

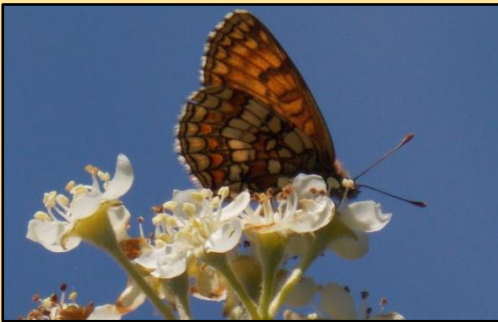
Here are just a few of the highlights & achievements from our Region in 2021...



- Our **Kent's Magnificent Moths** project was launched. It is BC's biggest ever area-focussed moth project. our team has already generated more than 3,300 'people engagements'.
- The **Big City Butterflies** project was launched and is already delivering lots of action on our side of the river including school visits, site advice and habitat creation.
- In Sussex & Surrey the **Wood White** was found in more places than ever before, including a Surrey churchyard.
- The **Fiery Clearwing** was found by our Kent Moth team to be massively more widespread than we previously knew. 2,733 eggs were found across 30 different locations.
- More **butterfly transects** were walked in the South East this year than ever before. 9,250 walks took place along 480 transect routes, counting more than 558,000 butterflies.



Brown Hairstreak eggs (including this one) were found for the first time ever at our **Bentley Station Meadow** reserve by Steve Lockett (photo by Barry Clark)



The **Heath Fritillary** in the South East enjoyed its strongest year on record, both in terms of abundance & distribution & its fifth successive annual increase (photo by Stuart Harris)

- **Steve Lockett** and **Natasha Doane** stepped up to be Volunteer Reserves Officers for our Bentley Station Meadow and Oaken Wood reserves respectively.
- **Adonis Blue** and **Grizzled Skipper** had their best year so far at our Magdalen Hill Down reserve.
- The UK's most easterly **Brown Hairstreak** colony was found in West Kent. This butterfly continues to spread in the Region.
- We undertook our most extensive moth searches for **Sloe Carpet** (during the coldest April nights in 99 years), **Drab Looper** (on warm June days), and we rediscovered the **White-spotted Sable** (in the pouring rain) at Blean Woods National Nature Reserve. **Striped Lychnis** searches took place across 7 vice-counties, recording 1,365 larvae.

- The **Big Butterfly Count** was Bigger in the South East than any other area in the UK. At least 13,900 different people undertook a total of 40,664 counts recording 391,000 butterflies and moths.
- Sussex gained two new rare and beautiful species. In addition to the Lace Border (right), the **Sussex Emerald** moth was finally confirmed to be a Sussex species, with caterpillars found at Rye Harbour.
- **Five new staff** have joined BC over the last 12 months to work in the South East (Fiona, Emma, Rebecca, Ele & Paul). There are now more BC staff working in the region than ever before.
- As part of our targeted habitat enhancement work, BC in the South East is growing, planting or sowing more caterpillar **foodplants** and more **nectar plants** than ever before.



On the South Downs two colonies of the rare **Lace Border** moth have been found – a new species for Sussex and for the South Downs National Park (photo by Bob Eade)

Have a Merry Festive Time and here's to an Exciting 2022 Season!