

**Name:** **Small blue butterfly**

*Cupido minimus*

**UK status:** Local (Shirt,1987). Species of Conservation Concern (formerly long-listed). Historic and continuing range decline

**London status:** Rare and declining (4 sites).

**Protected status:** W&CA S5 (sale only)

**Relevant London HAPs:** Chalk grassland

**Citation:**

Our smallest butterfly, the small blue occurs as highly localised colonies in calcareous grassland and has declined substantially across the UK. The larvae feed on reproductive structures in the flower heads of its sole foodplant kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*. London's known remaining populations are all small and threatened, and occur in just four sites. These include Hutchinson's Bank in LB Croydon, West Kent Golf Course in LB Bromley, and in LB Sutton at Devonshire Avenue Nature Area and Cuddington Meadows LNR (the only population reported to be stable). This tiny butterfly is easily overlooked however, and further London colonies are possible. Managing authorities; London Wildlife Trust (Hutchinson's Bank and West Kent GC), Sutton Council.



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- Conservation priorities:**
- Continue to monitor colonies in known sites
  - Stabilise colonies through balanced sympathetic habitat management
  - Reintroductions as appropriate to widen regional distribution
  - Protect any new colonies emerging from further survey

**References:**

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