

Most of you will know the name Bill Smyllie from the reserve at Prestbury Hill but Bill is a real person who lives in Yorkshire. He has been researching butterflies and their habitats for many years and has made a special study of the underwing ocelli (eye-spots) of the Brown Argus, Common Blue and Chalkhill Blue.

The Brown Argus has northern and southern races and by studying the ocelli Bill has shown that by hybridisation the races have extended far into each other's 'territory'. One of the effects of this is to extend the flight period to more than eight weeks in some places. He relates the ocelli to climate change over the last million years and his study also implies that the Common Blue and Chalkhill Blue have similar hybridisation.

Bill has written several papers on the subject and two are available on our downloads page, <http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/download.php>. Here is a selection, unfortunately several of his papers were published in *The Entomologist* which is no longer published:

Smyllie, W.J., 1992a The Brown Argus butterfly in Britain - a range of *Aricia* hybrids. *Entomologist*, 111, 27-37.

Smyllie, W.J., 1992b. The Brown Argus butterfly in Britain with particular reference to the Peak District. *The Sorby Record* No. 29. 2-17 + plates.

Smyllie, W.J., 1997. Similarities between the Xerces Blue, Brown Argus and Common Blue, with further comments on the genus *Aricia*. *Entomologist*, 116 (3). 245-253.

Smyllie, W.J., 2010. British distribution of *Aricia*: Lep: Lycaenidae. *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation*, 122. 74-81.

Smyllie, W.J., 2011 Insect hybrids *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* 123. 213-217.

You can contact Bill via Sue Smith, see [Committee and Contacts Page](#) of our website.

Bill also has a blogs showing the breadth of his interest in plants and insects at:

<http://coherentevolution.blogspot.co.uk/>

<http://billsmyllie.blogspot.co.uk/>

The picture below was used in the 1992 paper in *The Entomologist* and shows discal spots at x20; it is important because it shows diffusion in action via the Brown Argus and this has subsequently been part of any hybrid species history.

