

NEW SPRINGWELL BRANCH SIDING TAKES SHAPE.

Mid November saw Dave MacLaughlin of Fitzwise Ltd using a 360 tracked excavator to begin the earth removal and levelling of the formation for the new long siding on the alignment of the old Springwell Colliery branch. Using the Gun Club car park from which to access the track bed, Dave has cleared and created approximate levels for about 400 yards, parallel to and on the Brickworks side of the present running line. The RH turnout for the siding has been sourced from Bownes's railway material suppliers

of Worksop and will be inserted into the plain running line at the 149 3/4 mile post, probably by contractors T L Drake & Son mid way through 2009. Whilst this major work is in progress, BHES volunteers will progressively replace worn rail, then lift and ease the "ski ramp" gradient on the running line, ready for the April big engine gala. For the short term, a stop block, recovered from Markham will be placed at the end of the new siding before it is eventually made into a run round loop with a further turnout installed near to the present stop block marking the end of the line.



Looking North, the present running line on the old springwell colliery branch formation is on the left. Earth works and levelling for the new parallel siding are almost complete. The right hand turnout will be inserted into the plain panel of track at the 149 3/4 mile post.

Photo by Dave Darwin.