

Thetford CMAT mountain biking. 29th December 2013.

What an amazing day for a mid-winter Christmas pud-burning ride. The sun was out and streamed through the trees, doing its best to melt the morning ice. We split into four groups and headed off into the woods to find some mud. This was easier said than done in Thetford Forest as the sandy soil drains quickly and the newly prepared sections of single-track made flying between the trees amazingly fast. We zoomed along the old 'black' route, now more realistically graded as red, keeping a lookout for red deer and the not-so-elusive squirrels. We all braved the 'beast', 'skip', 'tent peg', 'squirrel pit' (oddly with no squirrels?), 'Howe's run pit', 'bracken pit' and 'Madgett's pit', having far too much fun for a post-Christmas day without the relatives visiting. Hungry at last, we nipped back to High Lodge for lunch and cake, before heading back to Madgett's pit for some serious bomb-holing! I've heard that these pits were formed by damaged allied planes dropping their unused bombs before crash-landing at Mildenhall or Lakenheath air bases during the Second World War. Others have said that they were formed during the ice age by expanding glacial ice in the soft sandy soil? Either way, they were perfect for 'bombing' through as demonstrated by 'Jumping Jack', 'Bouncing Ben' and 'Risky Roger'. Fantastic fun!



Mud at last!



Jumping Jack exits Madgett's pit.



Bouncing Ben reaching new heights.