

CURLEW CUP

RACE PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 9 AUGUST 2026



HEADLINE SPONSOR



Northumberland
National Park

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



Kim McGuinness
North East
Mayor



Northumberland
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UNDER-23, QOM & TEAM PRIZE SPONSOR



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WELCOME TO THE 2026 CURLEW CUP

This year's Curlew Cup women's race will take place on the morning of Sunday 9th August, starting at 8.45am.

This year, we are once again grateful for the backing of our lead sponsor, Northumberland National Park and we share their love of this beautiful corner of the park and enjoy sharing it with our riders and spectators.

I'd also like to welcome North East Mayoral Strategic Authority and Northumberland County Council, our principal partners. Their backing further underlines the important ties between our event and the North East of England.



On a related note, it's always important to acknowledge the support of the local communities who welcome all our Cyclone Festival events and allow us to share this wonderful corner of Northumberland for the day. I hope that visiting the race, either as a spectator or competitor, inspires you to return in the future and explore it further.

Peter Harrison – Cyclone Festival Organiser

HISTORY OF THE CURLEW CUP

The Curlew Cup was launched in 2012, the year after we hosted the women's national road championships, which was won by the recently retired Lizzie Diegnan.

In 2012 our inaugural race was won by Dame Sarah Storey, who has gone on to be one of the world's leading Paralympians. Since then, the race has been won by a number of World Championship and Olympic Games medal winners. It has also acted as a showcase for several outstanding young riders, many of whom have gone on to race at the highest level.

The quality of the race's roll of honour underlines the challenging nature of the course and the all-round capabilities required to win the race.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2012 Dame Sarah Storey

2013 Hannah Barnes

2014 Katie Archibald

2015 Laura Massey

2016 Nicki Juniper

2017 Julie Erskine

2018 Jessica Roberts (*National Championships*)

2019 Elizabeth Bennett

2021 Abi Smith

2022 Alice McWilliam

2023 Corinne Side

2024 Robyn Clay

2025 Lucy Lee

THE RACE

The race will start and finish adjacent to the village green in Stamfordham. The race will get underway at 8.45am. Riders will tackle three anti-clockwise laps of a 25.4 mile circuit. The total race distance is 76.1 miles.

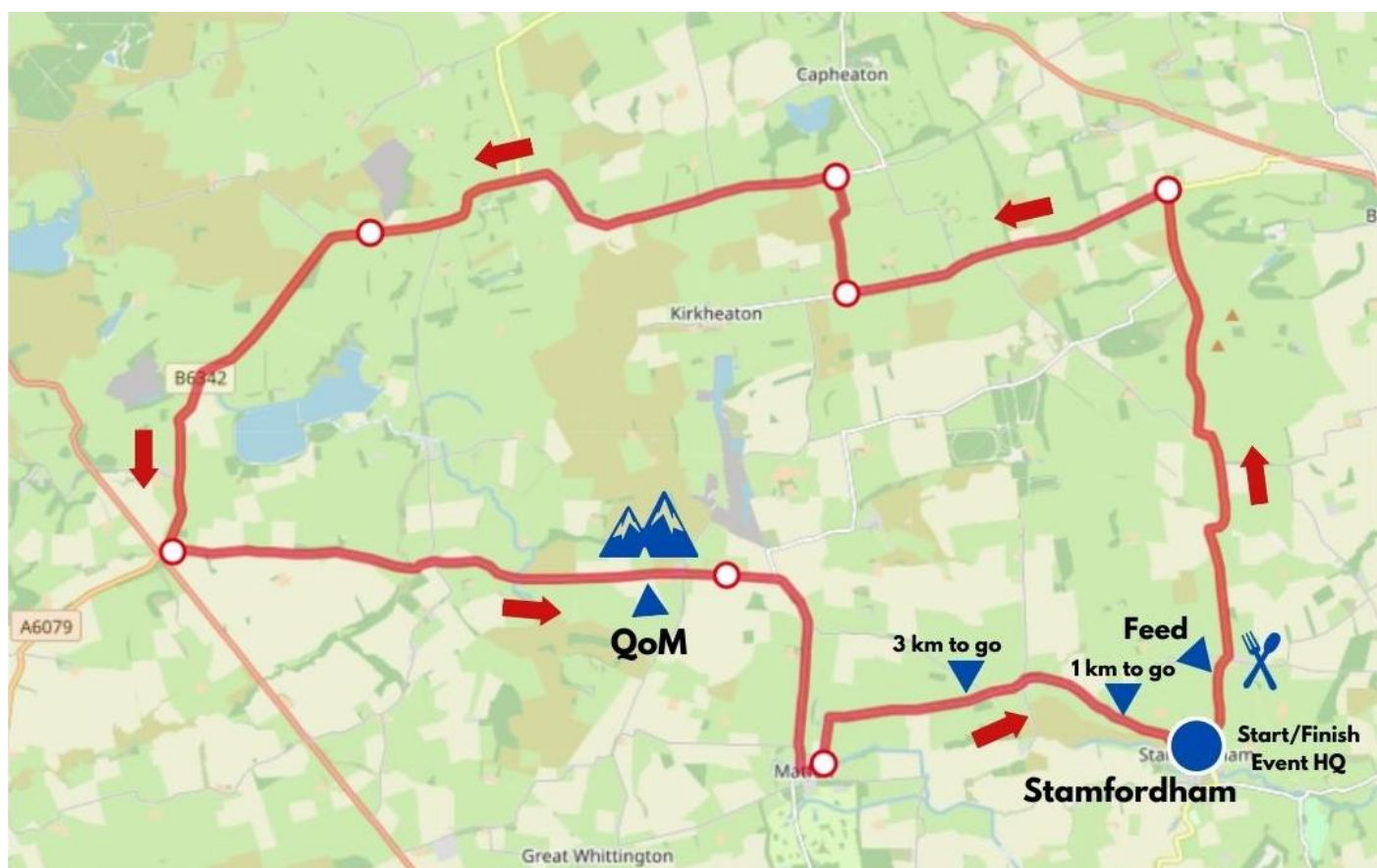
A Queen of the Mountains (QoM) competition will be the focus of riders on all three laps, with points awarded at the summit of the Ryall climb (pictured).

A podium presentation will take place as soon as possible after the race, next to the start/finish line.

As well as the overall winner and Queen of the Mountains there will also be prizes for the leading Under-23 rider and the leading team.



COURSE MAP



SPECTATING AT THE CURLEW CUP

The race takes place around the village of Stamfordham and includes the race-defining climb of the Ryals (the hamlet of Ryal, at the top of the climb, is marked on the course map). Both of these locations are popular with spectators. Spectating from a bicycle is highly recommended. Some people cycle the main lap in reverse direction, which affords regular, varied and repeated views of the race. And it a great little bike ride!

Watching the Race in Stamfordham

Stamfordham village is a great place to watch the race, with a lovely village green. Here you'll have a chance to see the riders every lap, as well as before the start and at the finish and post-race presentation. The Race HQ is Stamfordham Village Hall (*What3Words location: ///loafing.leopard.status*), where there will be a wide range of refreshments, plus toilet facilities, all open to spectators. The Swinburne Arms pub in Stamfordham, will be open, whilst, just up the road, in Matfen, there's a café at the village store, on the green.

Spectator Parking is situated at Stamfordham Cricket Club and Sports Pavilion, just South of the village on the B6309 (*What3Words location: ///feuds.ferrying.flap*). There is a fee of £3, cash only, with proceeds supporting the venue. There is no postcode for this facility, so please check the map carefully. Please note, there will be strictly NO spectator or competitor parking in the village or surrounding roads. Residents only can park in front of properties in the centre of Stamfordham.

Race Timings At Stamfordham

Race Start:	08:45
End of lap 1	09:45 (+ or – 10 minutes)
End of lap 2	10:47 (+ or – 15 minutes)
End of lap 3/Finish	11:48 (+ or – 15 minutes)

All race timing are approximate and may vary depending on conditions and race speed.

Watching the Race at the Ryals Climb

The Ryals climb is located approximately 6 miles before the finish, four miles to the NE of the village of Matfen. The climb consists of three steep ramps and often proves to be a decisive point in the race and is the location of the Queen of the Mountains sprint.

Please take special care when moving to and from the Ryals during the race and when spectating on the hill. Parking is extremely limited and the best way to spectate here, and anywhere away from Stamfordham or Matfen villages, is by foot or by bicycle.

Race Timings At The Ryals

Lap 1	09:31 (+ or – 5 minutes)
Lap 2	10:32 (+ or – 10 minutes)
Lap 3	11:33 (+ or – 15 minutes)

All race timings are approximate and may vary depending on conditions and race speed.

STAMFORDHAM VILLAGE MAP

