



Chalk Hill Blue - Iain H Leach

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Chalk Hill Blue

Polyommatus coridon

A small, widespread butterfly that occasionally visits gardens. Females are similar to Brown Argus, which lack blue dusting near the body, and to female Adonis Blue, which have dark veins extending into white fringe on wing edges. The male Chalk Hill Blue is paler and, apart from the Large Blue, larger than other blue butterflies seen in Britain and Ireland.

At some sites many hundreds may be seen in August, flying just above the vegetation, searching for females. Large numbers of males may also congregate on animal dung and other sources of moisture and minerals. Females are much less conspicuous, being duller in colour, more secretive in their habits, and spending less time than the males in flight.

The butterfly is confined to calcareous grassland in southern England and has declined in some areas during recent decades.

Size and Family

- Family: Blues
- Size: Small/Medium
- Wing Span Range (male to female): 38mm

Conservation Status

- Butterfly Conservation Priority: Medium
- European status: Not threatened
- Protected in Great Britain for sale only

Caterpillar Foodplant

The sole foodplant is Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*).

Lifecycle

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Egg												
Caterpillar												
Chrysalis												
Adult												

Habitat

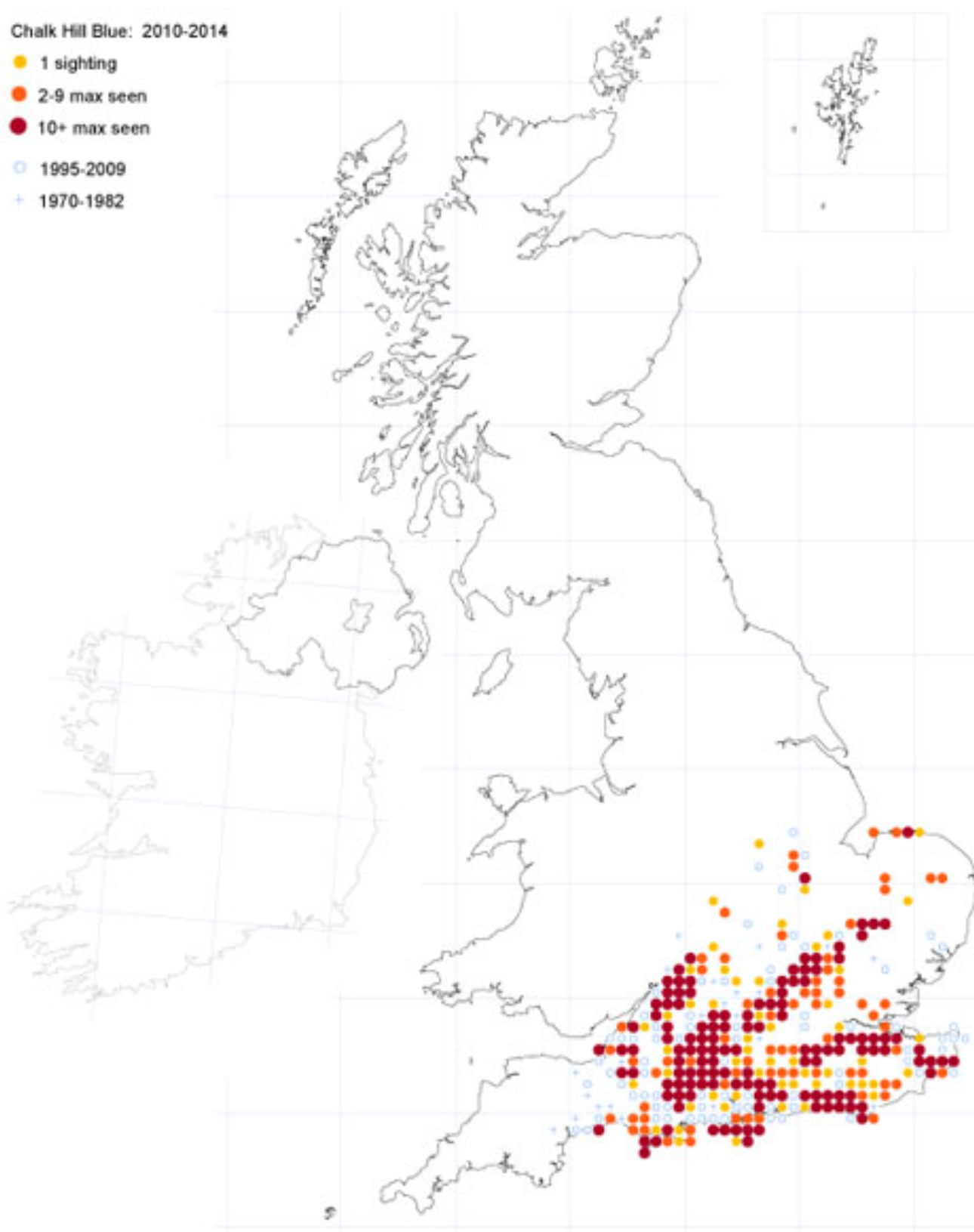
The foodplant and the butterfly are restricted to chalk and limestone grassland.

Distribution

- Countries: England
- Restricted to southern England, but not in the far south-west
- Distribution Trend Since 1970's = -50%.

Chalk Hill Blue: 2010-2014

- 1 sighting
- 2-9 max seen
- 10+ max seen
- 1995-2009
- + 1970-1982





Chalk Hill Blue (male/upperwing)
Iain Leach



Chalk Hill Blue (male/upperwing)



Chalk Hill Blue (female/upperwing).



Chalk Hill Blue (male/underwing).



Chalk Hill Blue (female/underwing).



Chalk Hill Blue (female/upperwing).



Chalk Hill Blue (male/upperwing).



Chalk Hill Blue (male & female).



Chalk Hill Blue (egg).



Chalk Hill Blue (young caterpillar).



Chalk Hill Blue (young caterpillar).



Chalk Hill Blue (caterpillar).



Chalk Hill Blue (pupa).

Similar species



[Adonis Blue](#)



[Common Blue](#)



[Small Blue](#)



[Silver-studded Blue](#)

