



Hockley Woods

Photographs from South Essex

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Heath Fritillary

June '22

In Hockley Woods on a gorgeous June morning, I met a man with straggly hair and two energetic black dogs who explained with great enthusiasm the work he and several other volunteers had carried out over the years. Carefully nurturing this coppiced area of woodland in collaboration with the local council and their chain saws. Together creating a seemingly perfect environment rich in Cow wheat, as small as it maybe, in which this rare butterfly is flourishing. Saved thanks to their commitment and the understanding of this species-specific requirements.



Heath Fritillaries pairing

June '22

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Chatting he expressed his passion for ponds and nature in general which added something special to the experience.

A fascinating conversation like one of those you have on an aeroplane or train only wishing afterwards that you had asked the person their name.



Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea athalia*) underside.

Hockley Wood - June '22

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Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea athalia*) underside.

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Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea athalia*).

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Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea athalia*) underside.

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Southern Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna affinis*) Male. Wat Tyler Country Park - Jul 23