# **Bittern Countryside**

**Community Interest Company** 



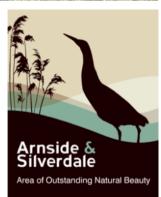
# An Atlas and Guide to the Vetches, Clovers and Allied Plants of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB



# 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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Produced with assistance from the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Sustainable Development Fund 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.

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.



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

Category 1 Plants with Lotus corniculatus Lotus pedunculatus Medicago lupulina Melilotus altissimus Ononis repens Trifolium arvense Trifolium campestre Trifolium dubium Trifolium fragiferum Trifolium hybridum Trifolium medium Trifolium pratense Trifolium repens Trifolium striatum	trifoliate leaves Birdsfoot Trefoil Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil Black Medick Tall Melilot Common Restharrow Hare's-foot Clover Hop Trefoil Lesser Trefoil Strawberry Clover Alsike Clover Zig-zag Clover Red Clover White Clover Knotted Clover	Page 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8 9 9 10 10 11
Category 2 Plants of Anthyllis vulneraria Hippocrepis comosa Hippocrepis emerus Lathyrus linifolius Lathyrus pratensis Ornithopus perpusillus Vicia cracca Vicia hirsuta Vicia sativa Vicia sativa Sp. nigra Vicia tetrasperma	with pinnate leaves Kidney Vetch Horseshoe Vetch Scorpion Senna Bitter Vetch(ling) Meadow Vetchling Birdsfoot Tufted Vetch Hairy Tare Common Vetch Common Vetch Smooth Tare	12 12 13 13 14 14 15 15 16 16 17
Category 3 Shrubs Cytisus scoparius Laburnum anagyroides Ulex gallii Ulex europaeus	Broom Laburnum Western Gorse Gorse	18 18 19 19

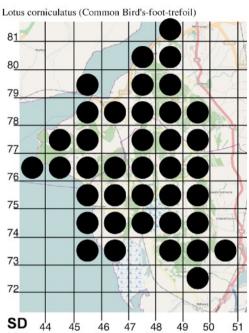
The following alphabetical list gives the number of monads in which the species is present.

Anthyllis vulnerariaKidney Vetch1112Cytisus scopariusBroom318Hippocrepis comosaHorseshoe Vetch812Hippocrepis emerusScorpion Senna113Laburnum anagyroidesLaburnum418Lathyrus linifoliusBitter Vetch(ling)913Lathyrus pratensisMeadow Vetchling3914Lotus corniculatusBirdsfoot Trefoil395Lotus pedunculatusGreater Birdsfoot Trefoil165Medicago lupulinaBlack Medick346Melilotus altissimusTall Melilot66Ononis repensCommon Restharrow157Ornithopus perpusillusBirdsfoot214Trifolium arvenseHare's-foot Clover27Trifolium campestreHop Trefoil218Trifolium dubiumLesser Trefoil348Trifolium fragiferumStrawberry Clover19Trifolium pratenseRed Clover49Trifolium pratenseRed Clover4510Trifolium striatumKnotted Clover511Ulex europaeusGorse2519Ulex galliiWestern Gorse219Vicia sativaCommon Vetch ssp.516	Scientific Name	Common Name	No of Monads	Page
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Vicia sepium Bush Vetch 46 17	Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch	46	17
Vicia tetrasperma Smooth Tare 1 17	Vicia tetrasperma	Smooth Tare	1	17

#### Lotus corniculatus - Birdsfoot Trefoil

Birdsfoot Trefoil is one of our commoner trefoils. It is very variable. The stems are sprawling and it is happy on limestone. Look along Storth Railway Cutting at SD473803 or between Silverdale Cove and the Lots.

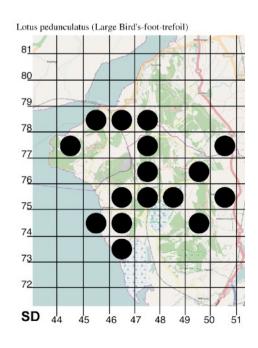




# Lotus pedunculatus - Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil

Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil is a larger and more robust plant. It is happier in acid conditions and the rich yellow flower head usually has between 5 and 12 flowers. The stems are more upright and are hollow. Look in the hedge between the field and the road to New Barns Bay at SD444777 or Heald Brow, at the bottom of the footpath at the edge of the marsh, SD469738.

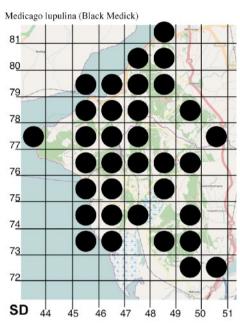




# Medicago Iupulina - Black Medick

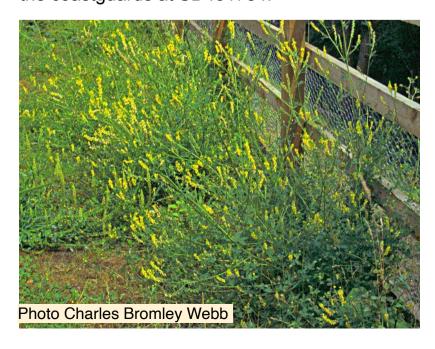
This small prostrate annual gets its name from its black seedpods. It is very common in the area and flowers between April to September. Look near Browns Houses at SD464734 or at the Sandside orchid triangle at SDSD482811.

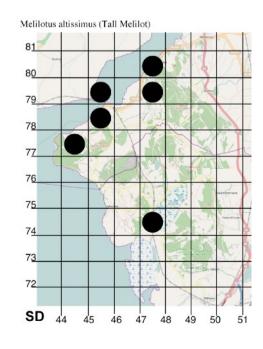




#### **Melilotus altissimus - Tall Melilot**

This is a tall branching plant that is found all along the side of the estuary. The leaflets are elliptical and sharply toothed. It starts to grow in early spring flowering by June or July. Look on the shore at New Barns Bay at SD442778 or along Arnside Shore near the coastguards at SD451784.

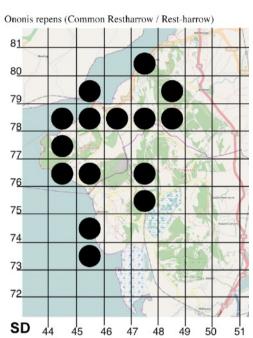




# **Ononis repens - Common Restharrow**

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.

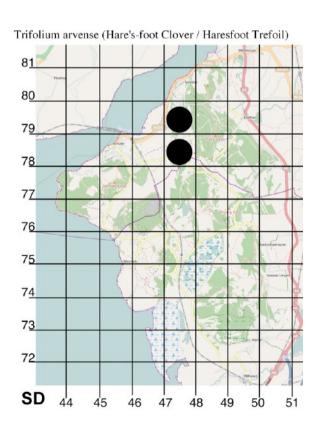




#### Trifolium arvense - Hare's-foot Clover



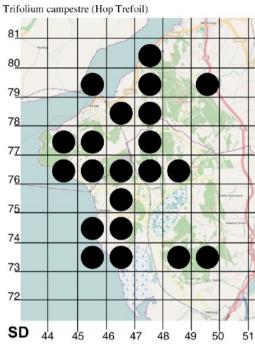
This attractive clover has been found in the Carr Bank/ Sandside area. It likes dry grassy habitats and as an annual/biennial it can be ephemeral and is often brought in with imported soil/ ballast. It is worth looking out for it throughout the area.



# Trifolium 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.



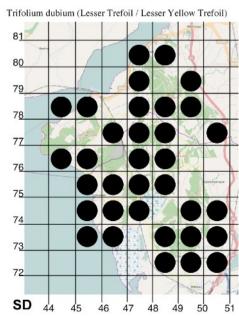


#### Trifolium dubium - Lesser Trefoil

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.

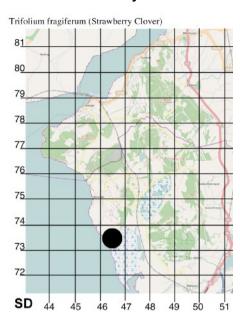




# Trifolium fragiferum - Strawberry Clover

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.

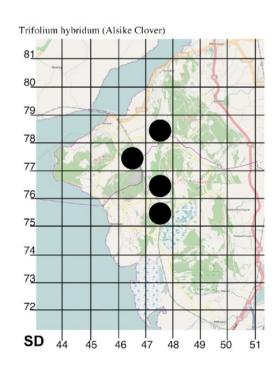




# Trifolium hybridum - Alsike Clover

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.

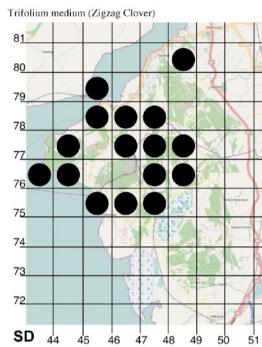




# Trifolium medium - Zig-zag Clover

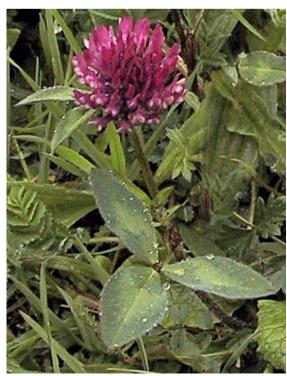
Apart from the zigzag stem, the easiest way to tell this from Red Clover is to look at the stem just below the flowerhead. Zigzag Clover has a definite stalk between the head and the top pair of leaves, Red Clover has none. Red Clover also has light coloured markings on the leaves. Look in Beachwood at SD450783 or in the meadow at Gait Barrows at SD478769.

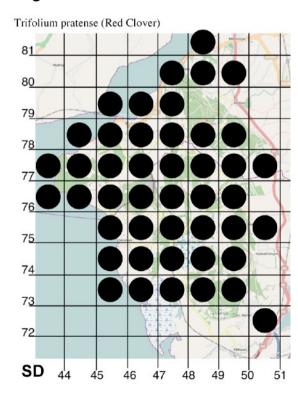




# Trifolium pratense - Red Clover

One of our more common clovers. It can be found throughout the area.

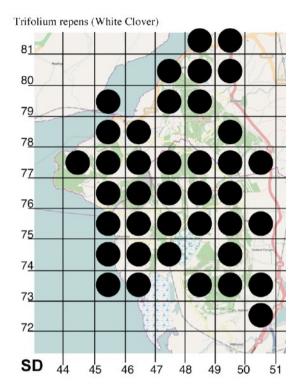




# Trifolium repens - White Clover

Another of our common clovers it can be found in most fields in the AONB and also on many grassy areas. It is probable that it is in every monad but has just been missed in those where it is not recorded.

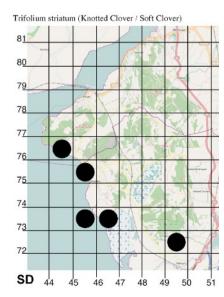




#### Trifolium striatum - Knotted Clover

This little clover is easily missed. The unstalked flowerheads nestle into the axils between the stems and the leaves. It is found around the coast of Morecambe Bay. Look in Jack Scout at SD459736 or on the slopes above the main quarry at Warton Crag at SD492726.



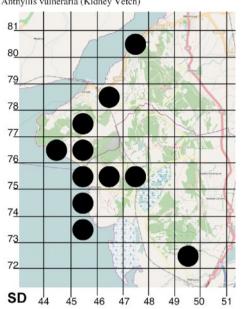


# Anthyllis vulneraria - Kidney Vetch

Often seen on the limestone grasslands of Heathwaite and at Bottoms Quarry at SD468749 and on Warton Crag at SD494725.

Anthyllis vulneraria (Kidney Vetch)

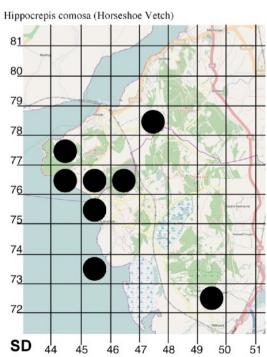




# Hippocrepis comosa - Horseshoe Vetch

This little vetch is a plant of the limestone grasslands. At first glance it can be confused with Birdsfoot Trefoil but it has pinnate leaves with between 7 to 25 leaflets. It forms mats with its runners. It can be found on the path from the Cove, Silverdale to The Lots at SD455755 and near the footpath to Hazelslack Farm at SD475788.

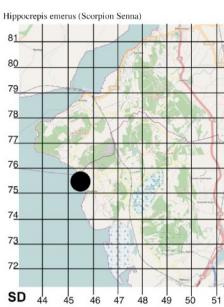




# Hippocrepis emerus - Scorpion Senna

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 southeast of England. It has become naturalised on the cliffs below the Leeds Children's Holiday Camp at Silverdale at SD 455756.

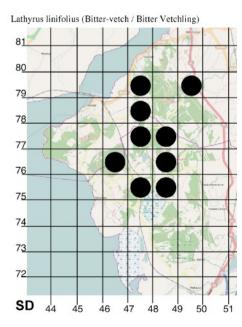




# Lathyrus linifolius - Bitter Vetch(ling)

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.

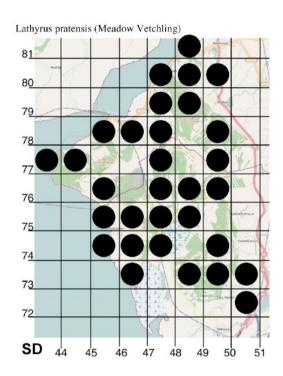




# Lathyrus pratensis - Meadow Vetchling

This bright yellow member of the pea family can be found clambering along hedgerows and among grasses. It has tendrils but only 2 pointed leaflets on each leaf. It can be found on the back path to the Lower Hide at Leighton Moss at SD489754 or in the hedge from Creep-ith-call bridge to Junction of Storth Road and Cold Well Lane at SD474781.

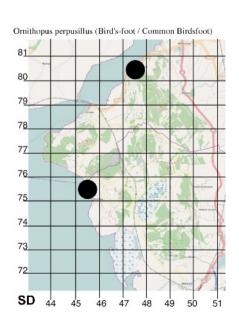




# **Ornithopus perpusillus - Birdsfoot**

This tiny annual grows along the ground. It has white or pink flowers and is easily overlooked occurring on dry soil or in open patches of short grassland. There are only 3 records for it. Two are in the Silverdale Cove/ Holgates Caravan Park area and one in the Sandside area.

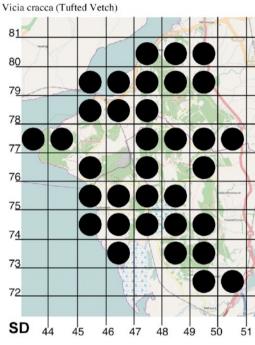




#### Vicia cracca - Tufted Vetch

This perennial is found clambering along hedgerows and in scrub throughout the area. Its pinnate leaves have long tendrils. Look along the disused railway embankment at SD459789 or around Heald Brow at SD463734.



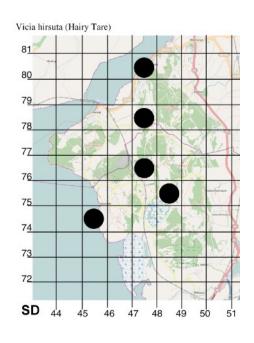


# Vicia hirsuta - Hairy Tare

A very small flowered annual. It likes roadside margins and woodland edges. It has pinnate leaves with 8 to 20 leaflets.

You can find it along the roadside to Middlebarrow Quarry at SD471768 or at St John's Cross on the disturbed ground at the embankment at SD472801.





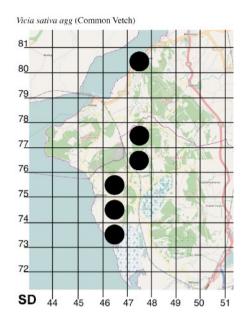
### Vicia sativa - Common Vetch

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 I ane.

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.

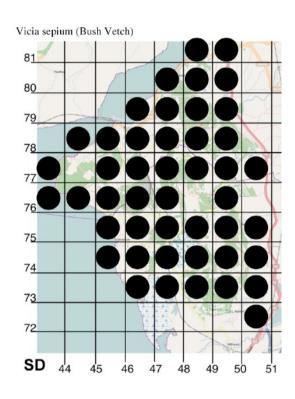




# Vicia sepium - Bush Vetch

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

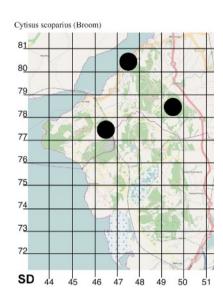


Another small-flowered tare, it was found at SD460734 in 2006. It is an annual and likes open scrub, hedgerows and roadsides. It has pinnate leaves with 6 to 12 leaflets but only 1 or 2 violet flowers in a head. It is probably more widely distributed but very easily overlooked.

# 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.

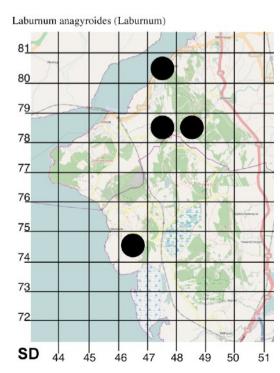




# Laburnum anagyroides - Laburnum

This beautiful tree is found in many gardens of the AONB but it has also been recorded in localities where is 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.



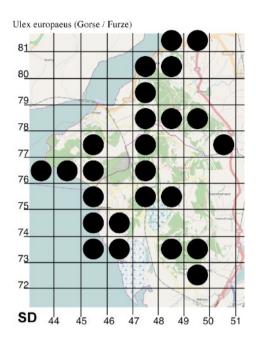


# **Ulex europaeus - Gorse**

This is the common gorse of our area. It flowers throughout the year and seeds, flowers and flower buds can often be found together on any one bush. Its sharp spiny

hairless branches and yellow pea flowers make it easily distinguished from anything other than its close relative, Western Gorse. Find it in Arnside Knott Lower Pasture at SD452777 and next to the wall at Jack Scout at SD460736.





#### **Ulex Gallii - Western Gorse**

This is easily mistaken for gorse at first sight. However it flowers from July to November when the shrub is a mass of bright yellow flowers. It is easiest to distinguish the two species in January and February. The hairy stems of Western Gorse will be covered with dead seedpods with no signs of any latent flower buds whilst the Common Gorse will have

some signs of flower buds and probably a few flowers as well. Look for it in Larch Grove at SD 449776. The site at Far Arnside at SD449761 is on private land.



