

Route Description

Note, this is a general description of the areas you will pass through on the Hathersage Hurtle route, and a note of the terrain you will encounter. Under no circumstances should it be used as a substitute for a map. That would be just silly.

The Hathersage Hurtle is 20 miles of pure Peak District gloriousness, starting and ending in the beautiful village of Hathersage. The terrain is mixed; we take you on country lanes, moorland tracks, hill trails and woodland paths. Oh, and we show you some of the most inspiring views in the country. You lucky things!

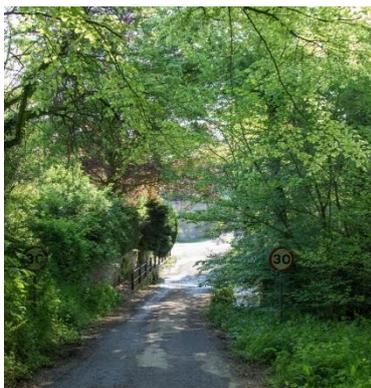


The race starts in a field just over the historic Leadmill Bridge in Hathersage. From there you head out on country lanes up to High Low Hill, with beautiful views back across Hathersage and over to Stanage and Higger Tor.

The route then continues on woodland paths through Dunge Wood and out on to the wild, open expanse of Offerton Moor.

The terrain here is trickier, using uneven moorland trails, but again the views are magnificent, with Bamford Edge, Win Hill and Lose Hill in front of you, and Mam Tor visible in the further distance.

You will find **Check Point 1** on Offerton Moor. You need to use your dibber at every Check Point please, so that we can keep an eye on your progress and know if you've hit any difficulties along the way. Offerton Moor soon gives way to Shatton Moor, with the highly visible way marker of the tall telephone mast.



From here you are back on country lanes, and head down on Brough Lane towards the villages of Brough (where you'll find **Check Point 2**) and Shatton. You'll find some welcome shade in this section, and you continue past pretty stone cottages and through a ford.

From Shatton you'll cross the A6187, and find **Check Point 3** and your first Food Station, just outside Bamford. From here you'll pick up the Thornhill Trail, a disused railway line, where the terrain is level and well made. You'll make your way through pretty woods and follow the River Derwent.

You will find **Check Point 4** at the end of the Thornhill Trail. Soon after, you'll emerge on to a country lane and cross the River Derwent at the Yorkshire Bridge. Gather your strength here as you're now on the way UP...! After a short climb into the hamlet of Yorkshire Bridge (trying to ignore the temptation of the Yorkshire Bridge Inn on the left), you'll cross the A6013 and head up New Road. This is a notorious stretch of the route that seems to last forever – BUT you've got the magnificent moorland of Bamford Edge above you to your left, and fabulous views



over the Hope Valley to your right to spur you on. Try to concentrate on the views and ignore your thighs.



As you descend down from New Road, you'll see the fantastic gritstone edifice of Stanage ahead of you. Stanage is iconic. Stretching for nearly four miles, it's the longest gritstone edge in England. It's famous in the climbing fraternity - they call it 'God's Own Rock' - for the nearly 2,000 routes up its craggy faces. Just before you rise up to meet Stanage you'll find your second Food Station and **Check Point 5**.

The route up to Stanage isn't as hard as it first appears, it's a long, gentle uphill gradient on a well-made trail. The Hurtle route takes you up and across part of the edge itself. The terrain here is uneven and rocky and you might find yourself leaping from boulder to boulder. Don't get too distracted, but make sure you take time to admire the view down to Hathersage and onward along the valley towards Chatsworth.



The Hurtle route continues down from Stanage to Burbage Bridge, where you'll find **Check Point 6**. You've then got a lovely, gentle downhill trail to recover from Stanage, taking you across the edge of Hathersage Moor. To your left you'll see Burbage Rocks, another popular destination for climbers, and to your right the towering Higger Tor and the Iron Age hill fort of Carl Wark.

As you leave Burbage you'll come to **Check Point 7** and a final Drink Station. You cross the A6187 here and make your way into the beautiful National Trust estate at Longshaw. You'll enter some shady woodland and cross a stream, before making your way down into the woods of Padley Gorge. The terrain here is made up of woodland tracks, with some uneven sections, but it's stunningly beautiful.



As you leave the woodland you'll find **Check Point 8**, your final one, and head gently down on well-made trails. You can now enjoy the final few miles back over the fields, through a stretch of woodland and alongside the River Derwent. After a very short distance on the road, you'll find yourself back at the Football Field in Hathersage, where you can do a quick victory lap to the finish point, with cheering crowds to greet you!

Back at the Football Field you can recover with a free leg massage if needed, as well as a free home-made cake for every competitor. Then relax...! Enjoy some beer, ice cream and barbecued food, listen to some live music, and maybe buy a t-shirt or five. Exchange tales with your fellow Hurltlers and plan your strategies for next year!



HAPPY HURLING!