

Controller's Comments

Those who stayed at home when they woke up to torrential rain – about 70 people – missed a treat. The sun appeared for the first time and apart from a downpour at 1300 it was idyllic.

Pamber and Silchester are special with not a conifer in sight! The rapidly changing vegetation means it is difficult to map – your thanks are due to Alan Kersley who spent many hours updating the 2019 map.

Katie Blackford planned some well received courses which needed little input from me. Alex and Katie's family helped with hanging and checking in the pouring rain before you all ran.

As always on a rainy day car parking had its problems. Steve from BKO with his Land Rover and a local farmer with bountiful supplies of straw saved the day.

Several observations:

Electric cars with their heavy batteries are not good in mud!

Automatics are just as bad.

It is a good idea to know where your towing eye is stored and how to fit it!

Some downsides:

Permission to use the areas comes from the Hampshire Wild Life Trust and the local Parish Council. The Wild Life Trust are concerned that their fences remain intact to keep the deer out of conservation areas, and the Parish Council's herdsman is concerned to keep his cows in their grazing areas.

So crossing fences is not on!! We experimented with 'purple lining' the fences but the map became unreadable in places, so we just marked all the crossing points clearly and told you not to cross fences. This allowed you to choose your own route through the crossing points.

Unfortunately this failed to work with runners seen crossing fences. It is this behaviour that will lose us permissions and change planning to have a control at each crossing point which removes the route choice possibilities from many good long legs.

Philip Cooper