the fine views of the Stocks Reservoir

[Click here to download the new Gisburn Forest Cycling Leaflet](#)

The Lancashire Cycleway

Change to a different gear and navigate traffic free routes and the Lancashire Cycleway that takes you on a journey through the North and South circular routes, both meeting at the historic village of Whalley. The Lancashire Cycleway is designed to help you use the minor roads throughout the area and is well signposted and accessible from several railway stations.

Inspire Me!

We've selected a few cycling routes for you to be able to download and try out for yourself. Just click on the 'Related Downloads' link below and look for the Cycling Routes Download