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■ SINGLETRACTION WINS FORESTRY GRANT

Stainburn trails get funding

The small forest of Stainburn in North Yorkshire has been awarded a grant of £37,500 to help construct one of England's toughest cross-country trails. Secured by the Forestry Commission from the North Yorkshire Aggregates Grants Scheme, but built and designed by Yorkshire trail-building group, Singletraction, the planned 3.8km trail will extend work already begun by volunteers. A 1.5km section of rock-armoured singletrack exists on site alongside miles of tight and technical semi-natural singletrack. The new extension

will be technically challenging, but chicken runs will allow the less confident to bypass the severest obstacles. Work should be completed by March and a second loop could be built in the near future.

Singletraction volunteer Tim Sellors said: "We have been working on the trails for several years, planning and building routes that offer riders a real challenge. We've packed in some technically demanding features, making the most of the woodland. Features include steep descents, rock steps, off-camber sections and

even some North Shore-style timber constructions. This funding is a great step forward, allowing trails to be completed much quicker."

The funding package will also pay for additional conservation work in the woodland, with dense vegetation being cut back to open up rides and drainage installed on well-used foot-paths. For more information on the Forestry Commission visit www.forestry.gov.uk.

More on biking in Stainburn can be found at www.singletraction.org.uk.

