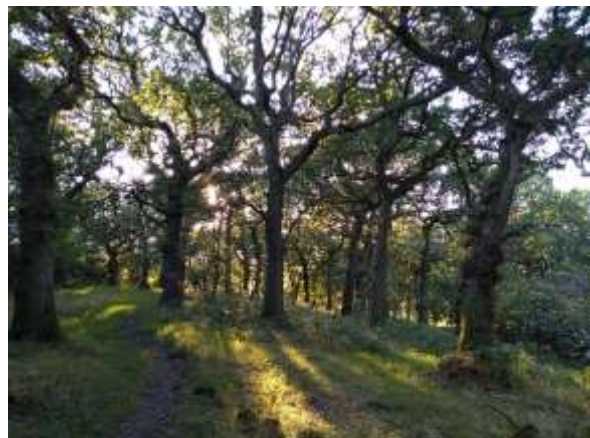


PNHS outing to look for Purple Hairstreak butterflies at Shaw Wood on 4th August 2022

We were fortunate to get a dry and sunny evening for our walk at Shaw Wood. Seven of us gathered in Dykebar Hospital grounds and after a discussion on the lifecycle of the Purple Hairstreak butterfly, headed over to the wood. We walked across the field around its north perimeter, scrutinising the oak canopy for signs of butterflies. Unfortunately it was a bit too windy and cool for the Purple Hairstreaks to fly and we didn't manage to spot any. Despite the star turn failing to show, we had a very enjoyable walk. We headed into the wood and were impressed by the mature Pedunculate Oak trees. It is these that make it an ideal habitat for the Purple Hairstreak butterfly. Although it is predominantly oak, we also saw Hazel, Birch, Ash, Hawthorn and Blackthorn trees and heard birds calling in the canopy. A wren and treecreeper were spotted in the woods and the only butterfly of the outing – a Green-veined White.



*Looking for Purple Hairstreak butterflies at the north perimeter and inside Shaw Wood
(photos: Kirsty Menzies)*



*Looking for Purple Hairstreak
butterflies at the south perimeter
(photo: Matt Smith)*

Update: On returning to Shaw Wood on 10th August, a sunny, warm and windless evening, the distinctive silvery fluttering of 7 Purple Hairstreaks were seen in the canopy along the north perimeter.