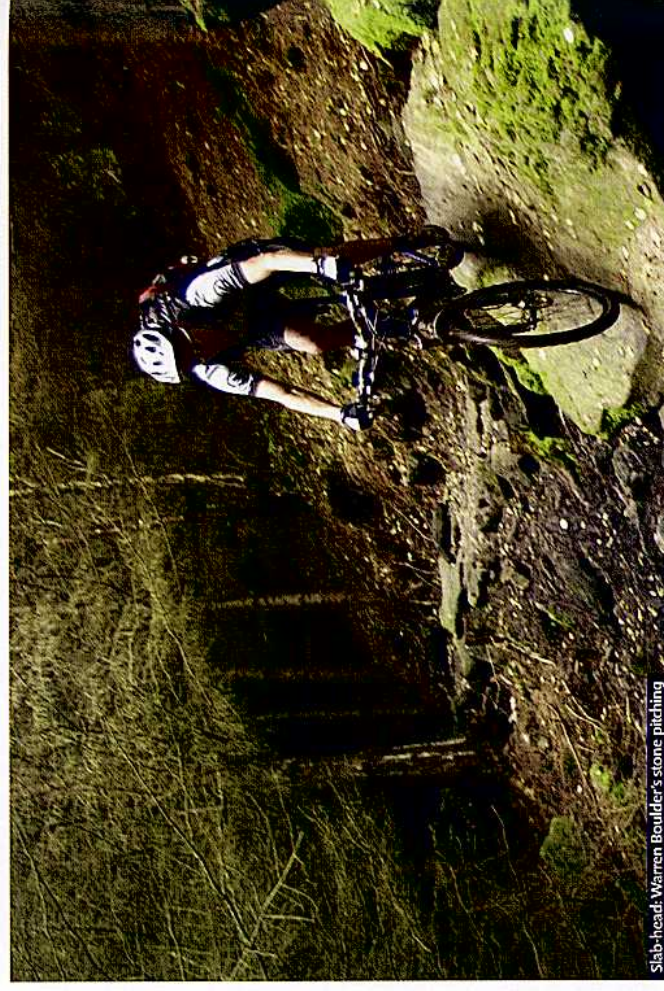




...only, not a fire road in sight...



Skib-head: Warren Boulder's stone pitching



been extremely active in developing new singletrack and opening up access to existing trails, and their crew has swollen to include 41 members along with several corporate sponsors.

In the short time they've been sinking shovels into dirt, representing fat tyre interests at access forums and building bridges with landowners, they've built up an impressive CV. Most of their work has centred on Dalby Forest, maintaining trails and introducing waymarking. This has established strong relationships with the Forestry Commission, Forest Enterprise, North York Moors National Park, Yorkshire Water, British Horse Society, English Heritage and Ryedale District County

Council. As a result, Stainburn's FC ranger approached SingletrAction about building trails on his patch.

**Technical masterpiece**

Stainburn is a small forest managed by the Forestry Commission just west of Harrogate. On the map, it's an innocuous four-kilometre patch shaded green, but beyond the pillars of pine, SingletrAction saw the potential. There now lurks within, a trail they modestly describe as: "what will arguably be the most technical man-made trail in England."

The flagship black route is only a fraction of what's planned for this diminutive forest though. SingletrAction will eventually

develop a flowing red-graded trail and a flatter, well-surfaced family trail to sit alongside the technical masterpiece. Eventually it was decided that the black route — christened 'Warren Boulder Trail' — should be built first to create a vital showcase when touting for funding. To begin with, progress was bogged down in red tape. Insurance had to be found and detailed plans and routes approved by the FC. After 18 months of planning, paperwork and on-the-ground preparation, the Warren Boulder Trail's first foundation stones were rolled into place.

There were few signs of two-wheel activity as we pulled off the tarmac and onto the dirt after a long drive north and

a pitch-black morning start. No tyre tracks disappearing into cracks in the foliage; no cars parked with IMBA stickers in their windows; no inner tubes hanging from branches in the trees. We were rechecking our directions when a burly silver Land Rover growled into the car park and two Lycra-clad individuals stepped out from the cab.

The passenger introduced himself as Lee Owen-Stanford, SingletrAction's treasurer, and his sidekick as Fergus Walsh, one of their many spade men and proprietor of Wicked

Coffee, a SingletrAction corporate sponsor. Two more cars pulled up and three more riders unpacked their machines. The final trio consisted of Rich and

**"There now lurks within, a trail they describe as 'what will arguably be the most technical trail in England'"**

Jason, also from SingletrAction and Mark Sage, a media MA student who was in the midst of a project for Otley Council to promote cycling.

**Shoehorned**

Around five miles of singletrack has been shoehorned into Stainburn's tiny footprint. The bulk of it tangles through the upper part of the forest on the north →



...the needle: Norwood Edge