

The MinorTaur Trail at the Coed y Brenin Trail centre

The MinorTaur trail, the latest offering from the Forestry Commission Wales Coed y Brenin Trail centre, is causing quite a buzz amongst those who have ridden it. The new track is a blue-grade mountain bike trail and was built to plug the gap between the 'easy' Yr Afon green route and the significantly more challenging red and black routes within the forest. The MinorTaur follows a 'daisy-chain' design with loops of trail leaving and rejoining the Yr Afon trail, giving plenty of opportunities to tailor a ride to the desires and abilities of the group. The first loops of trail were opened this Spring, and the trail is due to be completed by the end of 2013.

Whilst by no means being an 'easy' trail, the MinorTaur was designed to be suitable for all the family, and to give a progressive introduction into technical mountain biking. The MinorTaur trail is engineered to be wide enough to take adaptive mountain bike trikes and quads along its entire length, making it a fairly unique facility in Britain. On a recent we managed to ride a wide variety of adaptive bikes down the first exciting sections. Make no mistake though, this is no all ability trail; there are significant climbs, bermed corners (a series of 10 back to back in the 'Slipway' section alone) and step-drops. The MinorTaur is a great place to learn and hone your skills, but for all riders the trail will take a degree of fitness, skill and nerve to complete in style.

With this trail, open every day of the year, the centre is able to offer genuine mountain biking experiences to a wider range of riders, though as with mountain biking in general, it is not going to be appealing, suitable or indeed possible for every adaptive cyclist. Equally, the rough nature and steepness of sections of the trail will mean that it might not be suitable for all adaptive bikes. If in doubt about the suitability of your own equipment, why not make use of the bike rental facilities at Coed y Brenin, including the 'Challenge your Boundaries' adaptive MTBs which will be available later in the summer, and will be just the very thing to tackle the trails.

Graham & Jacky O'Hanlon

For further details phone: 01341 430628