

Bittern Countryside

Community Interest Company



An Atlas and Guide to the Arums, Lilies, Daffodils and Irises of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB



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

Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company
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An Atlas and Guide to the Arums, Lilies, Daffodils and Irises of the AONB by 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. Hopefully 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 photographs. 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
Edited by Ann Kitchen

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



Looking over Arnside Moss

The flowers in this guide are all monocots. That means that their seeds produce only a single leaf when they first germinate. They have been divided up into categories of similar species. Many of the plants listed from the wild are probably garden escapes. Things like the Martagon Lily and the crocus are common garden plants and their bulbs /tuberous roots are often thrown out with garden rubbish and grow where they land. These small colonies often die out over time. They are mentioned in passing but not discussed in much detail.

Category 1 - The Arums:

Around 10 to 40 cm tall with a large spathe surrounding the flowering spike.

<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords and Ladies	5
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian Lords and Ladies	5

Category 2 - The Alliums:

Around 15 to 120 cm tall with flowers forming a head at the top of the stem. They all have the characteristic onion smell.

<i>Allium carinatum</i>	Keeled Garlic	8
<i>Allium oleraceum</i>	Field Garlic	6
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Chives	8
<i>Allium scorodoprasum</i>	Sand Leek	6
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Leek	8
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	7
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild Onion (Crow Garlic)	8

Category 3 - The Lily family:

All around 10 to 60 cm tall some with very showy flowers. Most grow from either a bulb or corm. A few have fleshy roots.

<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily of the Valley	9
<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiflora</i>	Montbretia	9
<i>Gagea lutea</i>	Yellow Star of Bethlehem	10
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell	11
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	11
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily	12
<i>Lilium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Lily	12
<i>Muscari neglectum/armeniicum</i>	Grape hyacinth	12
<i>Ornithogalum angustifolium</i>	White Star of Bethlehem	13
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb Paris	15
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	13
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Angular Solomon's Seal	14
<i>Polygonatum x hybridum</i>	Garden Solomon's Seal	14
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	18

Category 4 - The Daffodil Family:

<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop	16
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Summer Snowflake	16
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Pheasant's Eye Daffodil	17
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Wild Daffodil	17

Category 5 - The Iris Family:

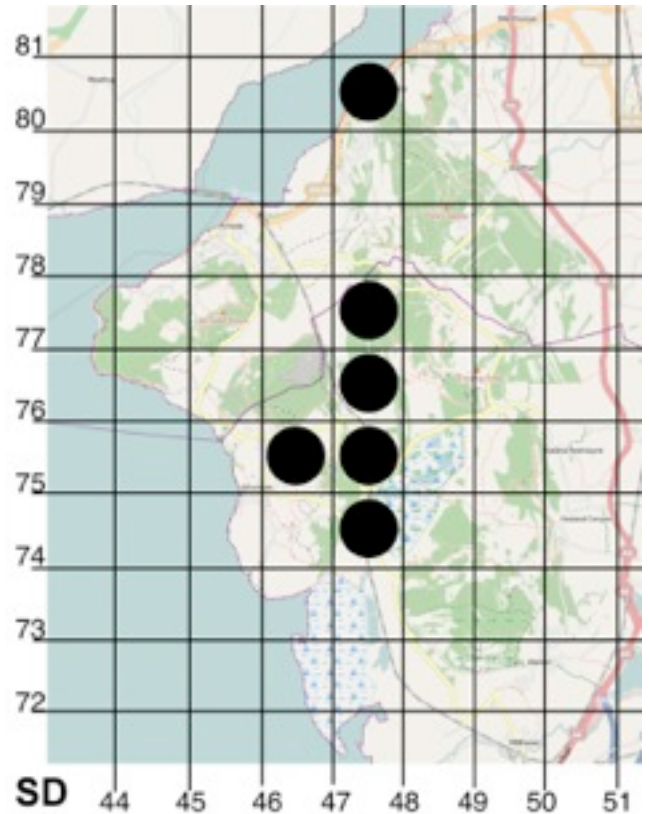
<i>Crocus Vernus</i>	Spring Crocus	18
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	19

The following alphabetical list gives the number of monads in which the species is present. These flowers are all well recorded in the AONB so this information is meaningful.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Number of Monads	Page
<i>Allium carinatum</i>	Keeled Garlic	1	8
<i>Allium oleraceum</i>	Field Garlic	6	6
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Chives	2	8
<i>Allium scorodoprasum</i>	Sand Leek	8	6
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Leek	3	8
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	39	7
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild Onion (Crow Garlic)	4	8
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords and Ladies	43	5
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian Lords and Ladies	6	5
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily of the Valley	18	9
<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiflora</i>	Montbretia	20	9
<i>Crocus vernus</i>	Spring Crocus	7	18
<i>Gagea lutea</i>	Yellow Star of Bethlehem	2	10
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop	25	16
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell	15	11
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	38	11
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	15	19
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Summer Snowflake	3	16
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily	3	12
<i>Lilium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Lily	6	12
<i>Muscari neglectum/armeniicum</i>	Grape hyacinth	8	12
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Pheasant's Eye Daffodil	3	17
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Wild Daffodil	23	17
<i>Ornithogalum angustifolium</i>	White Star of Bethlehem	20	13
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb Paris	25	15
<i>Polygonatum x hybridum</i>	Garden Solomon's Seal	7	14
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	13	13
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Angular Solomon's Seal	7	14
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	3	18

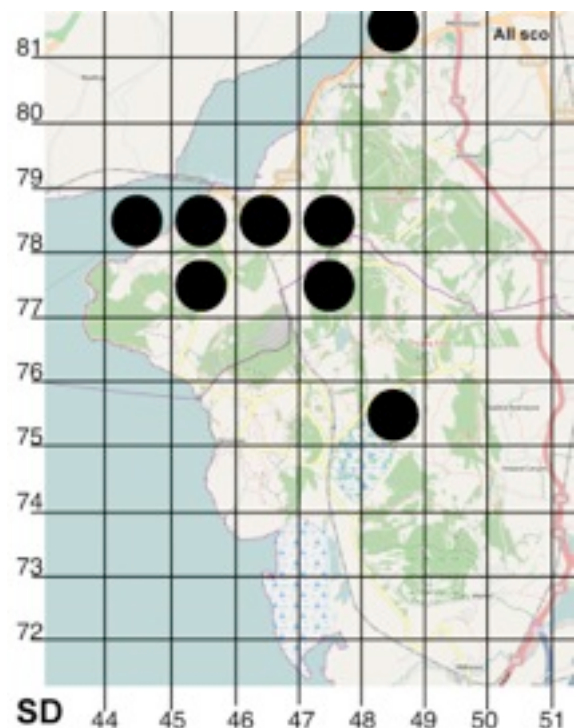
Allium oleraceum - Field Garlic

This is one of our taller Alliums. The flower buds are sheathed in a very long spathe which splits in two and dries forming long tails. The flowers are rather dull, some on drooping stalks. Look along the roadside near Silverdale Station at SD478759.



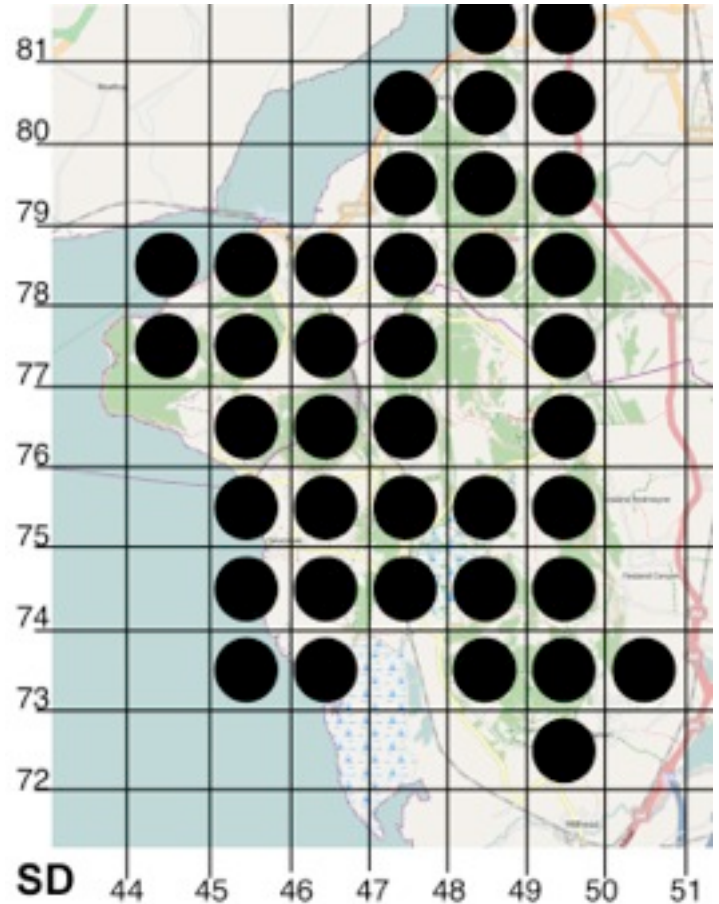
Allium scorodoprasum - Sand Leek

This likes sandy and waste ground but also occurs in hedgerows and along the estuary. Look on Arnside Shore at SD452785. The spathe is very short.



Allium ursinum - Ramsons

Our most common *Allium*, its flowers brighten up the woodland floor in spring. The glossy green leaves come first followed by starlike heads of white flowers. If you tread on them you will smell their characteristic smell.

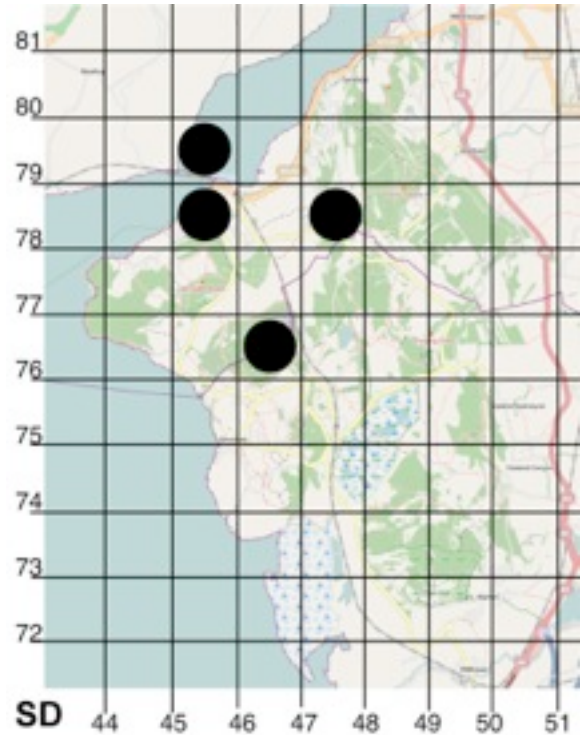


Redhills Wood

***Allium vineale* - Wild Onion (Crow Garlic)**



This is another of our native alliums which has bulbils as well as flowers. Unlike the Sand Leek, the stamens protrude from the flowers and the spathe has only one valve. However as it soon falls off this may not be much help. It likes dry places and grows on road verges and also the Railway Embankment at Arnside by the car park at SD459789.



***Allium triquetrum* - Three-cornered Leek**

This can be found at SD4677, SD4574 and SD4575 but is almost certainly a garden escape. Its stems are three sided hence the name.



***Allium schoenoprasum* - Chives**

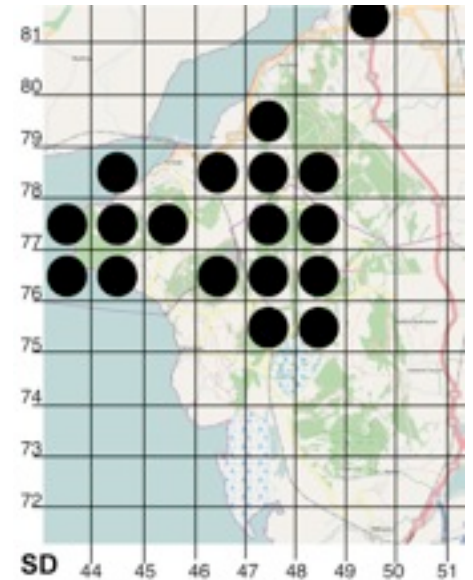
Again another garden escape mentioned in Eaves Wood, SD4675 and Fleagarth Wood at SD 4774.

***Allium carinatum* - Keeled Garlic**

Found near Kayes Garden Centre, Silverdale and probably an escape at SD4674.

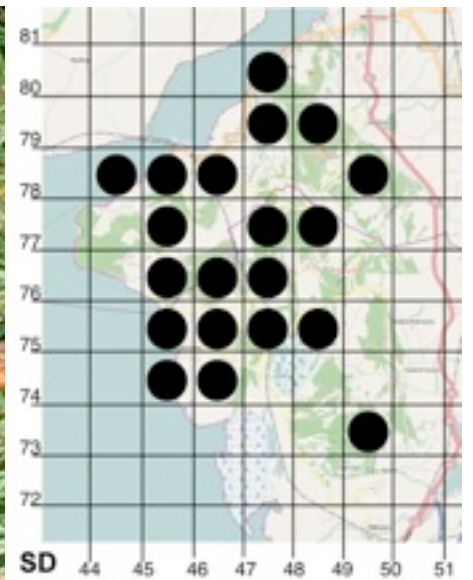
***Convallaria majalis* - Lily of the Valley**

Lily of the Valley were found in profusion in the early 1900's but collection and habitat destruction means that their numbers are far less now. However they are still common in many of the woods. There are also plenty round the edges of the Limestone pavement at Gait Barrows. You can find them on the coastal path at Far Arnside and Coppriding Wood. They are also to be found on Arnside Knott at the bottom of the toposcope slope at SD451775.



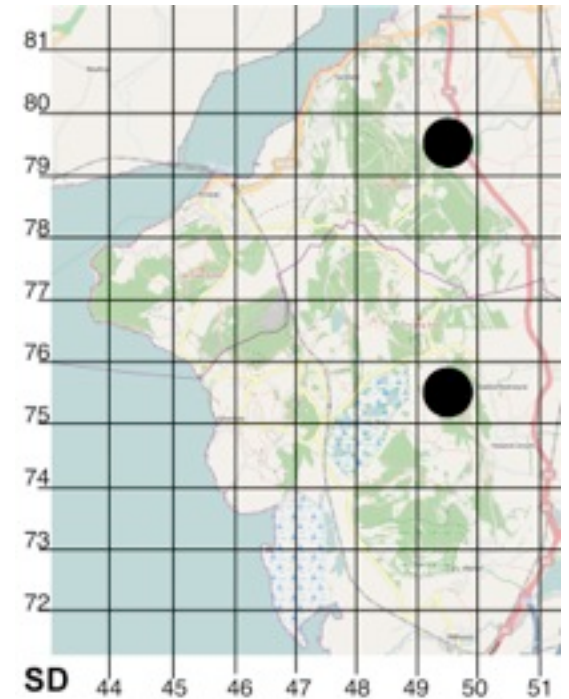
***Crocosmia x crocosmiflora* - Montbretia**

This hybrid from South Africa has naturalised itself throughout the area. It can be found in woods, waste ground and sea cliffs. It is also very common and is often found on waste land where garden refuse has been dumped. Try Challon Hall Wood at SD476773.



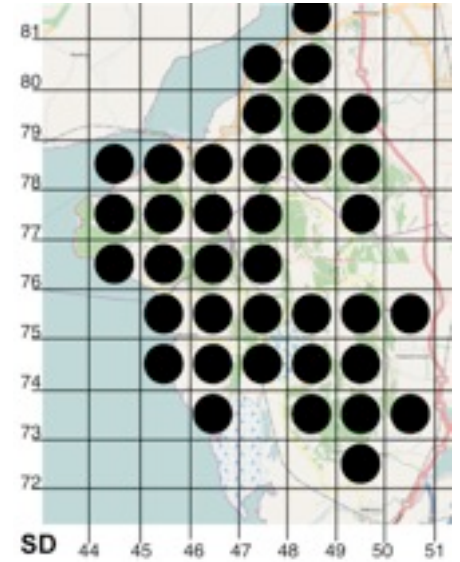
Gagea lutea - Yellow Star of Bethlehem

This beautiful little flower has almost disappeared from our AONB. It was seen in small numbers this year in flower at Slackhead Fields at SD4979. It was also seen fairly recently at SD4975. The slugs like to nibble it and if it is growing among Ramsons it is very hard to spot. It can also be mistaken for Lesser Celandine at first glance. If you do see it flowering in the AONB please let us know. The full SD number is not given as it is in such a precarious state. It is still common on the banks of the Kent near Sedgewick but that is out of our area.



Hyacinthoides non-scripta - Bluebell

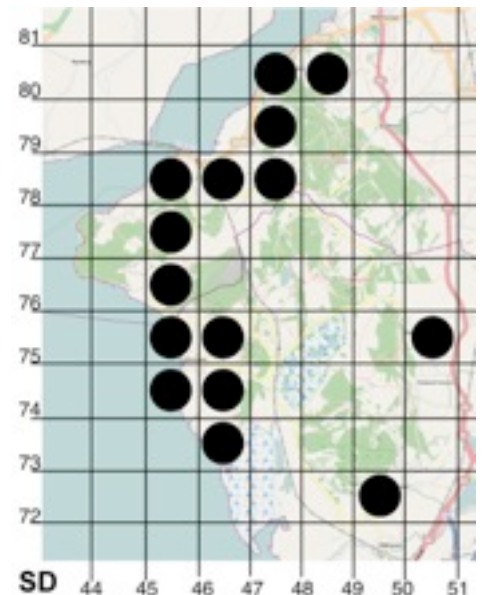
This is our native species. It is under threat because it crosses so readily with the Spanish Bluebell. It is much more delicate with flowers hanging below the drooping spike. You can find it in profusion in places like Eaves Wood and most of the other woods.



Bluebells

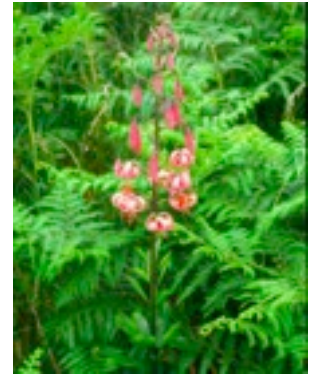
Hyacinthoides hispanica - Spanish bluebell

The true Spanish Bluebell has a stout stem with flowers all round and much wider leaves. It is almost impossible to differentiate between it and its cross with *H non-scripta* which occurs throughout the area. It is probably safest to assume that any bluebell bearing these characteristics is a cross.



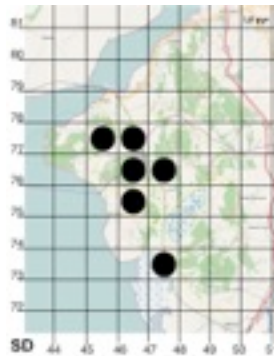
Lilium martagon - Martagon Lily

This is probably a garden escape where it occurs in SD4578, SD4775 and SD4674. Its natural habitat is woods scrub and mountain grassland but it is often grown as a garden plant here. You can see it in Crossfield Woodland in Arnside at SD452784.



Lilium pyrenaicum - Pyrenean Lily

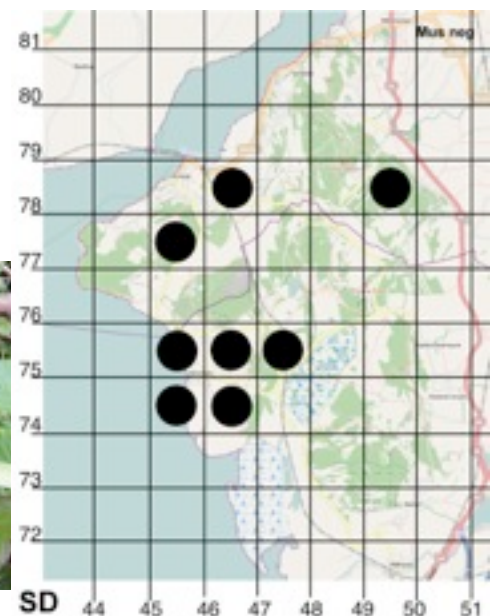
Again probably a garden escape which has naturalised. Its large yellow flowers are unmistakable. Look for it in Elmslack at SD465763.



Muscari neglectum/armenium - Grape hyacinth

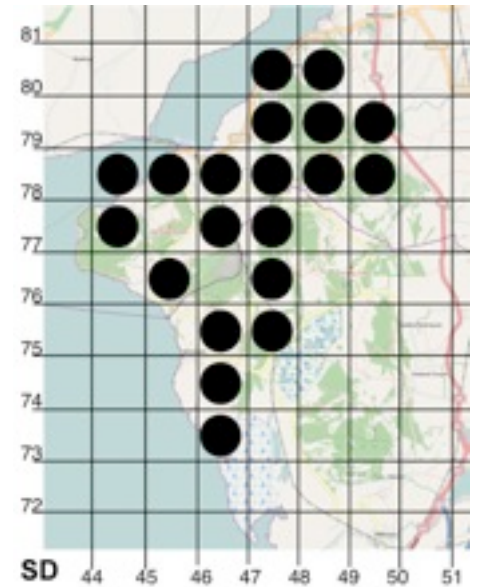
Most of our records are probably *Muscari armenium*, the garden escape. It appears in hedgerows and near habitation. It spreads both vegetatively and by seed and is well established here. You can see it at Elmslack behind the Woodlands Hotel at SD465755 or at the edge of the footpath from Bottoms Lane to Lambert's Meadow at SD461782.

Muscari neglectum is meant to have almost blue/black fertile flowers (the lower ones). In all the specimens I have seen in the AONB there is very little if any difference, all being the lighter blue.



Ornithogalum angustifolium - White Star of Bethlehem

The shining white star-like flowers of the White Star of Bethlehem can be found throughout the area. It is usually found by pathsides near habitation or at woodland edges. Look for it on the east side of Carr Bank Road at 472786 and over the stile in the field in Arnside Moss .

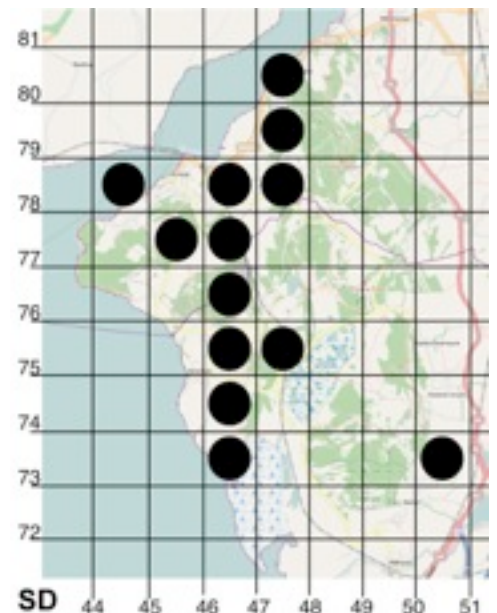


Polygonatum multiflorum - Solomon's Seal

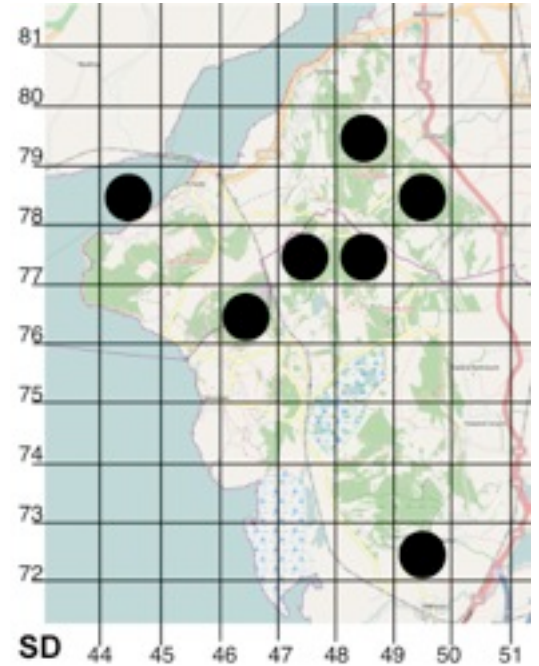
This tall plant with its drooping flowers is found in many of our woodlands.

The flowers are somewhat constricted in the middle unlike the garden variety.

You can find it in Grubbins Wood at SD446780.



Polygonatum odoratum - Angular Solomon's Seal

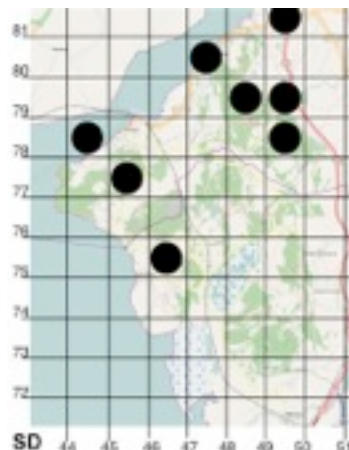


This delicate little plant loves the limestone grykes of Gait Barrows. Like many of the plants of the limestone pavements it is much smaller there. Its angular stems with solitary or paired flowers give its identification. Look for it at SD482770 in Gait Barrows.



Polygonatum x hybridum - Garden Solomon's Seal

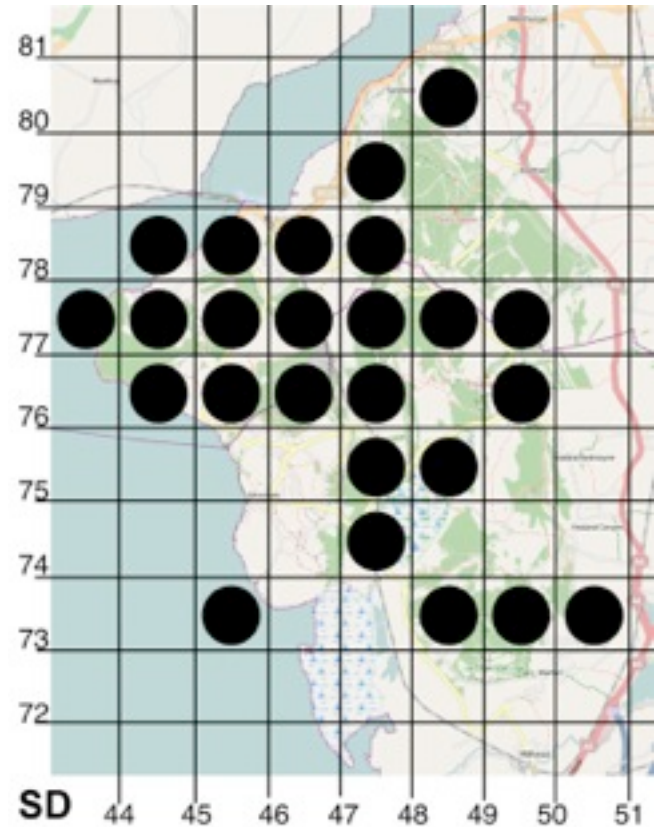
This garden escape, a cross between multiflorum and odoratum is scented and is found near habitation. It is also prone to leaf destruction by the Solomon's Seal Sawfly. The larvae of this can strip the leaves from a plant in a few days.



Paris quadrifolia - Herb Paris

This indicator of ancient woodland is one of the gems of our area. It can be found in Gait Barrows, Coldwell Parrock along the roadside as well as over the wall under the trees, Redhills Wood, Hynings Wood and many other woodland places. It is soon hidden among the Dog's Mercury that often grows alongside it. The occasional stem will have 5 leaves. It can grow into a very large patch but it dies down rapidly once it has fruited. The shiny black berry is often easier to spot than the flower.

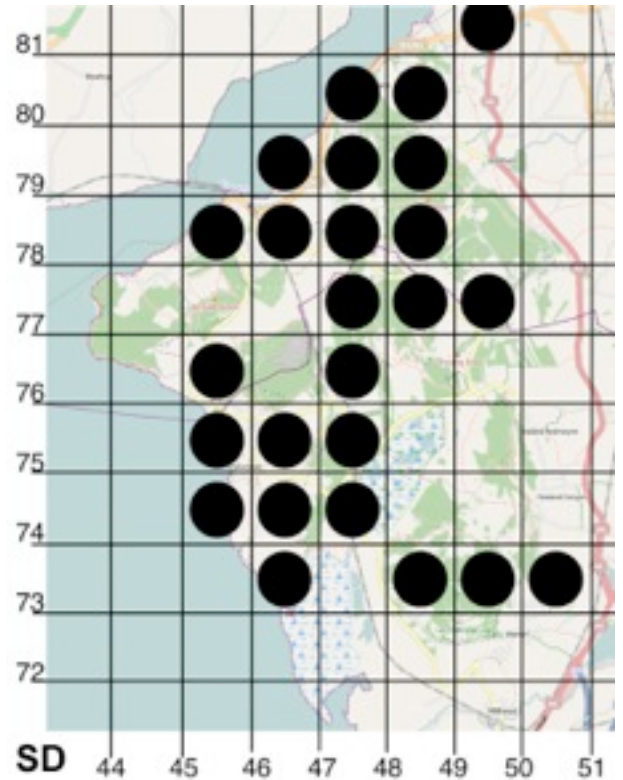
Look for it in Gait Barrows at SD482772,
Copridding Wood at SD449777 and at Carr
Fell at SD475792,



***Galanthus nivalis* - Snowdrop**

This little flower is the harbinger of spring. It grows in profusion in many of our woods and has also naturalised itself in many of our gardens. It loves the limestone outcrops and dappled shade of the deciduous woods before the leaves appear.

For really good displays look in the wood at the right hand side as you go from Beetham to Slackhead SD494792, on Warton Crag or round Silverdale.



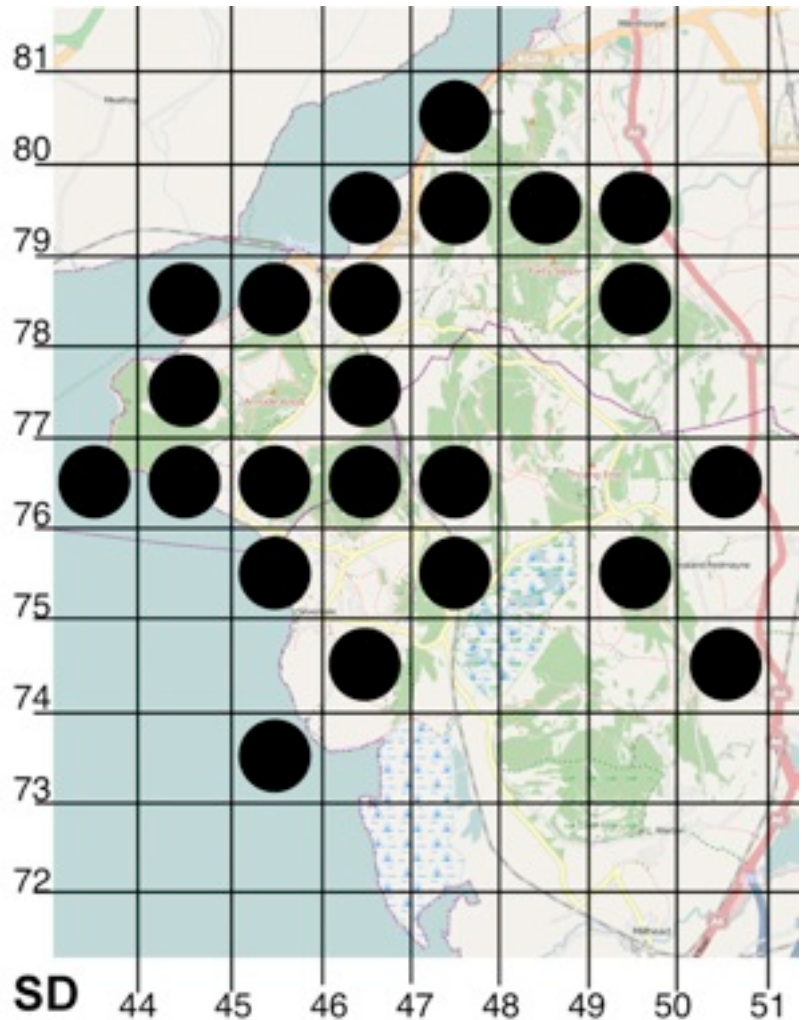
Challon Hall woods

***Leucojum aestivum* - Summer Snowflake**

This is so common as a garden plant that I suspect that the three sites they have been found in the wild in the past, but not recorded lately, were planted. They were all on road verges near habitation.

Narcissus pseudonarcissus - Wild Daffodil

Another of the harbingers of spring this fills the woods with yellow. It is under threat from the crosses with the other larger varieties that are so widely planted in the AONB. There are still plenty of places that you can see this delicate daffodil blowing in the breeze.



Good displays can be seen at Arnside Point SD447775, Beachwood at SD450783, Slackhead, High Edge Wood, at SD492793 and around Warton Crag.



Beachwood, Arnside

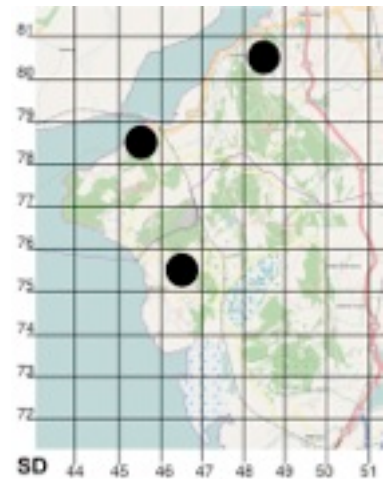
***Narcissus poeticus* - Pheasant's Eye Daffodil**

This is a naturalised form of this mediterranean daffodil. Its tepals are much more twisted than those of its garden counterpart which form an almost flat halo round the central trumpet. In the adjoining photographs the wild form is on the left and the garden form on the right. It has been seen in three locations but again these are all near habitation. SD4897, SD4674 and SD4678.



***Ruscus aculeatus* - Butcher's Broom**

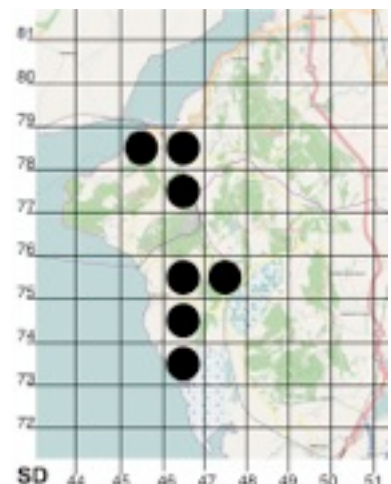
Another mediterranean plant bought over as a garden plant and sometimes found in the wild. The Butcher's Broom has no leaves. The leaf-like shapes are actually flattened stems and the flowers and fruit grow from the centre of them.



***Crocus vernus* - Spring Crocus**

The crocus is very widely grown and has been for many years. I suspect that the small clumps, that can be found throughout the area, may well be garden escapes. Some come up for a couple of years and then disappear.

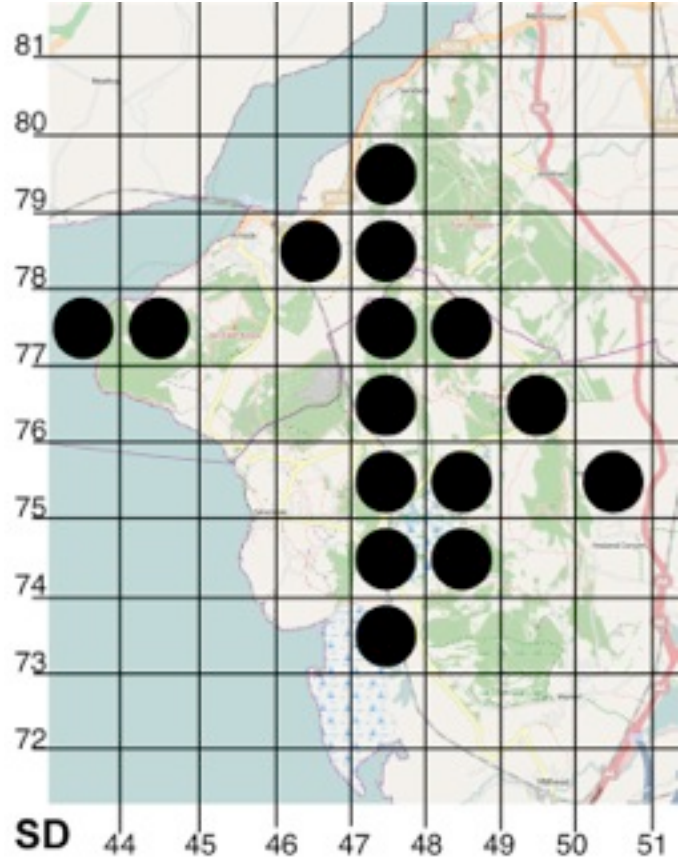
I have entered them here but hope that if anyone knows of a population that have been flowering in the wild for many years they will let me know.



Iris pseudacorus - Yellow Flag

A plant of pool and wetland, this grows in profusion at Leighton Moss, Bank Well and many of our other wetland areas.

The photograph below is Bank Well at SD471753. Periodic clearing of the pond keeps the willow carr at bay and helps the water flora and fauna to flourish.



Bank Well



Looking towards Storth from Arnside Embankment



View from above the Shiloe slopes, Arnside Knott



Myers Allotment