

Bittern Countryside

Community Interest Company



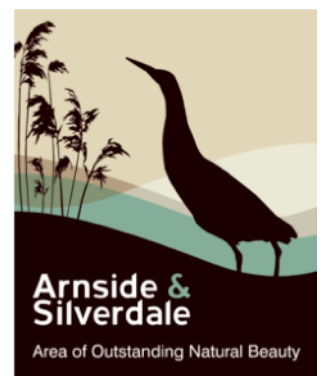
An Atlas and Guide to the Large Trees of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB



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

Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company
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An Atlas and Guide to the Large Trees of the AONB

Ann Kitchen, April 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.

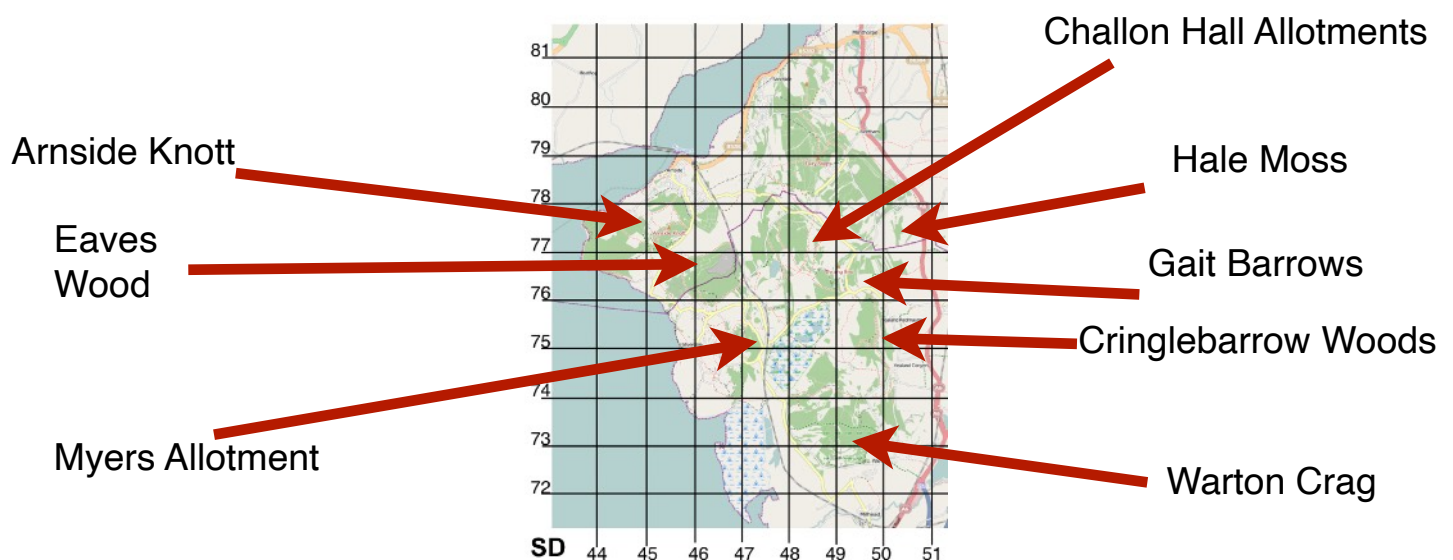
This booklet contains maps, help on identification and also habitat photographs. It is not a true tree guide. For that you need a proper guide such as "The Flora of the British Isle" by Stace or "Trees in Britain" by Roger Phillips.

If you find species where they have not been found before or a species not recorded before, please contact me by email on 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.



The woodlands in the AONB are home to a wide variety of trees. This booklet deals with only the more common ones in detail. Those which occur only infrequently are mentioned in passing. It is hoped that they will be covered in one of our web-based booklets. Many plants such as hazel and spindle are halfway between a tree and a shrub and have been omitted. This booklet is restricted to those species that can form a tree of over 10 metres on a single stem. There are many willows and poplars in the area. Of the willows only the Crack Willow, the White Willow and the Goat Willow can form large trees although the Goat Willow is often less than 10 metres. Maps are given for all the poplars.

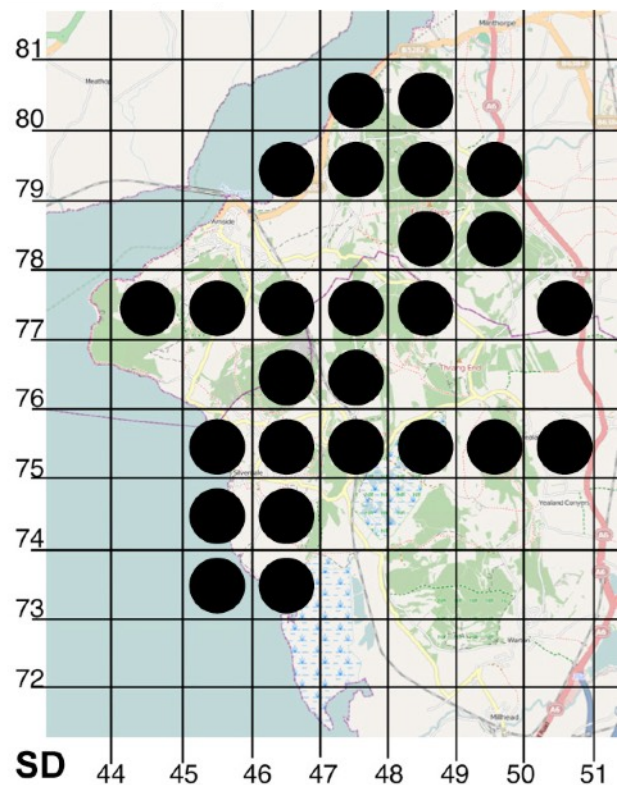
Common Name	Scientific Name	Page No.
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	11
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	27
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>	9
Balsam Poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	9
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	15
Bird Cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	21
Black Italian Poplar	<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	10
Common Lime	<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	26
Common Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	20
Corsican Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	6
Crack Willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	8
Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	12
Evergreen Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	16
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	24
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	8
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	18
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	22
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	13
Horse-chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	25
Japanese Larch	<i>Larix kaepferi</i>	5
Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	5
Large-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	26
Lombardy Poplar	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	10
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	24
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	16
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	16
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	19
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	6
Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	16
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	12
Small-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	26
Swedish Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	19
Sweet Chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	14
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	23
Turkey Oak	<i>Quercus cerris</i>	16
Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>	10
Weymouth Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	6
Wild Service-tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	20
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	21
White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	9
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	8
Wych Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	17
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	7

Scientific Name	Common Name	No of monads	Page No.
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	5	24
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	14	24
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	48	23
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	26	25
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	22	11
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	9	14
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	50	18
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	42	12
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy Birch	8	12
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	11	13
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	41	15
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	49	27
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	49	22
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	3	10
<i>Larix decidua</i>	Larch	26	5
<i>Larix kaempferi</i>	Japanese Larch	5	5
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Corsican Pine	11	6
<i>Pinus Strobus</i>	Weymouth Pine	2	6
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	27	6
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	27	21
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry	9	21
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	2	9
<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	Balsam Poplar	2	9
<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	Lombardy-poplar	2	10
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	4	9
<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	Black Italian Poplar	5	10
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	7	16
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Evergreen Oak	2	16
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak	27	16
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	28	16
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	2	16
<i>Quercus x rosacea</i>	Hybrid Oak	10	16
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	3	8
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	33	8
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	10	8
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Common Whitebeam	10	20
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	34	19
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	Swedish Whitebeam	9	19
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Wild Service Tree	8	20
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	44	7
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	21	26
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved Lime	4	26
<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Common Lime	8	26
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	34	17

Larch - *Larix decidua*

Habit: pyramidal tree to 35 metres. Leaves: deciduous, single needles. Bark: grey brown. Flowers: yellow male and red female on same tree. Fruit: seeds inside a rounded cone.

The Larch is a very fast growing tree, a conifer that sheds its needles every autumn. The cones ripen from green to brown by October or November but often remain on the tree for several years. There are several good specimens in Eaves Wood at SD466760 and on Arnside Knott at SD451772.



The other larch in the AONB is the Japanese Larch, *Larix kaempferi*. This is usually planted and has reddish brown scaly bark, greener female flowers and much broader needles with 2 grey lines on the back. It also crosses with our native larch. It can be found in 5 monads.

Scots Pine - *Pinus sylvestris*

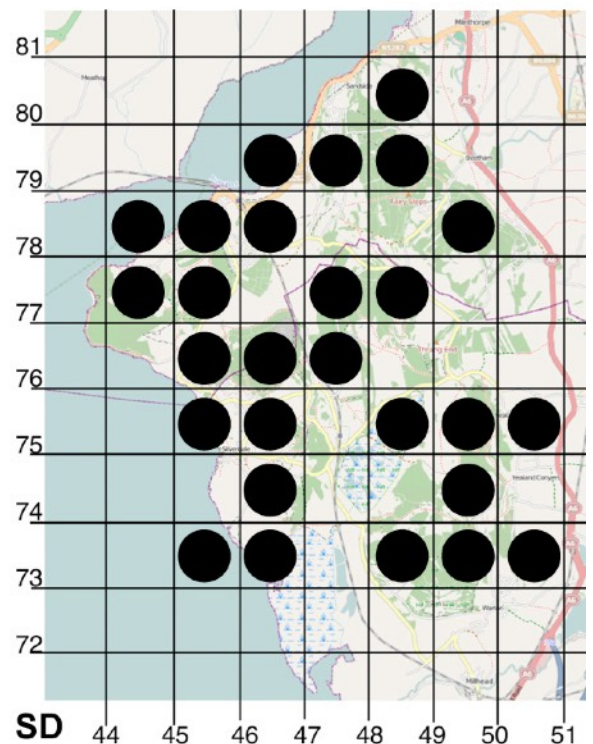
Habit: tree to 40 metres with the crown high on the trunk. Leaves: evergreen needles in pairs. Bark: red flaking. Flowers: separate male and female on the same tree. Fruit: a winged seed in a cone which ripens over 2 years.

This is our native species of pine and is now mainly found in the northern half of Britain. There are several stands in the AONB as well as many individual trees. Those growing on the limestone pavements are often much smaller in stature.

They can be found alongside Hawes Water at SD479765, Eaves Wood at SD465759 and near the top of Arnside Knott at SD453773.



Cones and needles of Scots Pine



Bark of Scots Pine

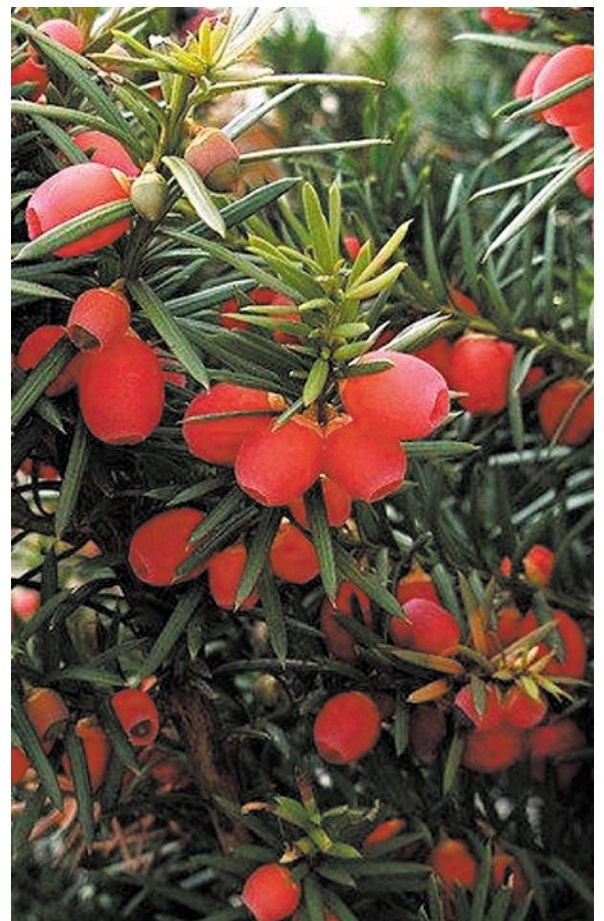
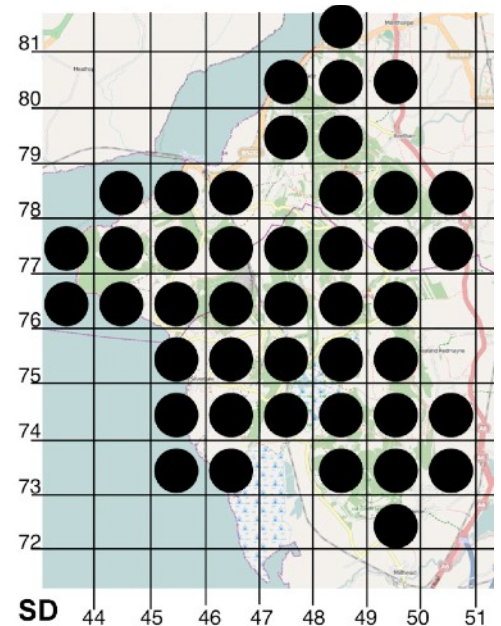
The other two species of pine found in the area are the Corsican Pine, *Pinus nigra* with its much longer needles which can be found in Beachwood at SD450783 and the Weymouth Pine, *Pinus strobus* with needles in fives which can be found in Arnside cemetery.

Yew - *Taxus baccata*

Habit: spreading tree to 25 metres. Leaves: evergreen. Bark: red flaking. Flowers: male and female on separate trees. Fruit: a hard seed with a red fleshy cup (the aril).

The Yew is one of the more common trees in our woodlands. They grow very slowly at first but can reach a very great age. There are large yew groves in several of our woodlands. Eaves Wood at SD469761 and Redhills Wood at SD459774 are good places to look. They flourish in the grikes of the limestone pavements of Gait Barrows.

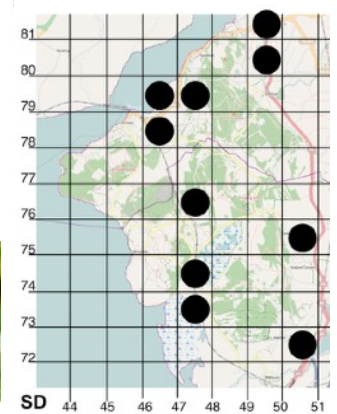
Looking at some yew trees on the shiloe slopes of Arnside Knott you can see that they have changed little over the last hundred years.



Crack Willow - *Salix fragilis*

Habit: spreading tree to 25 metres. Leaves: deciduous, toothed and shiny green when mature. Bark: grey, rugged. Flowers: male and female on separate trees. Fruit: a silky plumed seed.

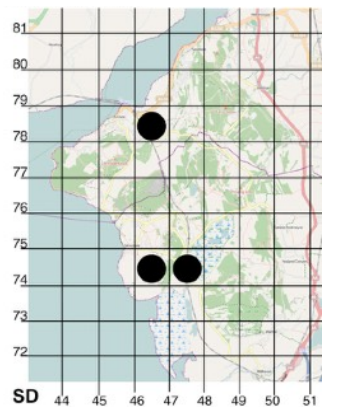
It likes wet areas and is found on most of the mosses. The trunk is short and often leaning. The twigs snap easily. Look at Arnside Moss at SD469790.



White Willow - *Salix alba*

Habit: upswept tree to 25 metres. Leaves: deciduous, silvery green when young and dark green above and silky below when mature. Bark: brown. Flowers: male and female on separate trees. Fruit: a silky plumed seed.

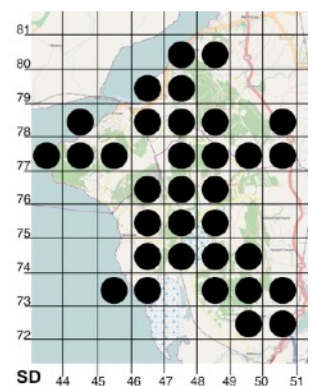
There are several good specimen trees in the area between the railway embankment and Sandside Road at SD464788.



Goat Willow - *Salix caprea*

Habit: often a shrub but in the AONB can reach 12 metres. Leaves: deciduous, oval, dull green above and silky below when mature. Bark: brown. Flowers: male and female on separate trees before the leaves. Fruit: a silky plumed seed.

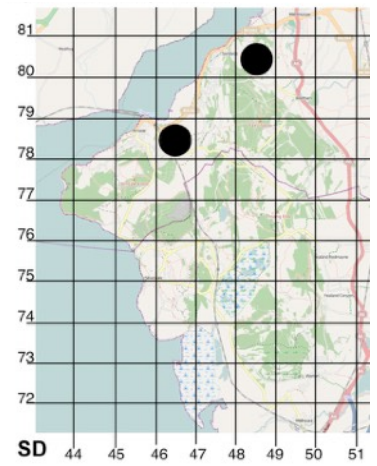
This is the most common of the tall willows. Good sized trees can be found along Sandside Road at SD468791 and in Gait Barrows at SD478775.



White Poplar - *Populus alba*

Habit: spreading tree to 20 metres, sometimes much more, often suckering at the base. Leaves: deciduous. Bark: smooth and white or grey at the top, white with diamond markings half way up and dark and cracked at the base. Flowers: male and female on separate trees. Fruit: a small cottony seed.

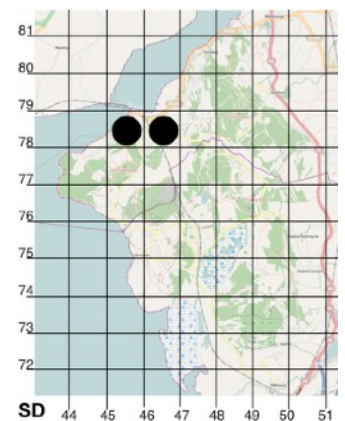
The leaves are lobed and covered completely in a white felt when first open. The upper surface changes to a dark green as the leaf ages while the underside stays a bright white. Look for it on the edge of the road from Arnside to Sandside at SD464788.



Balsam Poplar - *Populus balsamifera*

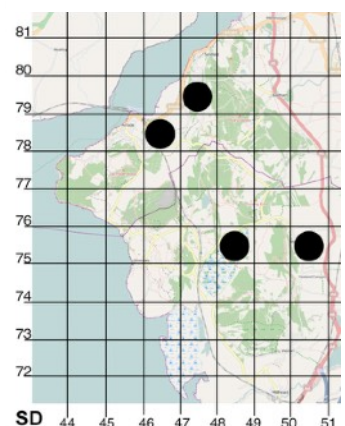
Habit: rounded tree to 35 metres, often suckering at the base. Leaves: deciduous, heart shaped, smell strongly of balsam. Bark: dull grey. Flowers: male and female on separate trees. Fruit: a small cottony seed.

Look for it on the edge of the steps from Arnside Promenade to Ashmeadow Woodland at SD454785.



Aspen - *Populus tremula*

Habit: spreading tree to 20 metres, suckers freely. Leaves: deciduous, fluttering with pale undersides. Bark: smooth, grey. Flowers: male and female on separate trees. Fruit: a small cottony seed.

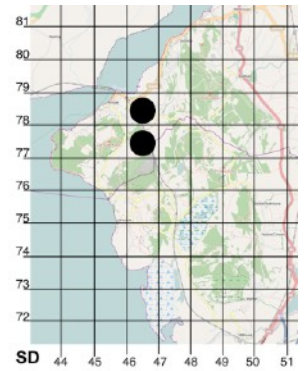


Look for it on the edge of the road from Arnside to Sandside by Carr Bank Nursery at SD471795.

Lombardy Poplar - *Populus nigra* "Italica"

Habit: columnar tree to 35 metres. Leaves: deciduous. Bark: dull grey. Flowers: male and female on separate trees. Fruit: a small cottony seed.

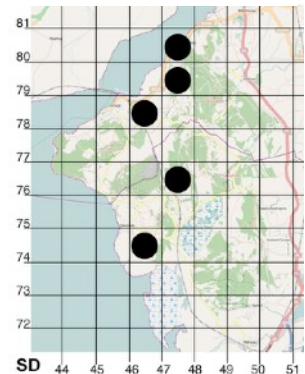
Look for it by the footpath on Arnside Moss parallel to the railway at SD464784 and near Black Dyke Road at SD463782.



Black Italian Poplar - *Populus x canadensis*

Habit: Spreading or narrow tree to 30 metres, sometimes more, often suckering at the base. Leaves: deciduous, toothed with small hairs. Bark: smooth, dull grey. Flowers: male and female on separate trees but often sterile. Fruit: a small cottony seed if produced.

Look for it in the the lane from last cottage to Hawes Water at SD479763.



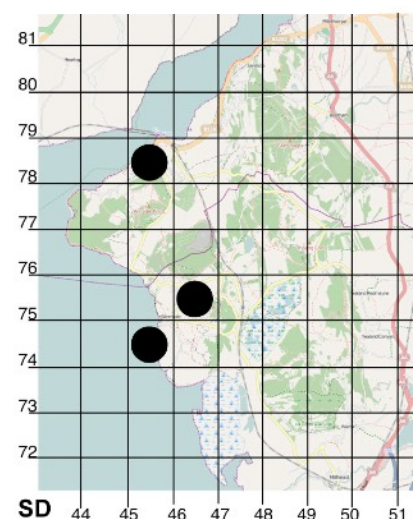
Walnut - *Juglans regia*

Habit: spreading tree to 30 metres. Leaves: deciduous, pinnate. Bark: grey . Flowers: separate long male catkins and small female white flowers on the same tree. Fruit: a nut.

This is found in old gardens and woodlands. The long male catkins grow out of the old wood and the small greenish white flowers are formed at the tip of the new growth. While the bark is a smooth grey, it can become fissured in old trees. The nut has a fleshy case which rots to expose the hard walnut shell. There is a large tree at the end of the top orchard in Ashmeadow Woodland at SD454785.



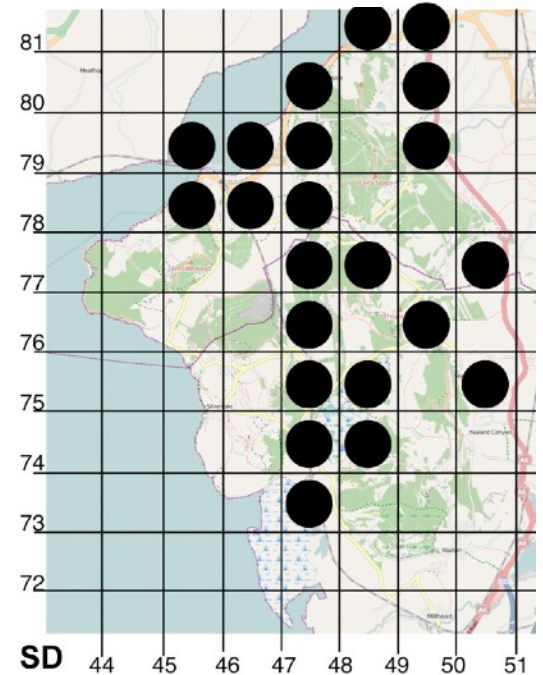
New shoots with female flowers



Alder - *Alnus glutinosa*

Habit: spreading tree to 30 metres. Leaves: deciduous. Bark: black/brown. Flowers: separate long male and short female catkins on the same tree. Fruit: a cone containing winged seeds.

The Alder loves damp ground and will happily grow in standing water. There are many good sized trees at Leighton Moss. Look alongside the path near Lilians Hide at SD477749. Many however do not get bigger than a shrub. This is especially true of the plants along the edge of Hawes Water at SD478766.



The Alder is fairly short lived for a large tree. It grows very quickly at first but its average life-span is around 100 years.

A symbiotic relationship with a nitrogen-fixing bacteria means that it can improve the fertility of the ground it is growing on.

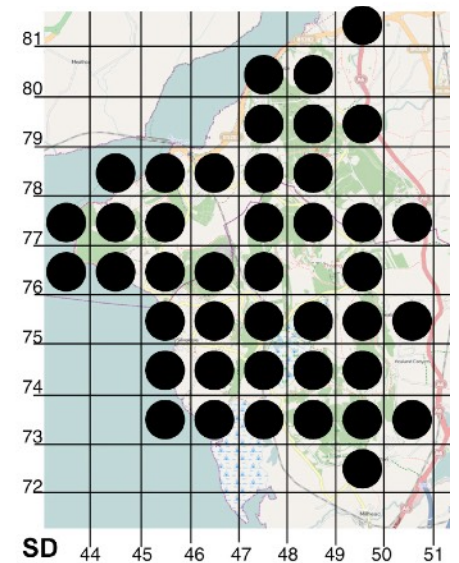
Like willow, hazel and birch it can be coppiced.

Silver Birch - *Betula pendula*

Habit: slender tree to 12 metres. Leaves: deciduous. Bark: silver, peeling. Flowers: separate male catkin and female on the same tree. Fruit: a winged nutlet.

Silver Birch is very common in the AONB. It varies considerably in height however from dwarf trees on Gait Barrows to tall specimen trees in the woodlands where the soils are deeper. The seeds are usually viable and seedlings abound. The young twigs are covered with pale resin glands. There are plenty in Eaves Wood at SD467760.

There is a very similar species, Downy Birch, *Betula pubescens*, which is found in a few locations. It has the young shoots covered in downy white hairs instead of glands. The bark is a grey or brown. Look in Gait Barrows at SD477774.



Silver Birch in Eaves Wood

Hornbeam - *Carpinus betulus*

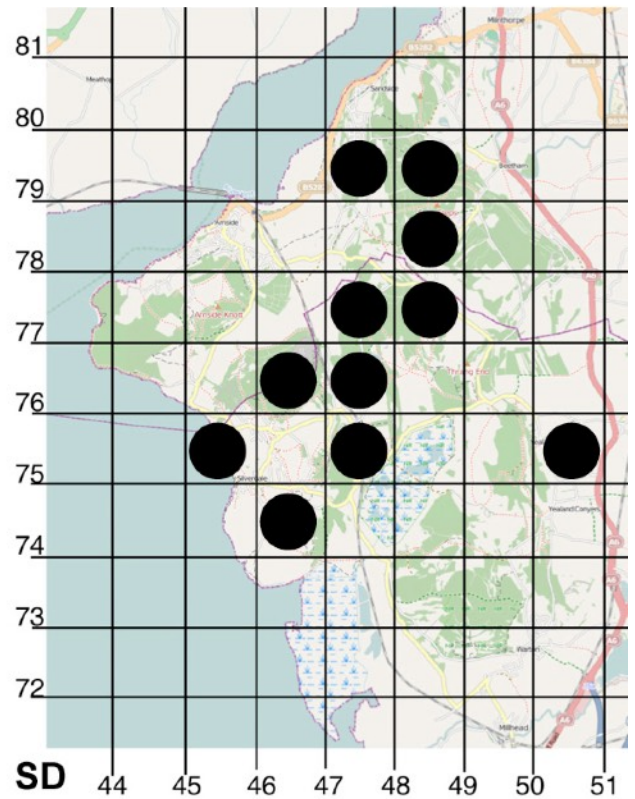
Habit: spreading tree to 19 metres. Leaves: deciduous. Bark: smooth ridged grey. Flowers: separate male catkin and female on the same tree. Fruit: a winged seed.

The leaves are similar to those of the Beech but the striped bark is distinctive. Like the Beech the dead leaves often stay on all winter.

Hornbeam is one of our often coppiced trees. Look in Gait Barrows (SD478770) where there are many very old specimens as well as lots of young trees. Also Underlaid Wood at SD482787.



Winged Hornbeam seeds

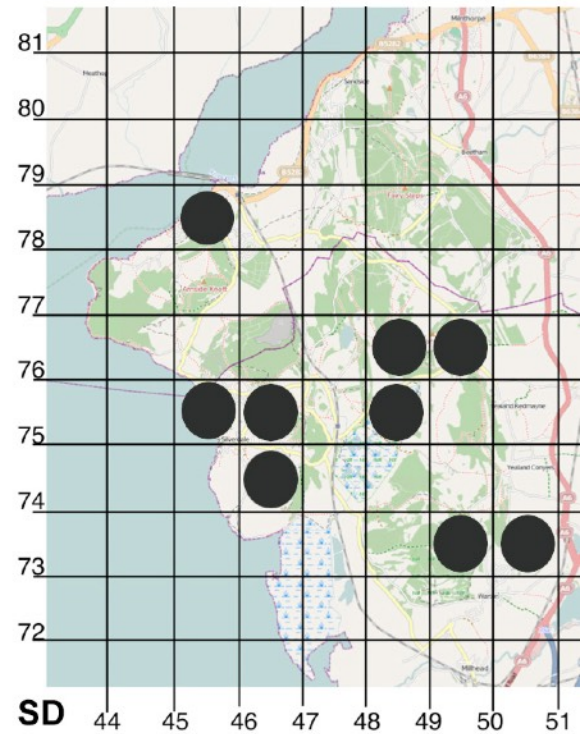


Sweet Chestnut - *Castanea sativa*

Habit: spreading tree to 30 metres. Leaves: deciduous. Bark: greyish with fissures spiraling up the trunk. Flowers: erect catkins have males at the top and females at the base. Fruit: a nut, two or three of which form inside a spiny green case.

These large trees are found scattered through the AONB. They do best on well drained, slightly acid or neutral soils.

There is a large tree at Hazelwood at SD469743. Another can be seen at SD466743.

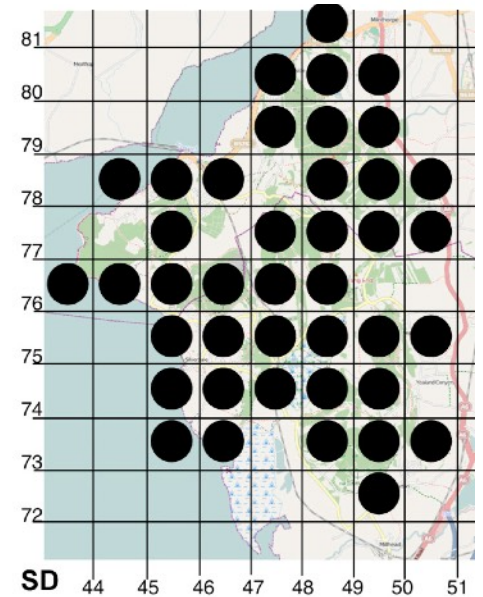


Beech - *Fagus sylvatica*

Habit: spreading tree to 40 metres. Leaves: deciduous. Bark: smooth grey . Flowers: separate male round catkins and females on the same tree. Fruit: a triangular nut.

Beech trees form a very dense canopy and not much grows beneath them. The brilliant green young foliage in spring shines out in the woods. They turn a darker green in summer and then in autumn change again to a glowing yellow. The Beech is not considered a true native this far north, however it sets seed and the young saplings grow well. The nuts are a good food source for many of our small mammals.

Beech is present in every wood in the area but large specimens can be found in Eaves Wood at SD465759 and Ashmeadow Woodlands at SD454785. Copper Beech is also found scattered through the AONB.



Sessile Oak - *Quercus petraea*

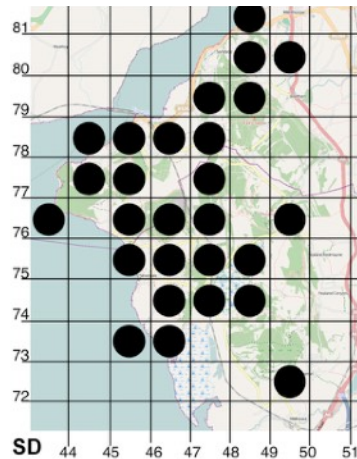
Pedunculate Oak - *Quercus robur*

Habit: spreading tree to 30m. Leaves: deciduous. Bark: rough and furrowed. Flowers: male long yellow/green catkins, female small and insignificant. Fruit: an acorn.

Both species can be found in Eaves Wood at SD470760 and Ashmeadow Woodland at SD453784. These two species together with their hybrid are the common oaks of our area. The easiest way to tell them apart is by looking at the acorns and the leaf stalks.



Sessile Oak



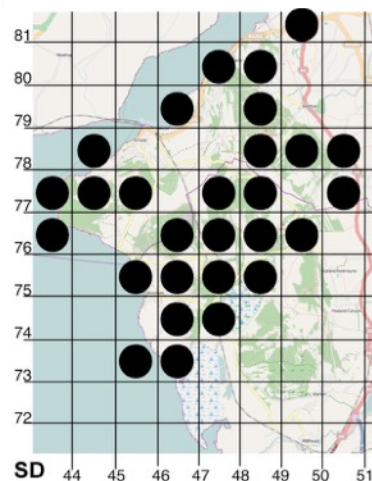
The acorns of the Sessile Oak are unstalked, growing directly on the branch with the leaves.

The leaves have definite stalks.

This oak prefers acid soils and grows where there is a reasonable depth of soil.



Pedunculate Oak



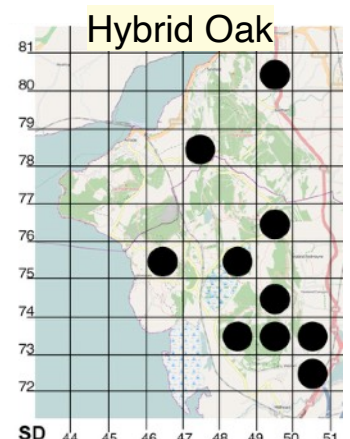
The Pedunculate Oak has acorns on a long stem and the leaves are almost stalkless.

It prefers alkaline soils and grows on the limestone pavements where it can be very stunted.

Both species are extremely long lived and can reach four to five hundred years old or even more.

They cross easily and the hybrids take characteristics from both parents. In some areas almost all the records for the oaks seem to be crosses. This is the case for Warton Crag.

Other oaks which occur in our area are the Turkey Oak, *Quercus cerris*, the Evergreen or Holm Oak, *Quercus ilex* and the Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*.



Wych Elm - *Ulmus glabra*

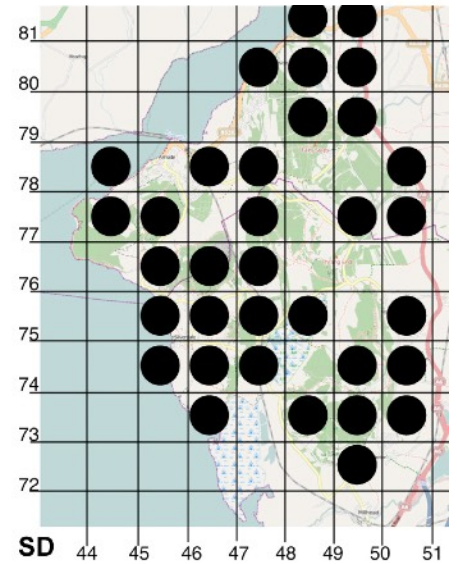
Habit: spreading tree to 40 metres. Leaves: deciduous, asymmetric and rough. Bark: smooth grey with cracks. Flowers: tiny flowers in bunches. Fruit: a seed in the middle of a papery green disc.

Wych Elm proved more resistant to Dutch Elm disease than the other species and is now the only common elm in Britain.

The asymmetric leaf base has one side much longer than the other and one side curves round the stalk. The leaves are roughly hairy above with softer hairs underneath.



Look in Coldwell Parrock at SD479778 or in Yealand Hall Allotment at SD493760.



Wych Elm seeds

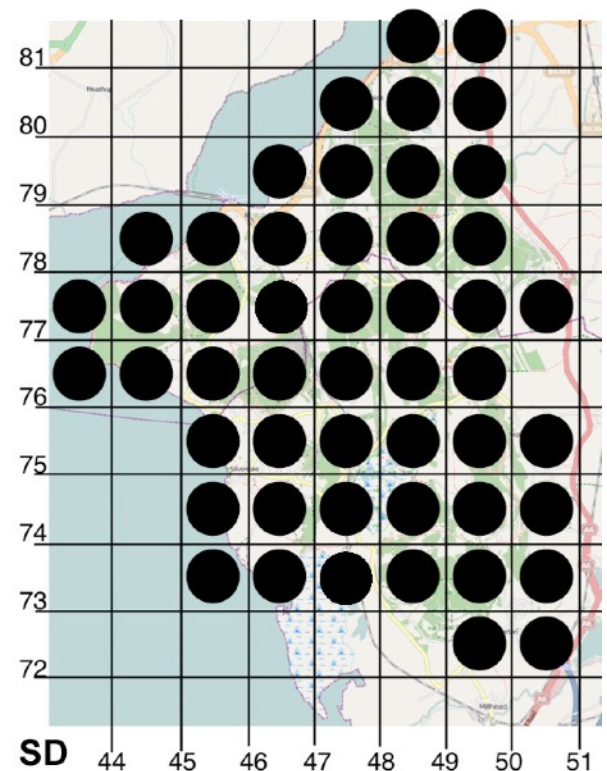
Hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna*

Habit: spreading tree to 11 metres. Leaves: deciduous. Bark: dark brown. Flowers: white in showy heads. Fruit: a bright orange red berry (drupe) with a single stone.

Hawthorn only just gets into the category of a tree. It is mainly used as a hedging plant but where it is bird sown at the edges of meadows or where the hedges are allowed to grow untended it can reach over 10 m. The white, slightly unpleasant smelling flowers come out at the same time as the leaves, unlike the smaller blackthorn.

This is one of the plants that is visited by the redwings and fieldfares in the winter.

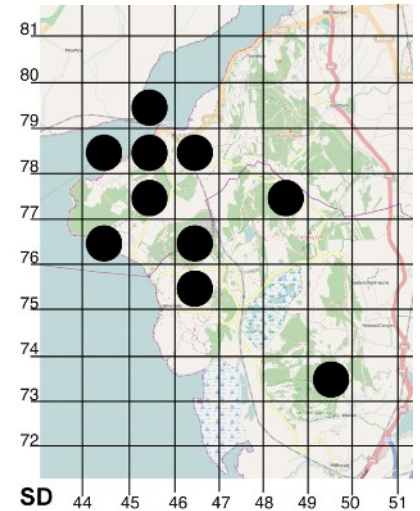
Look for it in almost any overgrown hedgerow.



Common Whitebeam - *Sorbus aria*

Habit: upright tree to 25 metres. Leaves: deciduous, green above and white below. Bark: smooth brown. Flowers: white in showy heads. Fruit: a bright orange red berry.

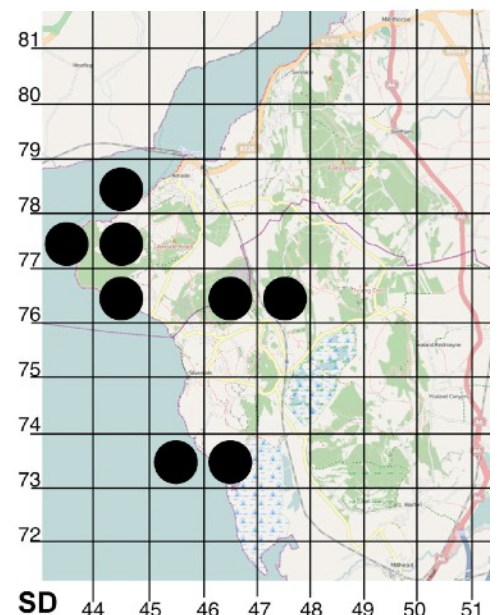
This is a very noticeable tree, especially when the leaves are young. It is a tree of the limestone areas. The white flowers are followed by red berries much loved by the birds. Look for it in along Arnside Shore at SD488782.



Wild Service-tree - *Sorbus torminalis*

Habit: upright tree to 25 metres. Leaves: deeply lobed, deciduous, green above, white below when young. Bark: smooth brown. Flowers: white in showy heads. Fruit: a brown fleshy berry.

While not as common as the Whitebeam it is found scattered around our AONB. Look along the White Creek coast path at SD437772 or just off the path from Middlebarrow Quarry to Eaves Wood at SD468765

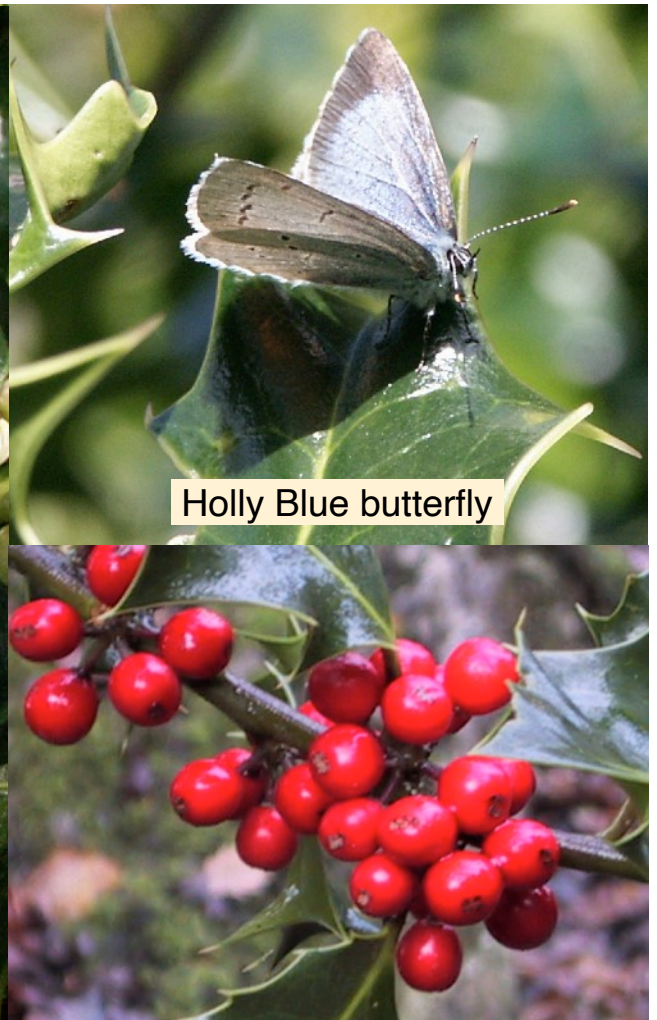
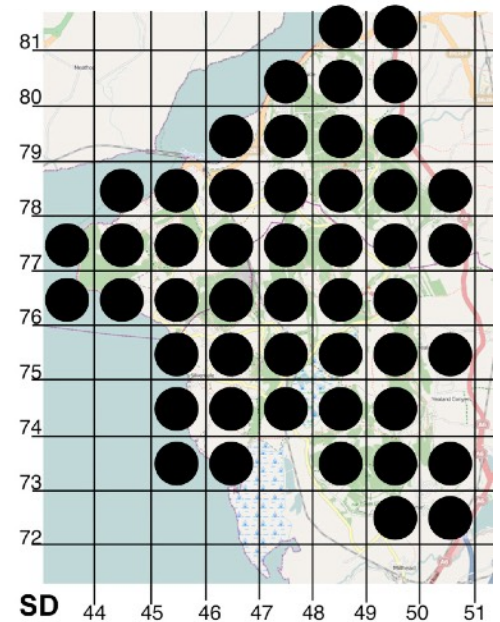


Holly - *Ilex aquifolium*

Habit: upright tree to 22 metres. Leaves: evergreen, prickly. Bark: silvery grey. Flowers: Male and female both white on separate trees. Fruit: red berry.

Like the Yew, the Holly is one of the most common trees in the AONB. The seeds, which are spread by birds, germinate well and the seedlings grow rapidly. You can find it in almost any stand of trees, any hedgerow or even in cracks in the limestone pavement. Both male and female flowers are white. Female flowers have a green centre and male flowers have stamens. They are one of the main sources of food for the Holly Blue Butterfly which lays its eggs on the flower buds for the caterpillars to eat.

You can find Holly in Ashmeadow Woodlands at SD453785 or in Eaves Wood at SD465759.

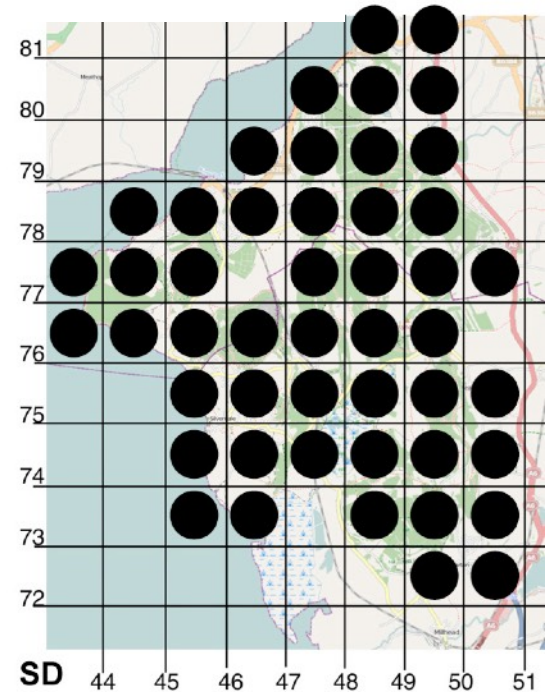


Sycamore - *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Habit: spreading tree to 35 metres. Leaves: deciduous, five lobed. Bark: grey brown cracking into squares. Flowers: very small yellow in long hanging racemes. Fruit: a seed with two green wings tinged with red.

The Sycamore grows everywhere. It can be found in hedges, woods, growing out of cracks in pavements and along field edges. The winged seeds travel some distance and germinate readily.

Look between Heald Brow and Brown's Houses at SD467739 or Yealand Hall Allotment at SD493761.



Horse-chestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum*

Habit: spreading tree to 35 metres. Leaves: deciduous, five to seven fingers. Bark: red brown or grey brown. Flowers: white with yellow or pink in long panicles. Fruit: green with short spikes on it containing a shiny brown conker.

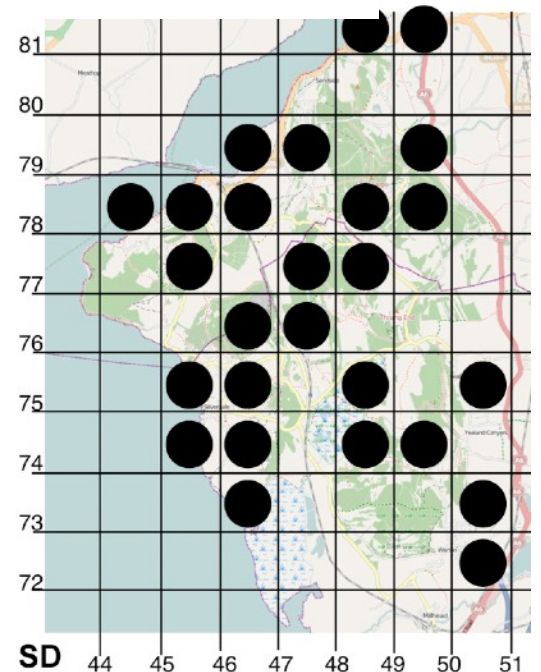
While not widespread by any means in the AONB this occurs in most monads. It forms a very large tree and the conkers mean it is a favourite with children. The sticky buds in spring also make it easy to identify.

Many trees have been showing signs of stress since 2010 and it may be that many mature trees fall prey to the fungal diseases that are prevalent at the moment.

Apart from those in many gardens a large tree can be found just off Leighton Moss Road at the small gate into the northern area of the RSPB reserve at SD487758. A large specimen can also be found at Challon Hall Woods at SD474765.



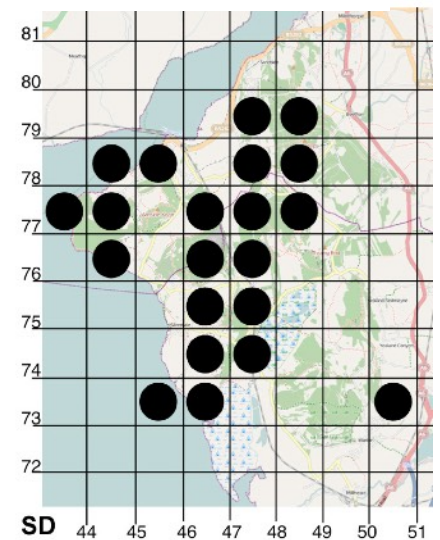
Sticky bud



Small-leaved Lime - *Tilia cordata*

Habit: upright tree to 30 metres. Leaves: deciduous, serrated with reddish hairs in the axils. Bark: grey brown cracking lengthways. Flowers: small sweet-smelling greenish yellow in an erect cluster. Fruit: a cluster of globular nut like capsules (each about 0.6cm long) with a long papery bract above.

This is the more common of our lime trees. It suckers freely at the base. Look at the bottom of Heald Brow near the footpath at the edge of the relict of ancient woodland. There are several north of the saltmarsh at SD468736 or in Eaves Wood at SD470761.

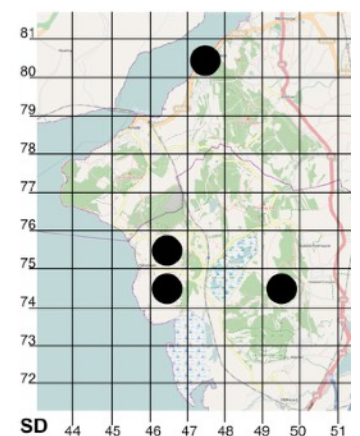


Large-leaved Lime - *Tilia platyphyllos*

Habit: upright tree to 35 metres. Leaves: deciduous, serrated with white hairs in the axils. Bark: grey brown cracking lengthways. Flowers: small sweet-smelling greenish yellow in a dropping cluster. Fruit: a cluster of globular nut like capsules (each about 1.2 cm long) with a long papery bract above.



Look for this on Lindeth Road opposite Wolf House at SD462742 or on Woodlands Drive, Silverdale at SD465757.



Common Lime - *Tilia x europaea* is a cross of the above two species.

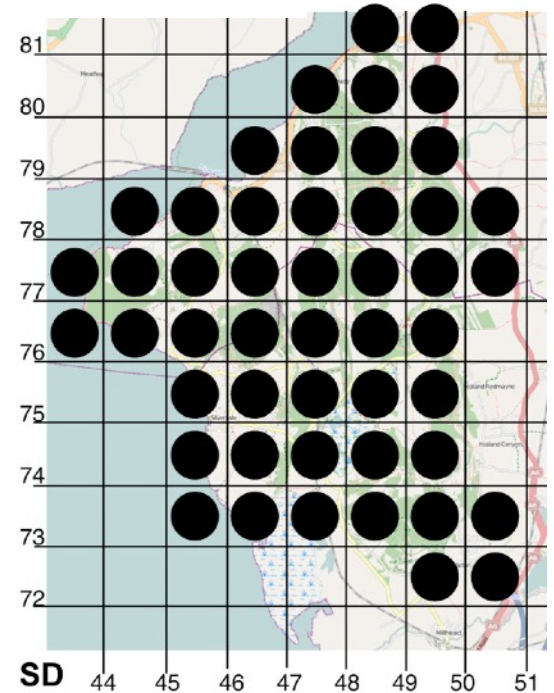
Ash - *Fraxinus excelsior*

Habit: upright tree to 30 metres. Leaves: deciduous, pinnate with black buds. Bark: smooth grey. Flowers: no petals but red/black stamens. Fruit: a seed with a single wing.

The ash tree is found in great numbers throughout the AONB. If you look beneath any large ash you will see a myriad of small seedlings. These grow to around 30 cm tall and then wait for many years until there is a space in the canopy when they race for the sky.

However Ash die-back which is caused by a fungus is decimating the trees. Even seedlings are dying. Some of the mature trees look as though they may have some resistance. Look for lesions on the bark and dying leaves in early summer. It is too early to tell if we will lose our Ash woodlands altogether or if a resistant strain will manage to fight off the fungus.

Look in Eaves Wood at SD465759 or Grubbins Wood at SD445778.



Ash flowerbud



Sycamore in Winter, Arnside



Silver Birch at sunset, Storth



Challon Hall Woods in Winter, from Arnside Knott