



Habitat management

The overall aim is to produce a short sward 2-8cm in height with an abundance of Wild Thyme and/or Marjoram and *Myrmica sabuleti*. Scrub can be an important component, providing shelter, so small patches should be retained in the correct locations.

Grazing

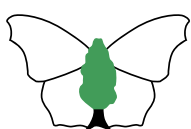
Grazing is essential to produce suitable short turf conditions and a combination of native breed sheep, cattle and ponies is recommended. The most important factor is to produce short turf during the spring and autumn to provide a warm micro-climate for *Myrmica sabuleti*. Removal of grazing animals in May will allow Thyme, Marjoram and other flora to flower and returning livestock from early August will reduce sward height by late autumn.

Scrub control

Scrub control is necessary on most Large Blue sites, be they acidic coastal grassland or limestone grassland, but it is important to retain some scrub to provide shelter. During restoration of sites dense scrub should be cleared and stumps treated with an appropriate herbicide to reduce regrowth. After restoration scrub should be managed on rotation with the aim of maintaining a scrub cover of 10-15%. It is important to look at each site individually and a scrub management plan may be required.



Top Left Ideal limestone grassland with both Wild Thyme and Marjoram
 Top Right Large Blue egg on Thyme Middle Right Mating Pair
 Bottom Right Egg laying female on Thyme



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

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