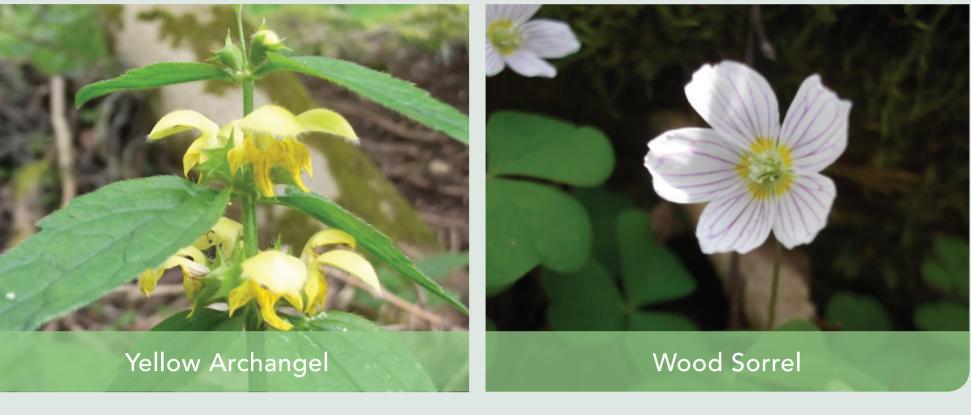


The ancient woodland canopy is dominated by Common Oak and Silver Birch, Hawthorn, Holly and Sycamore are common throughout, Hazel less so. It has a characteristic ground flora of Bluebell, Wood Anemone, Bracken, Bramble, Honeysuckle, Foxglove, Red Campion, Wood Sorrel and Wood Sage. The woodland also supports Small-leaved Lime; a rare tree species restricted to a few local sites. The tapping of the Great Spotted Woodpecker is a common sound in spring. Nuthatch and Treecreeper use rot holes in the trees to nest in.







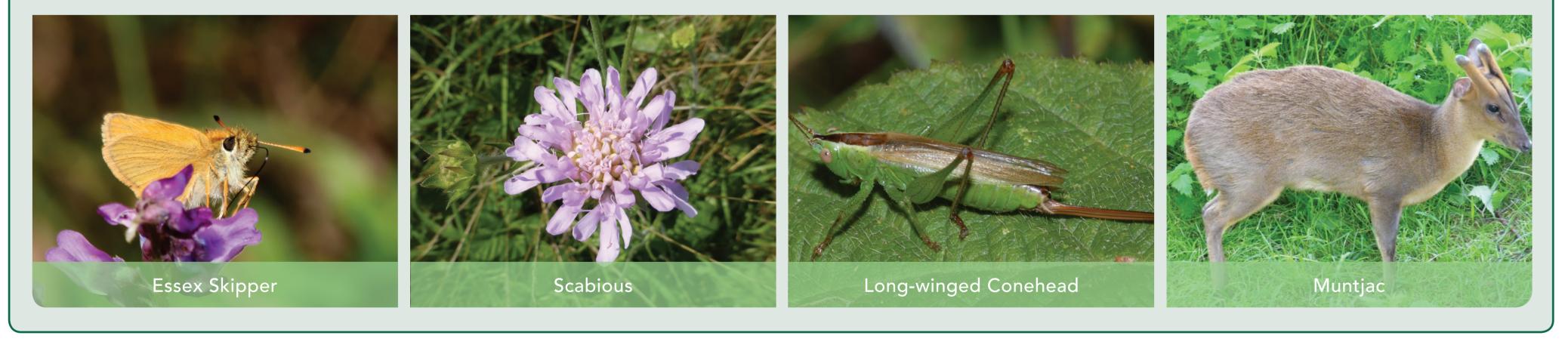
HEDGEROWS

Hedgerows provide food, shelter and a 'corridor' between all areas of the park. Bats, such as the Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, use them to navigate around the park. Birds such as Dunnock and Wren can be heard singing from the dense protective growth all year round. Small mammals such as Bank Voles and Wood Mice are common. Full of berries during the autumn, the hedges attract birds such as Waxwings, Fieldfares and Redwings.



GRASSLAND AND MEADOWS

All the meadows were arable fields in the past, the last crop to be sown being Borage. Once the area became a country park the fields were sown with a wildflower seed mix. Now, in the spring, Creeping Buttercup give a sea of yellow then in summer there are Meadow Vetchling, Grass Vetchling, Common Bird's-foot Trefoil, Field Scabious and Common Knapweed. Occasionally Muntjac are seen grazing in the open and commonly Rabbit. Skylark song fills the spring air. Meadow Brown and skipper butterflies are abundant including the Essex Skipper. Listen for the crickets and grasshoppers in the summer.



Discover more about the wild life of HWCP by downloading the Wildlife Trail App the Wildlife Trail App.





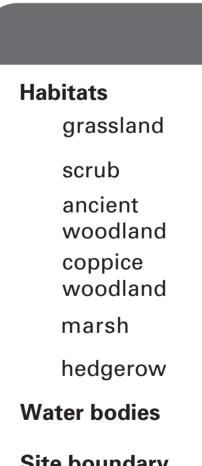
Colchester Natural History Society

Colchester Natural History Society kindly secured the funding for this display and provided much of the information. The Society produces regular publications including a newsletter and programme of events. CNHS holds field meetings and evening talks throughout the year. New members always welcome. www.colchesternaturalhistorysociety.org.uk

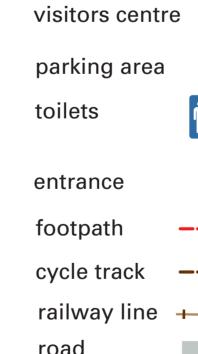
Wildlife of High Woods

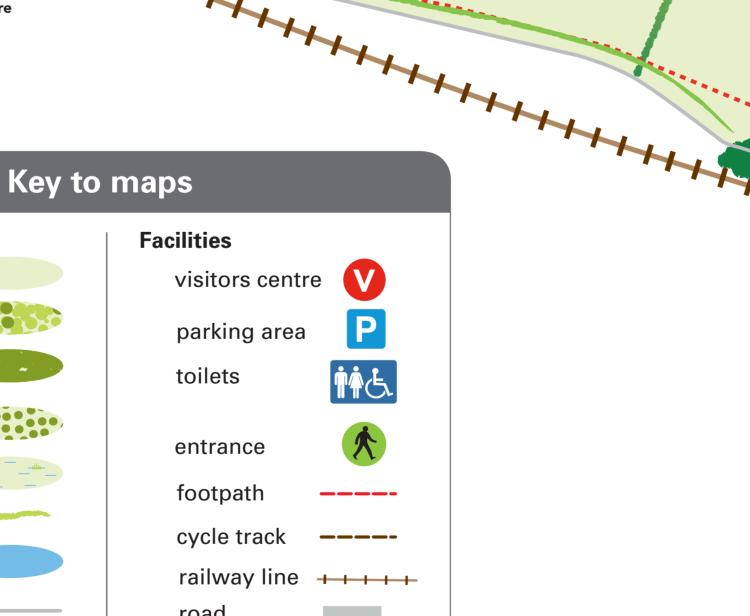


At 150 hectares, High Woods Country Park derives from the once much larger medieval royal hunting forest of Kingswood. In more recent times farming and forestry has shaped the landscape you see today. Opened in 1987 after Colchester Borough Council aquired the land for people to enjoy, its rangers and volunteers look after the park for recreation, wildlife, education and historical interest. The park is a designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS).









Southern Meadows

Colchester Borough Council Ranger Service The ranger service manage and maintain the green spaces throughout Colchester. They work closely with various community groups and volunteers to achieve high standards of conservation and to provide recreation and educational opportunities in the local area. www.colchester.gov.uk/countrypark



SWEET CHESTNUT COPPICE WOODLAND

Coppicing is the practice of cutting trees periodically and allowing the cut stumps - termed stools - to re-grow. Coppicing is carried out in patches within the woodland, which creates varying age and structure throughout. The different stages of the coppice cycle offer ideal conditions for different types of wildlife. Studies have shown that butterflies, birds, small mammals, fungi and flowering plants all benefit from coppicing. Specifically at High Woods the White Admiral butterfly is benefiting. The Bramble and Honeysuckle that flourish in the sheltered sunny clearings during the first few years after felling create ideal conditions for them.



STREAM, LAKE AND PONDS

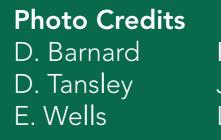
The ponds of the park have a healthy population of Common Newt, Common Toad and Common Frog. In summer dragonflies and damselflies can be seen, including Broad-bodied Chaser, Red-eyed Damselfly and Scarce Emerald Damselfly. Pond snails and aquatic beetles are abundant. Occasionally a Grass Snake is seen swimming. The woodland pond supports Palmate Newt. At the lake, after dark, Daubenton's bats feed on insects emerging from the water. Early in the mornings Grey Heron and Cormorant can be seen. In summer Common Tern dive for fish. In winter Goosander arrive in small numbers.



SCRUB

Mainly dominated by Blackthorn and Hawthorn, the scrub provides safe nesting sites for Nightingale, Whitethroat and Blackcap. The rough grassland in between areas of scrub is used by Common Lizard and Slow-worm.









MARSH

The marsh is dominated by Reedmace, the dense growth providing a safe hideaway for Reed Warblers and Teal. The water is very silty but ideal for Common Frog and Common Toad. The sunny aspect of the marsh with its tall vegetation attracts spiders – becoming common is the Wasp Spider.





