

Hutchinson's Rock Monster double-beadlock alloy wheels are definitely not from the bargain bucket, but as with everything else on this Wrangler they heartily embody the 'spend it once, spend it right' principle. The 35x12.50R17s wrapped around them are Atturo Trail Blade MTs – still not a common sight on British vehicles, but a brand of tyre that's gaining traction (sorry) among discerning off-roaders

to shaky ground. Instead, let's note that whereas we're forever talking about how you can start thinking about modding a vehicle once it's five or so years old and not worth too much, Andrew collected the Jeep from the dealership in Surrey, drove it directly to PB Customs' workshop near Peterborough and handed the keys to Paul Brown.

The next bit of the story strays well back into idyllic territory. 'I collected the vehicle in late June and drove it to Portugal with my son, to meet up with the rest of the family for our annual holiday. On arrival in Portugal, the roof was immediately removed and stayed off for the three weeks we were down there.

'Some friends had joined us in Portugal, and one night we were discussing the journey home. My pal Jon suggested it might be fun to try to do it in one hit, with two of us sharing the driving – and so that last Saturday saw Jon and I heading homewards.

'We decided to each drive for 200 miles and then stop at the first service station we would

see to top up with petrol and espressos. The journey was 1657 miles, and we covered the distance in 27 hours.

'We agreed that the journey, although exhausting, was much better in a Jeep than it would have been in a Defender. Jon owned one at the time – but he has subsequently ordered a Rubicon.'

You'll be relieved to hear that having bought and modded the Wrangler, Andrew has used it for more than just marathon road trips. His brief for the build, let's not forget, was to create a vehicle that would take serious punishment.

And that's what he's been giving it ever since. It's mainly been exploring the UK's green lanes, but he's also been to the Pyrenees, once again with Yorkshire 4x4 Treks, and his next mission is going to be to the fabled French off-road site of Marquenterre. Later this year, he's heading back to the Pyrenees, and in early 2018 he's planning to visit Galicia.



That's the kind of off-roading that goes with a build like this. It certainly wasn't done on a shoestring, but there's hardly been a penny spent that's not working for its living every time the transfer lever slips into low. Which is just as well, because this is a man whose inner child won't forget about that experience way back at the age of eight. 'I am extremely pleased with the Jeep,' he concludes. 'Although if I see a nice Defender, I do still feel a pang of envy...'

