

The Amberwood , 9.2 miles, 608ft climb.

The last time we came here for an Odd Socks trail, I got lost due to road closures. This time I got lost due to not wearing my glasses to enter satnav details, so BH23 became BH25 ☹️ Luckily this was only 3 miles away so we just made it in time for the start, even by parking around the corner to avoid being blocked in.

Lonely Ranger and Blow Up Doll the hares, big warning for Main about busy road and to go left out the pub.

Ram shoots off but doesn't seem to know his left from his right. The rest of us go the real left and find the trail into the estate and then into the woods.

Stalker takes pole position and finds a swing. TP helps his motion such the poor blight flies off and nearly breaks. After getting to his feet he continues to the main bridge which is barred. Hare appears lost at this point so we all back track to secondary pedestrian bridge crossing.

Stalker braves the run/limp towards the distant road and calls us on before disappearing left. Soon we encounter the 'busy road' or the A35. Busy junction, but we don't cross here, where there are islands to help us to get across, we continue towards Christchurch until we completely pass the Cat & Fiddle and then do a dash for life.

Lead pack is down to about 9 runners with no sign of a Hare.

Dust has been limited for the whole trail, here is no different in the woods. To make things more interesting we have to pay attention and avoid tripping over bee hives, and visually checking where Stalker is as he has a cunning plan to try and lose Ram and Banger by not calling but waving, in a friendly way when he is on.

Trails down both sides of a hedge, splits the pack for a short while, until we find bars on each and have to back track to the common. We risk life and limb to cross the A35 and disappear into the undergrowth and then into habitation. Across the golf course and we are set for sea views which makes Banger very happy, but they're only seven of us now. Lots of checking up and down the cliff face to find the route east via Highcliffe Castle and then to Cliffhanger car park.

Just TP and Stalker with us now, the beaches have consumed another four runners. We follow the path away from the beach, which still involves a lot of checking. The next check we find we continue on the tree lined path instead of diving into the housing estate, which probably was the correct route in retrospect. Instead we hit the main road and follow what we think is the Mini out. Its nearly one so we don't care, just want beer. Overtake some lost Minis, who were back tracking, we finally get back to the pub.

Pleased to see a limpy Odd Socks in attendance, but beer first. Service not bad in the pub, but too hot, so go out side. See lots of grumpy looks from locals trying to park, but we have beer now so all's well.

I know we have to try and recruit new followers, but those with dogs can

get immediate feedback as Bianca found out when the canine watered her new boots in the only way a dog can. 😞

So, lack of dust, lost hare, no hare, Ram baiting, beach views and a disappearing pack.

So what did you think?

On On 😊