

I haven't been to Longleat for years so this was a chance to see how the place still looked. Sadly the main grounds weren't open so no viewing of the safari animals, and initially the House was shrouded in mist, but the sun did eventually come out.

I really should read the instructions for the race properly. I knew it would be hilly in places, but I misread the start time. I arrived with my mum about 9:30am thinking I had plenty of time to spare as I thought the race started at 11am. But when we saw the long queue for the toilets drastically disappear around 9:55, I knew something was up, so I re-read the race info. Oops, the race starts at 10am! Ok, a quick dash to the start. Thankfully, there was a delay in starting the race. I can only assume the organisers were obviously waiting for me to turn up, what decent folk!

The race started without any further hitches. We passed the House to immediately face a long climb. I wasn't particularly impressed by this as I know from looking earlier at the race course we would do this hill twice. After what seemed like an age we reach the top of the hill to descend back towards the House through the start line and to the back of beyond behind the car park. Some of this was flat, but there was another hill to contend with, though not quite as steep or long as the first one.

Eventually we arrived back at the House to ascend that first hill again. Hills are most definitely not my forte, so I was struggling quite a bit on this and was ever so glad to get to the top to start the descend back to the House, pass the start line once again to the finish just after.

Chip timing was used and my gun time was 47:07 with a personal time of 46:59. I was placed 142nd of the 823 finishers. Nice medal and some goodies to eat (cereal bars) and drink (Goodness shake).

So to summarise with the use of poor puns and tired clichés: a race that wasn't a stroll the park with a lion's share of hills, and not quite the roaring success for me.