

# Large blue butterfly

**Needs:**

- Wild thyme to feed on
- Grass that is 2cm to 5cm high
- Ants to find it, 'milk' it and carry it to their brood chamber
- Ant grubs to eat

**Threats:**

- Long/short grass and/or cold, wet weather (this may reduce the ant population)
- Predators e.g. birds

2. Caterpillar

**Needs:**

- Well-protected ant nest

**Threats:**

- Destruction of ant nest

3. Chrysalis

**Large blue**  
A small to medium-sized butterfly that is very rare in southern England. It has blue wings with broad dark margins and large black spots on its forewings. The undersides are pale brown with black spots

1. Egg

**Needs:**

- Wild thyme in bud

**Threats:**

- Lack of thyme in bud

4. Butterfly

**Needs:**

- Warm weather
- Butterfly in flight to mate with

**Threats:**

- Cool, wet weather
- Predators e.g. birds
- Not finding a mate within a short time period

**Human action needed to support the survival of this butterfly**

1. **Grazing:** Allow animals to graze in autumn and spring. Remove or reduce grazing in June and July to allow flowering of wild thyme
2. **Scrub control:** Scrub to be maintained at 10 to 20 per cent and coppiced or burnt every five to 10 years
3. **Thyme planting:** Long-neglected or heavily scrubbed sites need to be planted with thyme in autumn