

Common Blue Butterfly

Species Description

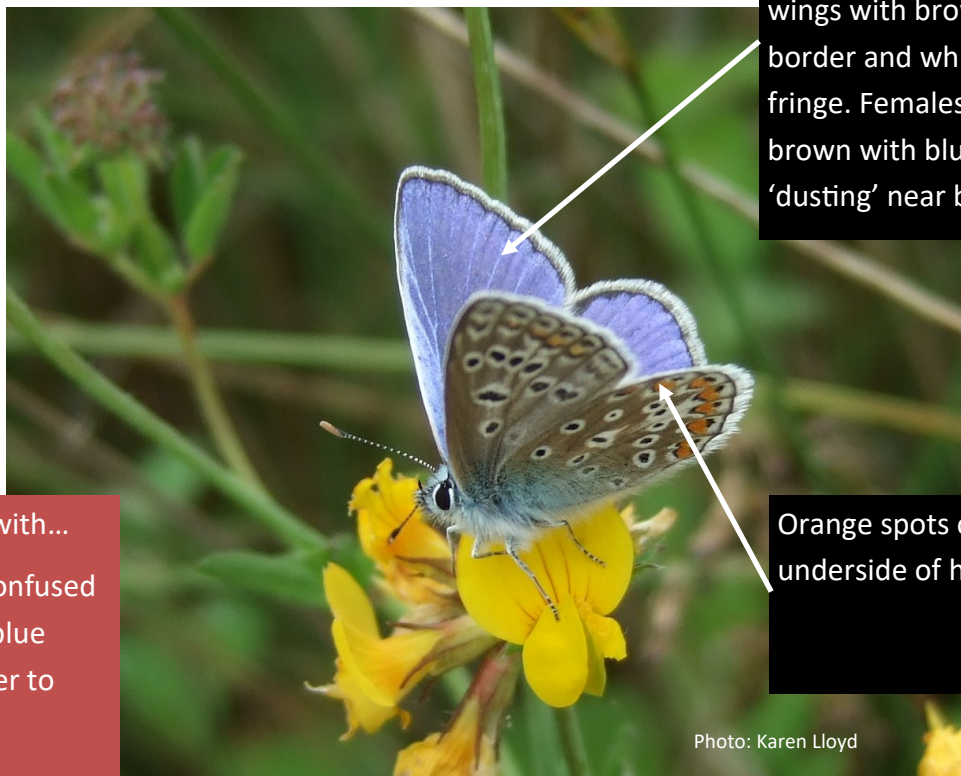
Scientific name: *Polyommatus icarus*

The common blue is a small blue butterfly that flies throughout the summer between April and October. The most widespread of the blue butterflies, it is found in a variety of habitats, including heathland, woodland rides, grassy meadows, parks, large gardens and waste ground. Caterpillars feed on clovers, restharrow, common bird's-foot trefoil and related plants.

This species is common in the UK, although there have been local declines.



Key ID features



Males have bright blue wings with brown border and white fringe. Females are brown with blue 'dusting' near body

Orange spots on underside of hindwing

Don't confuse with...
Can be easily confused with other UK blue butterflies. Refer to field guide for confident ID.

Photo: Karen Lloyd