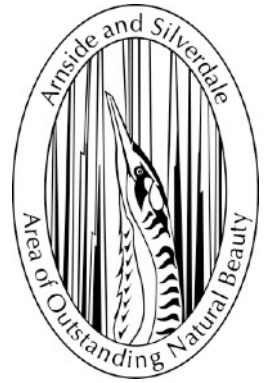


# **Bittern Countryside**

Community Interest Company



## **An Atlas and Guide to the Vetches, Clovers and Allied Plants of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB**



### **Supporting the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company  
Registered Office: The Old Station Building, Arnside, LA5 0HG  
Registered Number: 6363720

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Website: <http://www.bitterncountrysidecic.org.uk>



## **An Atlas and Guide to the Vetches, Clovers and Allied Plants of the AONB**

Ann Kitchen, September 2013

### **Why have an Atlas and what is it for?**

For over 35 years the flora of the Arnside and Silverdale AONB has been recorded. First by Dr Margaret Baeker and Charles Bromley Webb followed by Julie Clarke who records for the BSBI. Geoffrey Halliday recorded the Cumbrian tetrads (2km squares) and Eric Greenwood those in North Lancashire for their published Floras. Ken and I first got involved when we helped Charles Bromley Webb put all his records onto a computer. Julie and I went on to follow in his footsteps as the botanical recorders for the Arnside and District Natural History Society. Aided by a willing band of amateur botanists we have tried to record every species growing in each one-kilometre square (monad) of the AONB and to record their progress through time. There is still plenty out there to be discovered especially as not all the monads have been surveyed.

This is an attempt to make some of the knowledge we have gained available to the wider public. Ideally it will make you want to go out to look at our flora with a more informed eye. We hope eventually to cover all 950 species of plants found in our area.

This booklet contains maps, help on identification and also habitat shots. It is not a true wildflower guide. For that you need a proper guide such as “The Flora of the British Isles” by Stace or “Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland” by Blamey, Fitter & Fitter.

If you would like to add to the records, a photo together with the date, a grid reference, and site description should be sent to Ann Kitchen at [knak@kenak.plus.com](mailto:knak@kenak.plus.com).

Photographs by Ann and Ken Kitchen unless otherwise stated.

Edited by Ann Kitchen

All profits from this publication will go towards recording and conserving the flora and fauna of the AONB.



Horseshoe Vetch at The Cove, Silverdale



There are 29 species of the Fabaceae or Pea family recorded in the Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

<b>Category 1 Plants with trifoliate leaves</b>		<b>Page</b>
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot Trefoil	5
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil	5
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	6
<i>Melilotus altissimus</i>	Tall Melilot	6
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Common Restharrow	7
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	7
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	8
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	8
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	9
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike Clover	9
<i>Trifolium medium</i>	Zig-zag Clover	10
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	10
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	11
<i>Trifolium striatum</i>	Knotted Clover	11

<b>Category 2 Plants with pinnate leaves</b>		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	12
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	12
<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i>	Scorpion Senna	13
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter Vetch(ling)	13
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	14
<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>	Birdsfoot	14
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	15
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	15
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	16
<i>Vicia sativa ssp. nigra</i>	Common Vetch ssp.	16
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	17
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	17

<b>Category 3 Shrubs</b>		
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	18
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum	18
<i>Ulex gallii</i>	Western Gorse	19
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	19

The following alphabetical list gives the number of monads in which the species is present.

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>No of Monads</b>	<b>Page</b>
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	11	12
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	3	18
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	8	12
<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i>	Scorpion Senna	1	13
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum	4	18
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter Vetch(ling)	9	13
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	39	14
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot Trefoil	39	5
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil	16	5
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	34	6
<i>Melilotus altissimus</i>	Tall Melilot	6	6
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Common Restharrow	15	7
<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>	Birdsfoot	2	14
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	2	7
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	21	8
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	34	8
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	1	9
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike Clover	4	9
<i>Trifolium medium</i>	Zig-zag Clover	16	10
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	45	10
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	39	11
<i>Trifolium striatum</i>	Knotted Clover	5	11
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	25	19
<i>Ulex gallii</i>	Western Gorse	2	19
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	34	15
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	4	15
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch ssp.	2	16
<i>Vicia sativa subsp. nigra</i>	Common Vetch ssp.	5	16
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	46	17
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	1	17



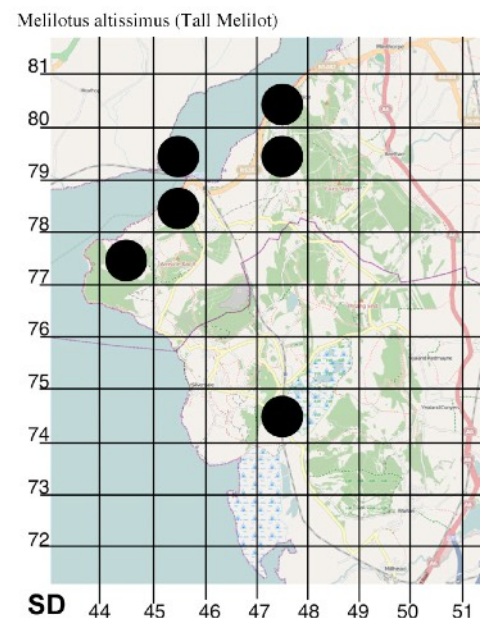




Photo Roger Spooner



Photo Charles Bromley Webb



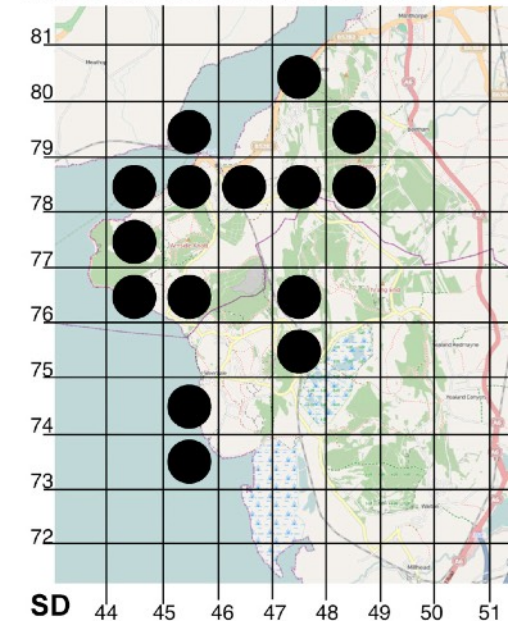


## Ononis repens - Common Restharrow

This very pretty pink member of the pea family likes dry grassy areas. It can be found at New Barns Bay on top of the wall by the parking area at SD443777 or on the cliff at Jack Scout at SD457739. You can also see it on the footpath from Dolly Wood Lane to Leighton Beck at SD484782.



Ononis repens (Common Restharrow / Rest-harrow)

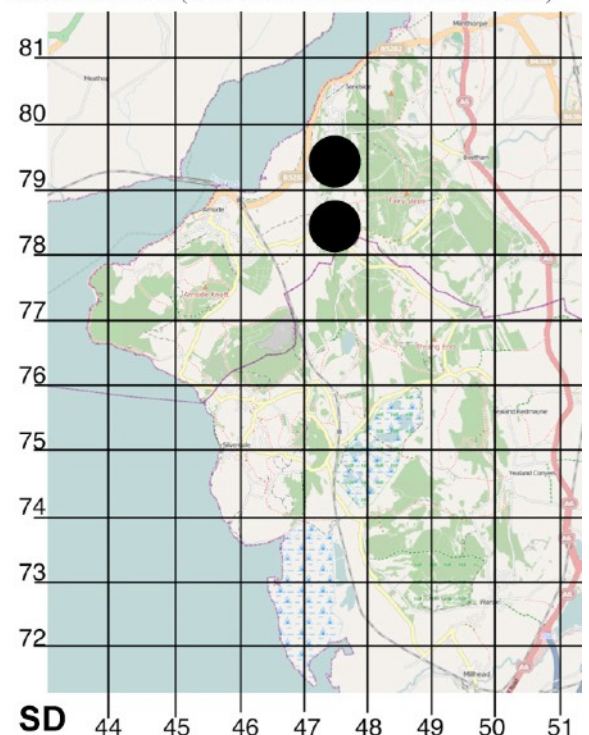


## Trifolium arvense - Hare's-foot Clover



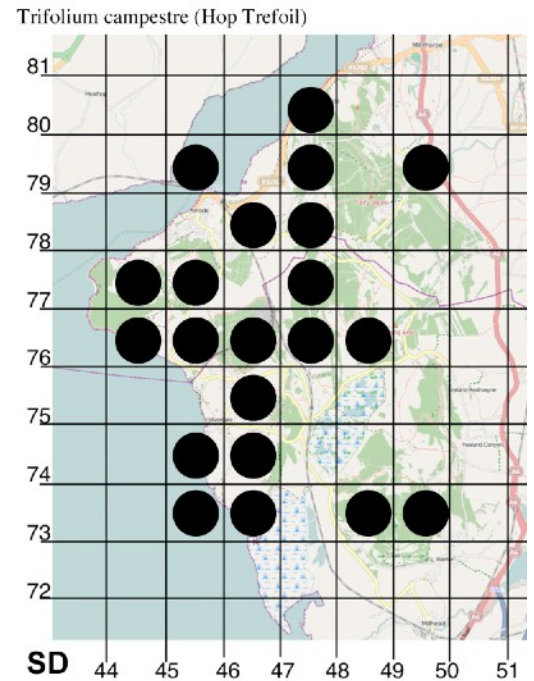
This attractive clover has been found in the Carr Bank/ Sandside area. It likes dry grassy habitats and as an annual/biennial it can be ephemeral and is often brought in with imported soil/ ballast. It is worth looking out for it throughout the area.

Trifolium arvense (Hare's-foot Clover / Haresfoot Trefoil)



## ***Trifolium campestre* - Hop Trefoil**

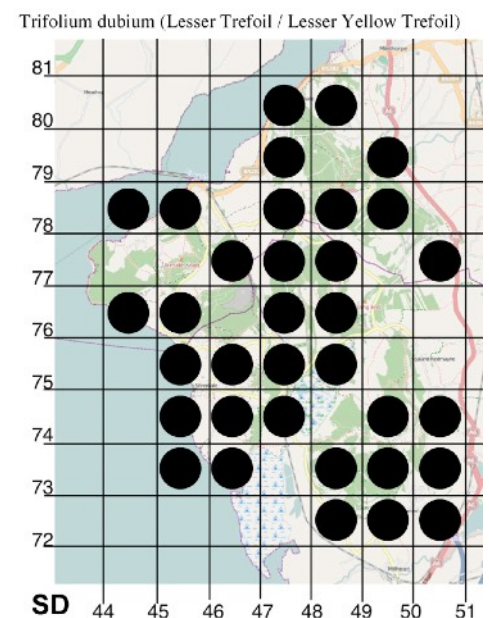
This is a short annual with trefoil leaves and almost papery flowers. It is widespread in the area. Try the bottom of Heathwaite at SD449766 or the Jack Scout/Jenny Brown's Point area at SD458738.



## ***Trifolium dubium* - Lesser Trefoil**

This common weed of lawns is present in most of our limestone grassland areas. The terminal leaflet is very short-stalked. It is often hairy. The stipules are as long as the leaf stalks.

Look on the quarry floor at Trowbarrow at SD480758 or in Lambert's Meadow at SD 470753.



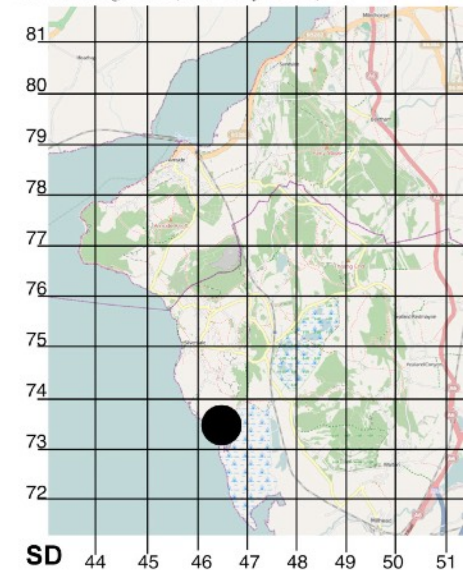


## ***Trifolium fragiferum* - Strawberry Clover**

This was recorded at the bottom of Heald Brow at SD469737 but has not been found lately. It is found elsewhere around Morecambe Bay so it may reappear. The photograph comes from a patch near Sunderland Point on the Lune estuary.

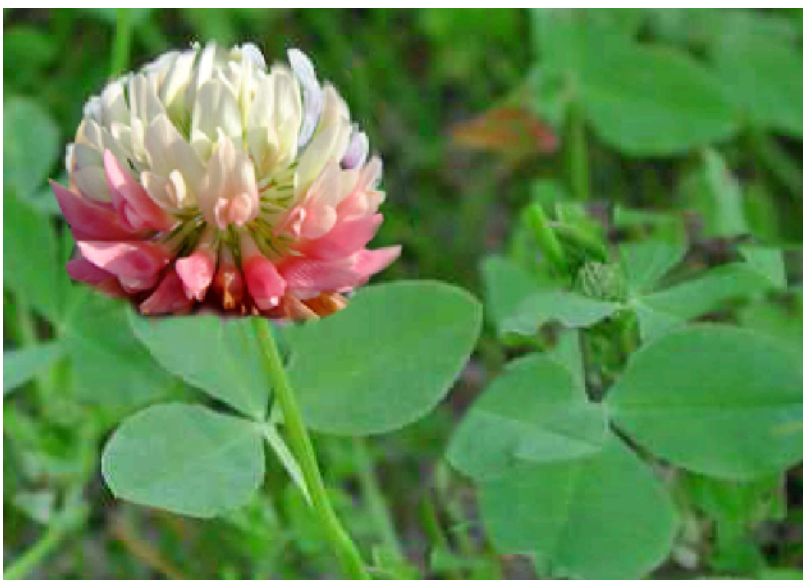


*Trifolium fragiferum* (Strawberry Clover)

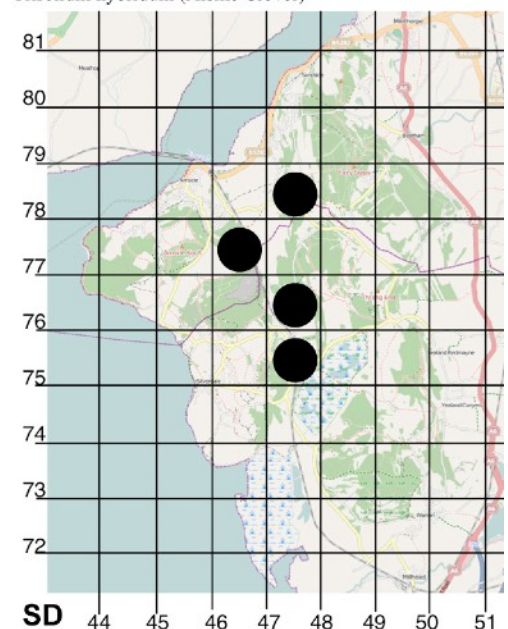


## ***Trifolium hybridum* - Alsike Clover**

This short erect perennial has been cultivated as a fodder crop for many years. Unlike White Clover, with which it is often confused, it does not root at the nodes. The lower petals can be a rosy pink. The leaves are unmarked. Look by the footpath in the field by the road at SD473781 which leads to Challon Hall Allotment.



*Trifolium hybridum* (Alsike Clover)







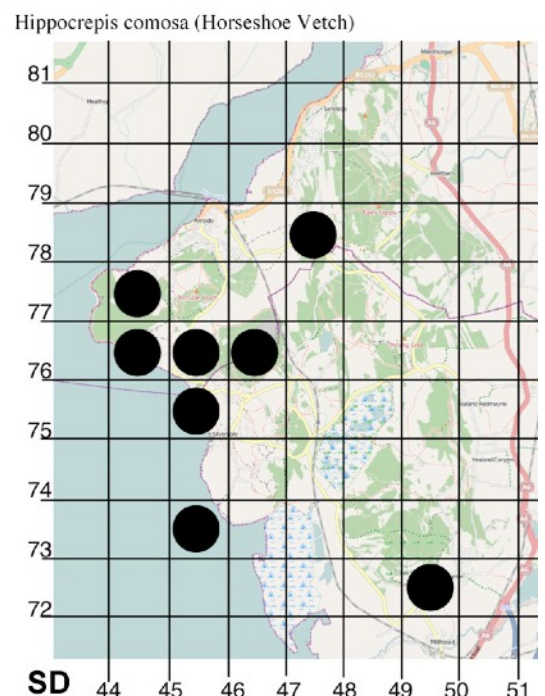








A close-up photograph of a plant with numerous bright yellow flowers and green, pinnate leaves. The flowers are arranged in dense, upright clusters. The background is a blurred, natural setting with dry grass and soil.



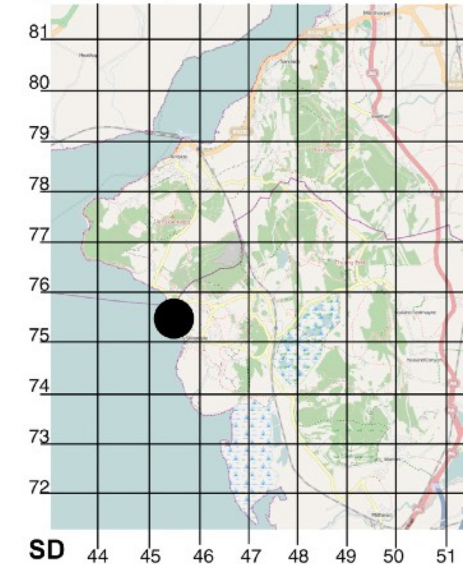


## *Hippocrepis emerus* - Scorpion Senna

This shrub has leaves with 5 to 7 leaflets and very long multi-coloured hanging pods. Although it was introduced to Britain in the 1500's most records come from the south-east of England. It has become naturalised on the cliffs below the Leeds Children's Holiday Camp at Silverdale at SD 455756.



*Hippocrepis emerus* (Scorpion Senna)



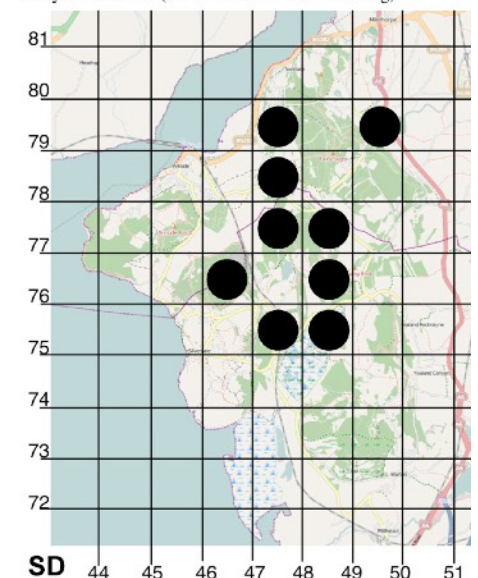
## *Lathyrus linifolius* - Bitter Vetch(ing)

This likes acid soil and is found in the dryer parts of the mosses. It has a winged stem and pinnate leaves with between 4 and 8 leaflets. The leaves do not have tendrils. Look in the scrub at SD477770 or in the hedge along the lane from Hazelslack Farm to Four Lane End at SD 477791.



Photo Roger Spooner

*Lathyrus linifolius* (Bitter-vetch / Bitter Vetchling)

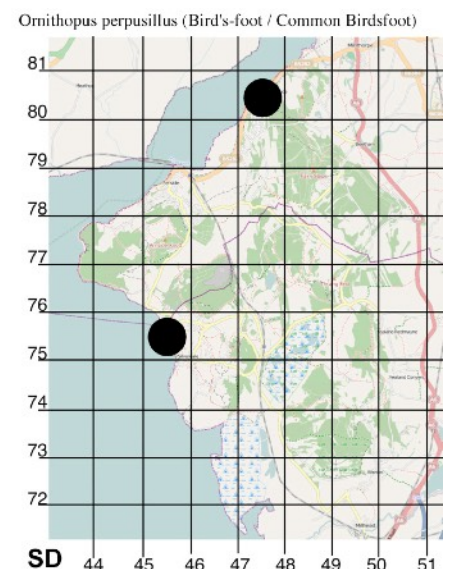




A close-up photograph of a cluster of bright yellow flowers, likely a species of Mimulus, surrounded by green foliage. A small insect is visible on one of the flowers.



A close-up photograph of a plant with green, pinnate leaves and small, light-colored flowers, growing in a sandy, arid environment. The plant has several stems with multiple pairs of small, oval-shaped leaflets. The flowers are small and appear to be a pale pink or white color. The ground is composed of dark, granular soil, likely sand or gravel.





A close-up photograph of a legume plant, possibly a vetch. The image shows a cluster of small, purple, pea-like flowers hanging from a green stem. The leaves are green and have a pinnate structure, with several small, oval leaflets. A brown, woody stem is visible in the upper right corner. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

## A close-up photograph of a flowering stem. The stem is green and covered in fine, white, hair-like structures. Several small, white, tubular flowers are visible, each with a reddish-brown bract at its base. The background is a blurred green.

## *Vicia sativa* - Common Vetch

This variable, clambering, annual likes hedgerows and meadows. It also grows on cultivated ground and roadsides. Note the large black spot in the leaf axils. It has light brown pods.

This has been recorded at SD 475778 on the footpath from Challon Hall Allotment to Cold Well Lane.

There is a variety, *ssp. nigra* with dark brown to black pods. You can see *ssp. nigra* at Bottoms Wood at SD468749.

The map does not differentiate between the two varieties.

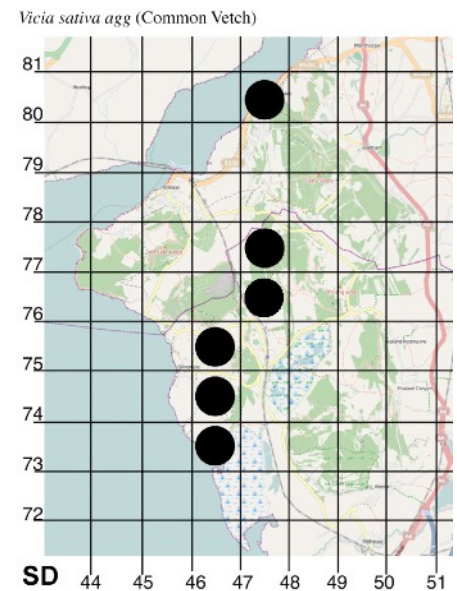
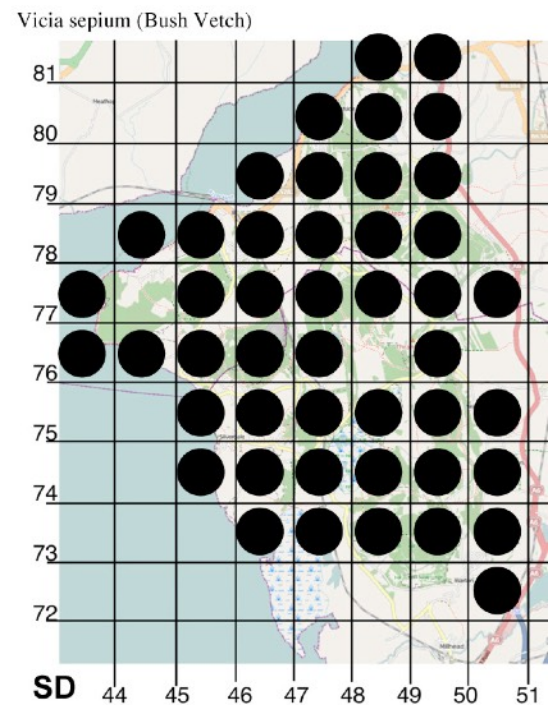


Photo Roger Spooner



## ***Vicia sepium* - Bush Vetch**

A perennial vetch with dull purple pink flower clusters with short stalks. It has 6 to 18 leaflets and tendrils. It can be found in nearly every hedgerow, woodland margin, roadside track and in many gardens. Try SD473765 and the Sandside orchid triangle at SD483811.



## ***Vicia tetrasperma* - Smooth Tare**

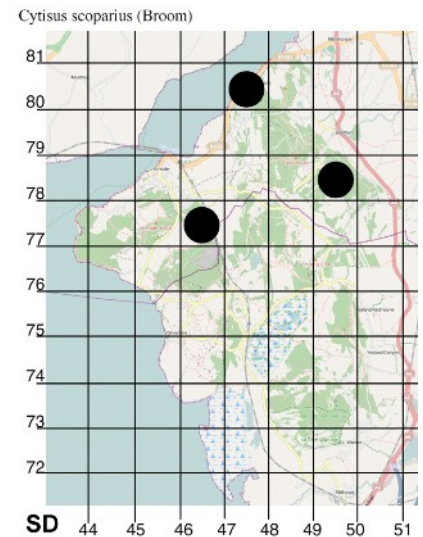


Another small-flowered tare, it was found at SD460734 in 2006. It is an annual and likes open scrub, hedgerows and roadsides. It has pinnate leaves with 6 to 12 leaflets but only 1 or 2 violet flowers in a head. It is probably more widely distributed but very easily overlooked.



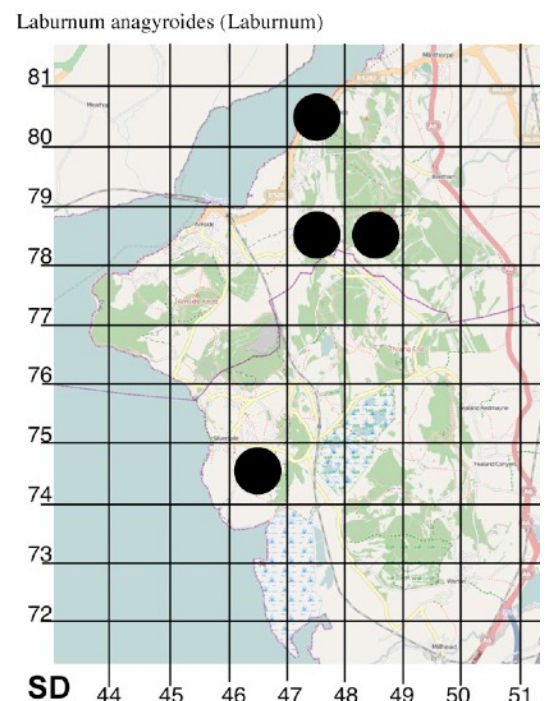
## Cytisus scoparius - Broom

This pretty bush is found in scattered localities throughout Lancashire and Cumbria. It is a shrub of heaths, banks and scrubland. It likes slightly acidic soil. It is a fairly short-lived shrub and has not been recorded lately.



## Laburnum anagyroides - Laburnum

This beautiful tree is found in many gardens of the AONB but it has also been recorded in localities where it has obviously been naturalised. It is probably under-recorded in the wild as we only have 4 monads. There is a good specimen at SD4778 between Creep'ith'Call and Carr Bank and also at SD4674.











Storth and the Kent Estuary



The Knott from Holgates Caravan Park



Brown's Houses, Silverdale