

Holly Blue

Butterfly	Size	Caterpillar Foodplant	Habitat	Distribution	Status
Holly Blue	35mm	Flower buds, berries, terminal leaves of Holly	Common garden visitor but also parks, hedgerows, woodland rides	England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Increasing

Wings are bright blue. Females have black wing edges. Undersides pale blue with small black spots which distinguish them from Common Blue.
The Holly Blue is easily identified in early spring, as it emerges well before other blue butterflies. It tends to fly high around bushes and trees, whereas other grassland blues usually stay near ground level. It is much the commonest blue found in parks and gardens where it congregates around Holly (in spring) and Ivy (in late summer).



Adonis Blue

Butterfly	Size	Caterpillar Foodplant	Habitat	Distribution	Status
Adonis Blue	38mm	Horseshoe Vetch	Dry chalk or limestone grassland	Southern England but not far south west	Declining

The males have brilliant sky-blue wings, while the females are brown and far less conspicuous. Both sexes have distinctive black lines that enter or cross the white fringes to the wings.



Male



Female



Underwing

Common Blue

Butterfly	Size	Caterpillar Foodplant	Habitat	Distribution	Status
Common Blue	35mm	Common Bird Foot Trefoil	Variety of habitats especially sunny sheltered areas	England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Declining

The brightly coloured males are conspicuous but females are more secretive. The colour of the upperwings of females varies from completely brown in southern England to predominantly blue in western Ireland. The dark veins do not extend to the white fringes of the wing margins as in Adonis and Chalkhill Blue.



Male



Female



Female Underwing



Male Underwing

Small Blue

Butterfly	Size	Caterpillar Foodplant	Habitat	Distribution	Status
Small Blue	20 - 30mm	Kidney Vetch	Sheltered warm grassland habitats	Mainly south central england	Declining

Our smallest butterfly. Upperwings brown with blue dusting. Undersides pales blue with row of black spots. Our smallest resident butterfly is easily overlooked, partly because of its size and dusky colouring, but partly because it is often confined to small patches of sheltered grassland where its sole foodplant, Kidney Vetch, is found.



Brown Argus

Butterfly	Size	Caterpillar Foodplant	Habitat	Distribution	Status
Brown Argus	29mm	Common Rock Rose, Dove's Foot C	Dry chalk or limestone grassland	Southern Central England	Increasing

The adults have a silvery appearance as they fly low to the ground and they stop frequently either to perch or feed on flowers. They may be confused with Common Blue females, which also have brown upperwings but usually with some blue at the base. It is also very similar to Northern Brown Argus which usually has no orange spots on forewing.

