

A New Bridleway!!

New facilities for mountain biking are expanding rapidly in Lancashire. There are the new mountain bike routes in Lee Quarry near Bacup, rapidly becoming one of the finest centres in the North West, with some extremely tough black routes and "play areas" for testing your dexterity and bike jumping capabilities. This is a refreshing new life for what was a fairly depressing old quarry. All it now needs is a cafe with bacon barm cakes – then people will visit in their thousands!! This is a "must" for all those who think they are LMC MB experts!! Some folks have already visited. If not – it's a good spot for a quick afternoon visit. Where is it?? – you'll find it if you really want to!!

But there are also some brand new sections of the Pennine Bridleway being created over the moors above Burnley. One new bit is high above Worsthorne, with magnificent panoramic views across to Pendle Hill. The final work is still to be completed. The track had been dug, using the Hymac technique where the surface of the moor is turned over, like flipping a giant pancake. The result is a stony surface with a drainage ditch alongside. The track will soon blend into the hillside, to leave a solid but green route. The fences and gates have been installed but the signage has to be put up and the legal work to be completed once all the ground works are in place.

Where is it? Try GR 898 323 on your South Pennine OS map – or your satellites will get you there on GPS!!! You won't find the route on the map yet – but you will find it on the ground!



Richard Toon - September 2009