

<b>Species:</b> Chalkhill Blue	
<b>Regional Priority Status:</b> Low	<b>Year:</b> 2006
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	<b>Distribution</b>		
	<b>Current</b>	<b>In 1995-2000 Atlas</b>	<b>In 1987-1992 Atlas</b>
<b>No of occupied tetrads</b>	74 estimated	72	61
<b>Trend (comparative)</b>	stable	stable	Slight decline

**New Sites**

Names, OS refs and likelihood of continuity

**College Lake** SP935141-once more seems to be re-colonised. Planting of more Horseshoe vetch (carried out November 2006) will improve likelihood but the amounts there currently are probably insufficient to support self-sustaining colony.

**Aston Hill** SP898098 several males and 1 female at this site previously occupied 7 yrs ago. Now being grazed appropriately, so new colony may form.

**Daws Hill Farm** SU780985 3 individuals on small area that could host satellite colony but is currently without Horseshoe Vetch. Similarly a small (growing?) satellite colony occurs at Andridge Common SU 776977 but still no sign of re-colonisation at Lodge Hill SP 790001 since strong colony lost mid 1990s.

**Local Extinctions**

Names, OS refs and likelihood of re-colonisation

None reported

**Comment on distribution, recent trends and any recommended action**

A good year with settled and hot weather at appropriate times led to widespread dispersal of males to the north of Chilterns and even to Tilehurst, Berkshire . There were also males seen at sites within range. Also males and a single female at Aston Hill, private land adjacent to Dancers End, BBOWT reserve, where breeding may resume. Mick Jones (Warden) is liaising with owner (Mr McMillan) of private hillside where the butterfly previously bred until grazing ceased about 7 years ago.

## Research-Ecology

Brief detail of **habitat/niche** study outcomes

No study this year

Brief detail of life stage studies outcomes

### **Ova**

Still unable to determine whether ova are always laid onto foodplant. Often the eggs seem to fall off and it is possible that they are occasionally simply dropped to ground under HV leaflets. Certainly female actions that appear to be egg laying often seem to result in no egg being left attached.

Once again although females seen exploring HV in long turf (15cm) the greatest interest and highest density of females around HV growing in sparse turf of <3cm.

### **Larvae**

No study this year

### **Pupae**

No study this year

### **Adult**

No study this year. Casual observations suggest that male/female numbers at Aston Clinton Ragpits were more like 60/40 and not the normal 70/30 split. Sudden end to season on this north facing site (29<sup>th</sup> Aug).

### Liaison

Names of contacts and organisations contacted	Purpose of communication
Mick Jones (Dancers End) BBOWT	Checking status of re-colonisation at and on the grazing regime now re-established at Aston Hill
Graham Atkins (College Lake) BBOWT	To arrange planting of HV on N bank
Emma Munday, Forestry Commission	To explain need for scrub removal in compartments near Forest office with substantial uncolonised HV that is disappearing under brambles etc. – hoped that Ch Blue will find these plants soon
Gerry Page, Coombe Hill, & Grangelands National Trust	To advise on lower numbers and need for winter clearance of rapidly growing ash saplings.

**Comments**

Worrying reports of lower numbers at Aston Rowant as a result of changing personnel and poor management  
 Numbers of rabbits increasing again at several sites. Worrying damage to HV at Pitstone Hill, esp to gully 'exclosure'.

The Species champion co-ordinator will use this response to prepare an entry for the UTB web site. You may append a fuller report and images to improve the entry.