

Course Report. Beginners' Tree Identification; 19th July 2017, Parc Menai, Bangor

Despite the appalling July weather, five hardy soles joined Richard and Bob for a day of tree identification at Parc Menai, Bangor.

We started the course with the obligatory tea/coffee and a selection of quality biscuits, then tucked into our packed lunches, before heading outside.

The differences between conifers, broad-leafed, deciduous and evergreen trees was first on our itinerary, with the discussion also involving softwood and hardwood trees.

As we meandered along Parc Menai's paths we stopped to examine different tree and shrub species. It was particularly interesting to find Butcher's Broom, a small evergreen shrub growing in a shady spot under Holly trees.

Unfortunately, a heavy thunderstorm sent us scurrying back indoors. The rain eased, so we ventured out again. Some unusual trees like Field Maple, Sweet Chestnut, Wild Cherry, Downy Birch and Turkey Oak were found. We also discussed the difficulty in identifying native oak trees, with an example of what we believed to be *Quercus x rosacea* (the natural hybrid of Pedunculate and Sessile oaks).

Although soaking wet, we still made the best of it, finishing the day looking at samples of rare trees like Whitebeam and Wild Service Tree.

