

PNHS outing to Linwood Moss Community Woodland on 17th July 2022

Twelve members and friends met at Linwood Sports centre on a warm summers day to try and improve our tree identification skills. Linwood Moss Community Woodland is a recently planted woodland so the trees would not show much variation in age but we expected a variety of species. They might not be all native or even naturalised trees.

However there was much to see and discuss and the trip took longer than the advertised two hours. We saw 17 different types of trees. These were oak, holly, hawthorn, blackthorn, wild cherry, lime, sycamore, birch, willow, alder, elder, ash, aspen, dogwood, hazel, rowan, larch. As well as discussing the unique features of each type we looked at different species in each type. There were 3 species of willow i.e White Willow, Goat Willow, and Grey willow, and 2 species of alder i.e Common Alder, Grey alder. Trying to distinguish between the different willows and alders took some time. The problems of hybridization was also discussed. Trees are not simple to positively identify in many cases!

It was generally agreed it was an enjoyable and productive day. I think many people learnt a lot. It is hoped to have a winter meeting when we can try to identify trees by their twigs, buds and shape alone.



Examining a birch twig



Linwood Moss Community Woodland