

Foreword

I was very pleased to be given the opportunity to write a foreword to this publication.

The Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is one of 40 AONBs in England and Wales which, together with National Parks, represent our finest landscapes. Landscape means more than just 'scenery' and encompasses everything that makes an area distinctive: geology, climate, soil, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings and the people who live in it, past and present.

This book is an excellent introduction to part of that landscape: the Orchards of the AONB. Building on work carried out in the early nineties, Phil has delved into the past and brought to life people's memories of orchard planting and apple picking and introduced us to some local characters. He has shown us how fruit growing played an important part in the Area's history and has described to us to the subtleties of the different fruit varieties.

However, there is undoubtedly more to discover and I would urge you to let us know of any orchards and/or apple varieties which have been omitted. Phil's detective work is ongoing and I look forward to reading future publications of his findings which will hopefully fill some of the existing gaps in our knowledge of this Area's wonderful heritage.

Ian E Henderson

AONB Manager 2006



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Introduction

In the early 1990s an orchard survey was conducted in the Arnside and Silverdale
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Questionnaires returned from fruit tree owners
showed there to be a wide range of apple, plum, damson and pear varieties being grown in
many orchards and gardens.

The survey also unearthed information about previous orchards in the area, the people who owned and tended them and the places to which fruit had been sold in the past.

Further work, made possible by financial support from the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund, has now been done to investigate, nurture and promote the AONB's special heritage as an historical fruit growing area.

The aims of this ongoing project are:

Discover the recent history of selected orchards in the AONB including the recording of personal memories associated with them.

Gather further information about the fruit varieties grown in the AONB. This includes identification work and consideration of rare and unusual varieties for conservation.

Identify any orchards in the Area that can be practicably restored.



Provide advice on fruit tree maintenance, new planting, grant funding and marketing of fruit.

> Promote the unique qualities and biodiversity of orchards in the Arnside and Silverdale AONB.

Enthuse and inspire fruit tree keepers throughout the AONB and more widely.

Achieving these aims will deliver the Actions for orchards set out in the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Management Plan (2004).





History

We know that orchards have been a feature of the Arnside and Silverdale AONB landscape for a long time. Records of the Dallam Estate from the early 1600s refer to the presence of orchards in the Haverbrack area.



Allington Pappin



Scotch Bridget



Bismark



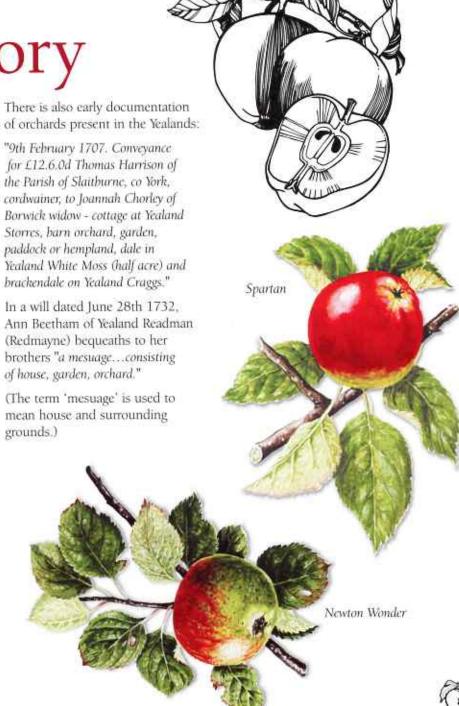
History

The records show that a 'licence to alienate' (i.e. transfer property) was granted on 1st November 1609 by James I to Roland and Jane Thornburghe, and John and Francis Preston. The portion of estate which was transferred included fourteen houses with their surrounding grounds, "one dovecot, fourteen gardens, ten orchards...in Haverbrack, Bethome and Mylthropp".

Another legal document in the eighteenth century shows a new tenant for these orchards:

"Manor of Bethom in the County of Westmorland 14th June 1737. Then received of William Dinely The Sum of Five Pounds Eight Shillings for a General Fine due upon the Death of the Right Honourable James, Earl of Derby late lord of the said Manor for a mesuage and tenement with the Appurtenances Consisting of an House and Authorising Seven Bays with the Garden and Orchard And Several Closes call'd the Orchard beyond the Tower".

The annual rent was 6s 5d.

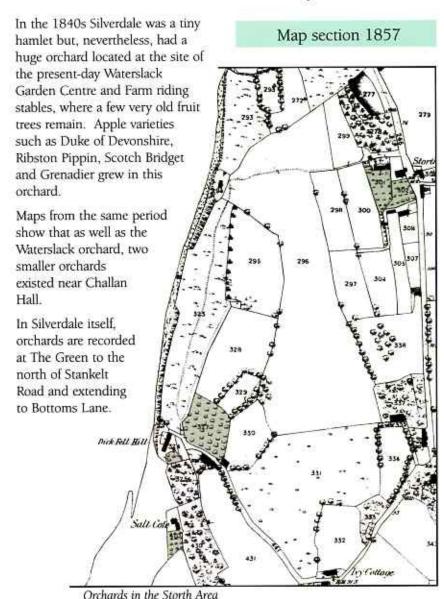


Maps and written material from the mid-eighteenth century show the Arnside area to be sparsely populated. Nevertheless, orchards were in existence at this time; Saltcotes Hall is documented with an orchard in its vicinity.

In the late eighteenth century, account records of estate farms included the existence of orchards at Beetham Hall Farm, Beetham Parsonage Farm, Hollins Hill Farm, New Barn Farm and Hazelslack Farm. Hazelslack, where fruit trees can still be seen today, is listed as having three orchards.

The history of fruit trees in the grounds of Ashmeadow can also be traced back to over two centuries ago. The following two references are testimony that today's Ashmeadow fruit trees are in fact the remnants of a very productive orchard. "a remarkable orchard for bearing well" at the site described in the Beetham Repository of 1770 is referred to in A Brief History of Ashmeadow Arnside by Ann Kitchen. An 1829 Gazetteer of Cumberland and Westmorland states

"the plantations about Ashmeadow are in a thriving condition and the fruit trees extremely luxuriant although they are many of them within a few yards of high water mark."



Smaller orchards are shown at the Row along Cove Lane, where there is still an orchard today, and one named "Slack Orchard" was located on the coast south of Cove House.

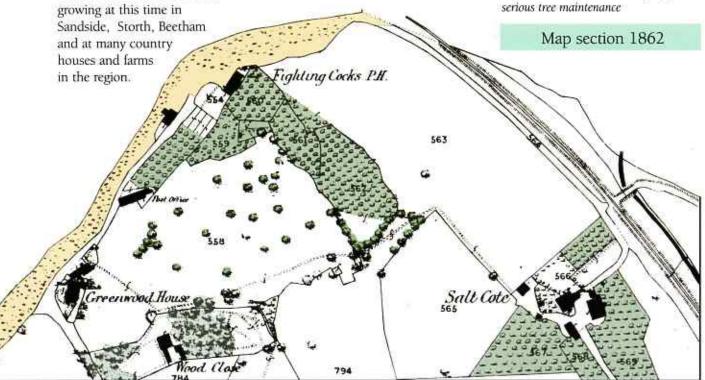
Extensive orchards are shown on maps of the Arnside area which were published in 1862, reaching as far west as the Post Office and extending southwards from the Fighting Cocks Inn. At this time, substantial orchards existed around and above Saltcotes Hall and also in the Orchard Road locality.

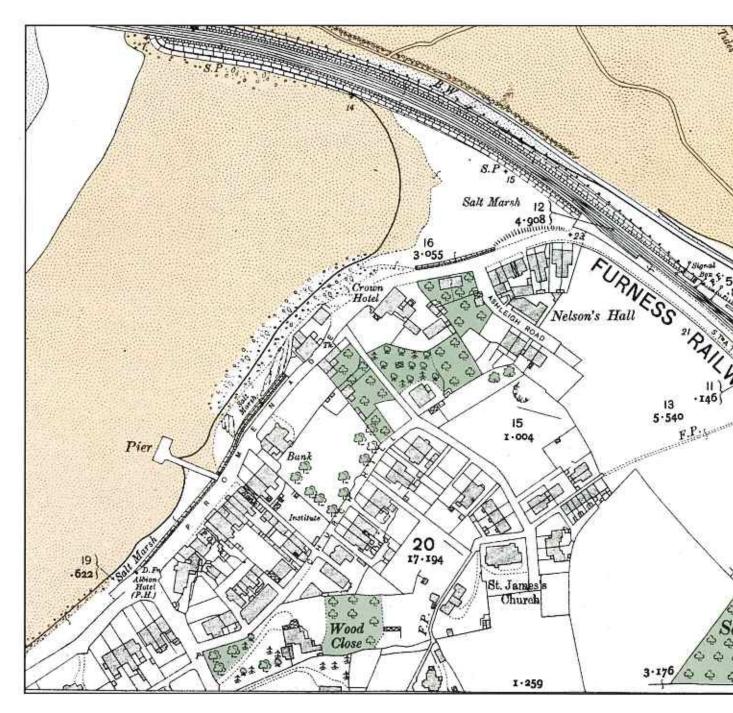
There is also evidence of fruit

Nearly thirty years later, the 1891
O.S. map reveals expanding
orchards on the slopes near Yealand
Redmayne, near Hale and also near
Warton. From further map studies,
it appears that planting of fruit
trees continued in our region until
at least the 1930s. For instance,
newly planted orchards appear
along Carr Bank Road on a 1913
O.S. map yet there is no evidence
of their existence on an 1898
extract. The orchards at Moss
House and Carr Bank are marked
on earlier maps.

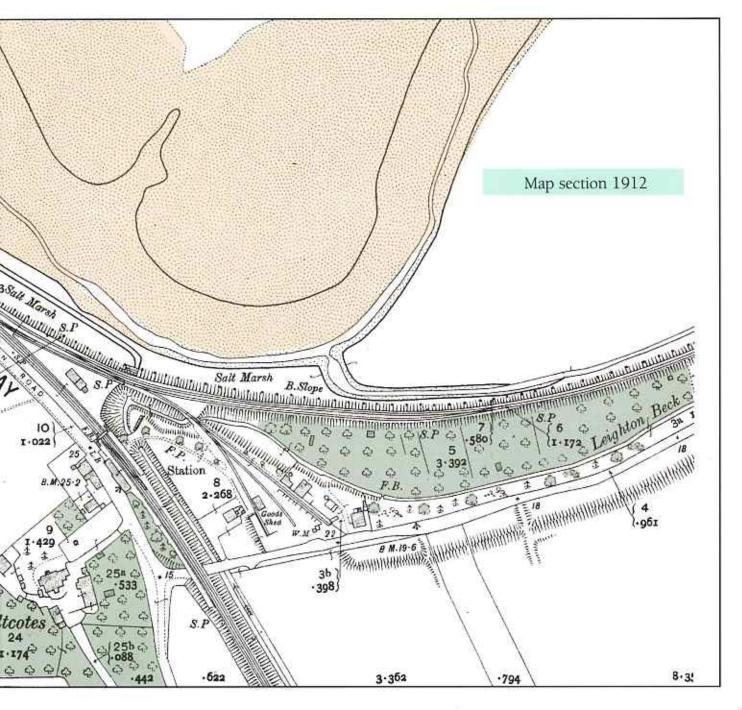


Saltcotes Hall Orchard undergoing some serious tree maintenance











During and following Victorian times, the population of the Arnside and Silverdale area expanded, hand-in-hand with the establishment of commercial orchards to produce fruit not only for local needs but also for markets further afield.

Reliable fruit varieties were selected according to their season of ripening and their keeping qualities.



Glenside, Silverdale



Eimestones, Warton



Hazel Hall Lodge, Silverdale

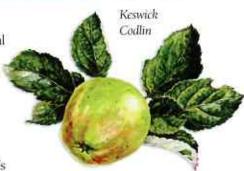
Beachwood, Arnside

In 1883, apples were sent to the Royal Horticultural Society National Apple Congress in London from the Beachwood orchard. A written record has been kept of the Congress' proceedings, the comments of exhibitors and the apple varieties on show.

The records show that Beachwood's exhibited apples came from trees planted in 1776, grafted on to crab apple stock and grown "on the seashore, with a north aspect, very much exposed, suffering very much from the west winds and receiving no sun before midday. Soil, 12 inches of moderate loam; subsoil, a reddish clay, wet and poor." Poor conditions indeed! However, a further comment suggests that crab apple stock is suited to this growing situation, being "the only fit one for this locality, as several varieties on other stock canker very much here."

What did the Royal Horticultural Society judges think of the apples?

They were not impressed; the exhibits "were all small, very deficient in colouring, being green and unripe looking and all more or less acid." We should perhaps remember that the trees were 107 years old in 1883.



However, whilst those London exhibits may have lacked quality, Beachwood in the 1880s does not appear to have lacked variety in its apple growing. The judges also commented that Beachwood had "an extremely interesting collection of old English apples now seldom to be met with", the same varieties having been grown there for over 200 years. Beachwood kept 11 types of dessert apples and 12 kinds of culinary apples.

Dessert apples
Court Pendu Plat
Cox's Orange Pippin
Kerry Pippin
King of the Pippins
Margil
Newtown Pippin
Red Astrachan
Ribston Pippin
Scarlet Nonpareil
Sturmer Pippin
Sykehouse Russet

Culinary apples
Bedfordshire Foundling
Keswick Codlin
King Apple
Lord Suffield
Nelson's Glory (Warner's King)
Normanton Wonder (Dumelow's Seedling)
Northern Greening
Northern Spy
Prussian Pippin
Ringer
Royal Russet
Scotch Bridget

Perhaps Beachwood played a part, for a while, in keeping some of these varieties alive in this country, as all except King Apple and Prussian Pippin are still available.

King Apple and Prussian Pippin are considered to be "missing" now. This means they are not present in the national fruit collection at Brogdale in Kent nor have they been recorded since Victorian times. As for Beachwood's orchards, these too have declined.

Today, only some dead and



Sturmer Pippin





When the interior of the walled garden at Yealand Manor, established in the 1820s, was cleared some years ago, a number of named metal discs were retrieved. These provided evidence that King of Pippins, Nelson's Glory (Warner's King),

Scarlet Pearmain and Tower of Glammis were grown in the garden.

Pears (Doyenne du Comice and Beurre Diel) and the Jefferson Plum were grown too.

These varieties are likely to be a small fraction of all the fruits which would have been cultivated in the Yealand Manor garden.



labelling of different varities

Worcester Pearmain

Glenside, Red Bridge Lane, Silverdale

Glenside, with its orchard of 2.6 acres, is known to have been selling apples, plums and damsons from its doorstep as well as at Lancaster market. A resident of Arnside has recounted that he can remember visiting Glenside orchard in 1930 where he bought plums for 9d a pound. He thought this an exorbitant amount compared with his 30s a week mill-workers' wage.

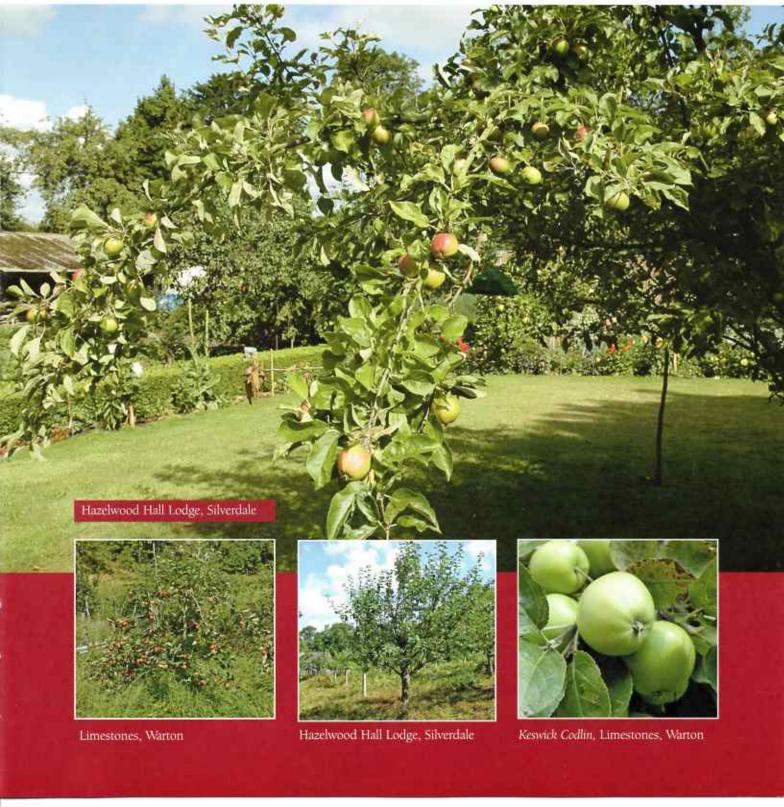
Glenside orchard was originally owned as a commercial concern in the 1920s by the Edmundson family and then sold to the Burgess family. Members of the Burgess family still run a stall on Lancaster market but cheeses are their speciality today.

The remnant Glenside orchard. which would have held over 300 trees when in its prime, is still one of the largest in the region today, consisting of approximately 140 fruit trees, a quarter of which are plum varieties. Interestingly, three

old trees are each grafted with two apple varities. One tree has grafts of Bismark and Scotch Bridget, the other two both feature Worcester Pearmain and Scotch Bridget.

Red Bridge Barn

This orchard, of just over half an acre, is next to Glenside. It is known to have been established much earlier than Glenside. appearing on maps in 1846.



Orchard Barn, Briery Bank, Arnside

Over 130 trees are grown at the present-day Orchard Barn. As older trees die, they are replaced with various new fruit trees.

There is evidence of an orchard at this site, possibly connected to Saltcotes Hall, as far back as the 1750s. However the orchard we see today originates from a replanting in the 1890s.

A visitor to the 2005 Apple Day at Orchard Barn, Peter Knight, caused much excitement when he produced a photograph of the Whinrey family. Thomas Whinrey, who would have been in his late 60s at the time and who was born in Arnside, and his wife Ellin, instigated the 1890s replanting.

Meanwhile, the present owners of Orchard Barn, Peter Goulder and Sheila Porter, have discovered several old wooden fruit boxes in an

outbuilding which are variously marked with "Docker Bros., Carlisle" and "Edward Mee & Sons, Fruit Merchants, Holmes Chapel."

There are memories of boxes of apples being taken to Arnside railway station in the 1930s so we can surmise that use was made of the railway network for distribution of fruits.

It seems possible that surplus produce could have been sent to Carlisle from Orchard Barn, in order to supplement the fruit markets there. However the connection, if there is one, with Holmes Chapel, Cheshire is puzzling because there have been large commercial orchards and fruit farms in that area. It seems unlikely that Cheshire would have a demand for imports.

However we can be almost certain that damsons from the Briery Bank area went to Yorkshire. There are memories of the Moorhouse jam company, based in the Leeds area, taking damsons away by lorry.

A large range of apple varieties is to be found amongst the older trees at Orchard Barn today.

Tom Putt and Herrings Pippin grow here; the latter is not known to exist anywhere else in the region.





Members of the Whinrey Family 1890

Also of interest, are individual trees grafted with two varities e.g. Herrings Pippin with Allington Pippin, Ribston Pippin on the same tree as Grenadier.

Guard Hill Farm, Sandside

Guard Hill Farm, Sandside is known to have produced Grenadier apples. There are recollections of the fruit being sold in Milnthorpe market and also sent to Barrow market by train in the 1940s. Unfortunately these Grenadier apple trees have disappeared during the last 30 years.



Stankelt Road, Silverdale

Seven apple trees remain in this orchard today, including Keswick Codlin, Allington Pippin and Lane's Prince Albert. The orchard is situated next to a footpath which runs alongside Stankelt Road and parallel to Lindeth Road. James Gardiner bought a plot of land alongside this path in the 1920s, planted an orchard and grew vegetables. He set up a small greengrocery business and must have been a familiar sight as he travelled with his cart and horse Pontius Pilate, selling his produce locally. James' dog, Kaiser Bill, travelled with him too and reputedly



Limestones, Warton

It was James Gardiner's younger brother Tom who set up the Limestones orchard on the west side of Warton Crag. The orchard was planted on the south-facing slopes of a limestone ridge.

It is thought that Tom sold his fruit to his brother. Many of the trees in Limestones still survive today, tended by James Gardiner's grandson, Jim, who has also planted young fruit trees there. This is a lovely example of the AONB's orchard heritage continuing to thrive.



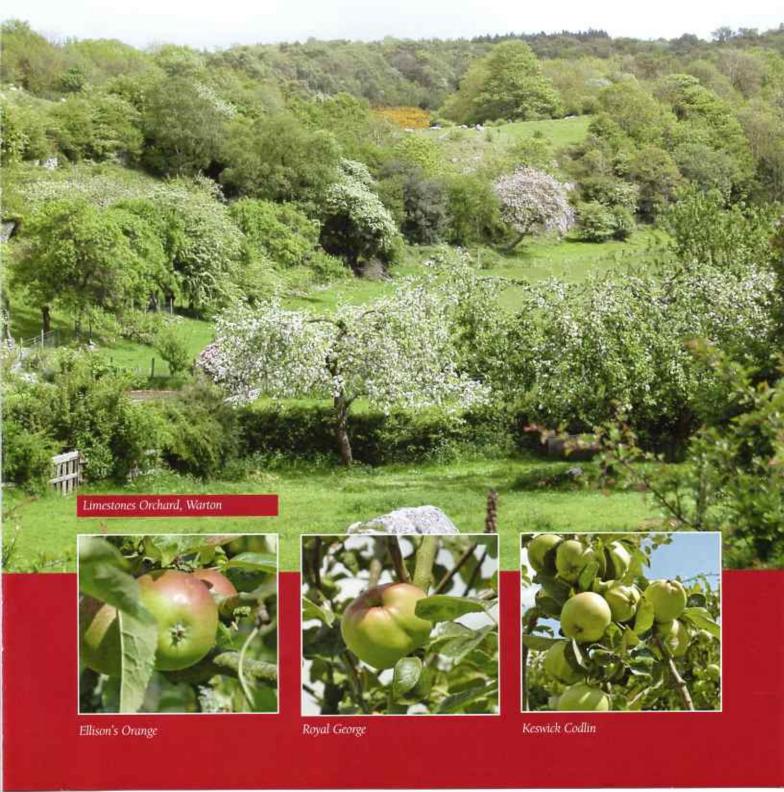
Lord Derby

The Grove, Shore Road, Silverale

Jim Bolton, who was a schoolboy in Silverdale during the 1940s, has provided us with memories of The Grove. He remembers picking apples from the trees, and the chore of gathering damsons. In those days, the fruit harvest was an important event for which a cousin came all the way from Barrow in order to help. The ripening apples, damsons and plums were inspected by a representative from Hartleys jam company and then later collected in hessian bags.

Jim can remember Bramley, Scotch Bridget and Beauty of Bath apples, also a strawberry apple with red stripes. This is intriguing as we have records of two "missing" northern apple varieties called Summer Strawberry and Strawberry Apple.





Richmond Hill, Silverdale

At Richmond Hill, the Richmond sisters have fond memories of the orchard planted by their grandfather as part of a three acre market garden. As children they were prevented from climbing most of the trees in case they caused damage but scaling the crab apple tree was allowed. Every year the orchard trees were sprayed with tar oil and on one occasion they remember a very scented purple violet under the Worcester Pearmain being killed during the spraying, which was not appreciated!

Sometime before the Second World War, the apple house at Richmond Hill was converted into a hen-house with a lean-to on its side called a scratching shed. When war broke out in 1939, the building was returned to its original purpose as an apple store.

A local joiner was employed to put in the shelves and slatting. Apples were sold at the family's local paper shop where the fruit was much sought after, especially the Loddington variety.

The sisters can remember apple varieties Stirling Castle and Lady Henniker growing in the orchard, but their favourite was the Loddington. It was a good keeper and could be available for eating until March. Sowman's Seedling was also grown, this variety having been introduced by A. G. Sowman at Hutton Agricultural College, near Preston in 1914.

We have another record of Mr. Sowman from a lecture that he gave in January 1923, during which he is reported in the Preston Guardian as saying



Scotch Bridget

"Two very popular varieties in Lancashire, though little known further afield, were Scotch Bridget and Proctor's Seedling. Both dated back probably 100 years."



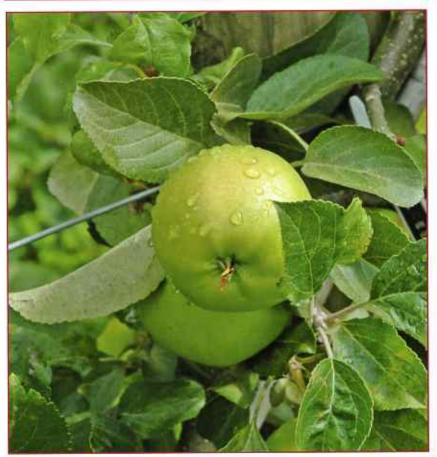
Richmond Apple Store



Richmond House Apple Store



Hazelwood Hall Lodge, Silverdale











Roger Walton grows many modern apple varieties in the grounds of his well tended walled garden in Silverdale. They are trained as cordons and Roger has assessed their growing and tasting qualities. His favourites are Fiesta, Suntan, Sunset and Katy. He finds that Falstaff and Jupiter are also acceptable. Pears, plums, cherries and soft fruit also thrive in the garden and there is an impressive espalier of a Conference pear tree on a south facing wall,



Hazelwood Hall specimens









Lake View, Red Bridge Lane, Silverdale

Dating from the 1970s, this well-established orchard now boasts a fine collection of old and modern apples. Several of the trees are the product of the owner's own skilful grafting. If a tree is not doing well, it will be regrafted to create a different variety. The owner, John Walker, has won many prizes in local shows with his Discovery apples, but his favourites are Jupiter and Crispin (Mitsu), both modern varieties. He is also impressed with the qualities of Monarch, a Victorian culinary apple, raised in 1888 and introduced in 1918. It is a strain which appears to do well in the wet climate of the North West of England.

Discovery

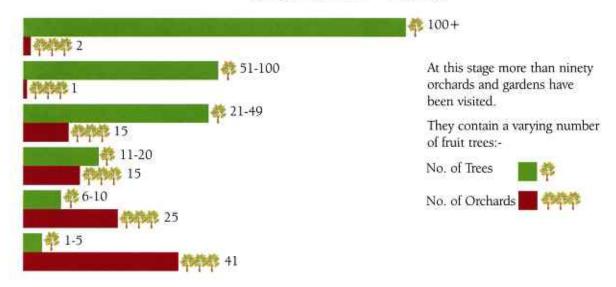


Ivy Bank, Lindeth Road, Silverdale

Brian Dobson grows many traditional and modern varieties of
apple in his orchard in
Silverdale. Some of the
trees date from the 1920s
but perhaps the oldest is
the 100 year old Cox's
Orange Pippin. Three younger
pear trees – Conference, Williams
Bon Chretien and Doyenne de
Comice - are also included in his
collection.



Orchards Visits



Condition of Orchards

The condition of many older orchards within the AONB has deteriorated over the years. A large number are in need of concentrated restorative work in order to ensure survival. Returning such orchards to their original condition or plantings may require resources from outside the region. For example, one apple tree situated in an ancient orchard and bearing unidentified apples not seen anywhere else in the locality recently died without graftwood being taken. On the other hand, many old orchards are still thriving and yielding well. In some cases, ingenious structures have been devised to ensure that trees stay upright, a tribute to the efforts of their keepers!

Carr bank area - Mère de Ménage



Cove House - Jonathan



Apple Varieties and Identification

The collection of data on fruit varieties in the AONB is a continuing process. At the time of writing, not every orchard in the AONB has been visited and there could be "hidden" trees in gardens, awaiting discovery.

Of the orchards that have been visited, some trees had no fruit on display and so require another survey in order to establish their variety. Of the fruit that has been collected, not all has been positively identified.

Information has been kept on all the fruits found so far in the AONB but priority is being given to the identification of apples in older orchards. However, as many growers in the AONB have planted newer fruit varieties, comments about the quality of these modern apples have also been recorded.

Detailed records have been discovered of several "missing" northern apple varieties having been grown here in the past; perhaps some of these actually still exist. If so, then it is important to locate them and take grafts to ensure their survival. It is thought that two "missing" apple varieties have already been discovered.

Apples far outnumber other fruits grown in the region and it is notable that few pear trees are kept in comparison with other orchards in Lancashire. For example, in the old orchards of Eccleston, Bretherton and Croston, in the south of the county, pears are heavily favoured over apples.



Identification of Apples

Identification of apples can be complicated by the fact that a mystery tree may be an old recorded variety or a seedling. Pips sown in the ground do not generally "come true" to the fruit of the parent tree and therefore new varieties are spawned.

In the 1920s Edward Bunyard commented on the Blenheim Orange apple,

"There are doubtless many seedlings now in cultivation which closely resemble this fine variety, but are not quite identical". An apple thought to be a cross between a Loddington and Lord Derby has been found in Silverdale.

At a recent Apple Day in the south of England a visitor asked the knowledgeable and well-qualified pomologist how many apples he should bring from his tree for identification. "A bucketful!" was the reply, aptly summing up the

amount of difficulty which an apple identifier can face.

In his "Handbook of Hardy Fruits"
Bunyard states that "It is extremely
difficult if not impossible to formulate
a key classification to apples".
Nevertheless he produced one in
which he describes five different
apple shapes; flat, round, conical,
oblong and oval. John Bultitude
goes into more detail and describes
nine shapes in his book "Apples: a
Guide to the Identification of
International Varieties".

Shape, size, colour, skin texture, taste and season of ripening provide the first clues when identifying an apple. However, in order to make a reasoned judgement of an apple's variety, it is usual to examine other characteristics such as the stalk and stalk cavity, the eye (clove-like sepals within the basin at the apex), the presence of russet and surface lenticels (tiny pores), and the shape of the core when the apple is cut open.

Examples of how various features can appear in particular varieties are as follows;

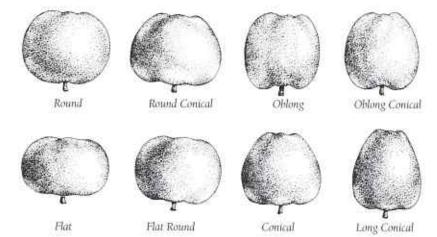
Newton Wonder has a very thick fleshy stalk

Scotch Bridget has broad ribs and uneven knobs at the apex

Beauty of Bath and Worcester Bridget have a distinctly sweet and fruity aroma

Keswick Codlin, Early Victoria and Edward VII sometimes display a hairline – a thin raised line running from base to apex

There are many other clues to look for when classifying apples. Some experts argue that identification of individual fruit varieties is an art, others say it's a science, but both sides would agree it's a minefield!





Apples

More than 100 apple varieties have been recorded within the AONB so far. Of these, 63 have been found in orchards planted at least 50 years ago i.e. the older orchards in the region.

However there are 10 varieties, within the 63, which have not yet been positively identified; two of these have been sent to Brogdale, Kent for further examination. Culinary apples have been found to outnumber dessert apples by a ratio of 3:1. Predictably the Bramley apple is the most widely planted.

Top ten culinary apples and numbers identified

1,	Bramley's Seedling	129
2.	Scotch Bridget	4
3,	Grenadier	26
4.	Newton Wonder	19
5.	Lord Derby	13
6.	Keswick Codlin	13
7	Lane's Prince Albert	1.
8.	Blenheim Orange	3
9.	Bismark	- 9
10.	Lord Grosvenor	9





Most commonly planted dessert apples

1.	Cox's Orange Pippin	12
2.	Allington Pippin	9
2,	Ellison's Orange	9
3.	Egremont Russet	8
3.	Beauty of Bath	8
4.	Worcester Pearmain	7
5,	Laxton's Superb	6
6.	Lady Sudeley	5
6.	Lord Lambourne	5
6.	Iames Grieve	5

The most commonly-found apples in the AONB

Culinary

Bramley's Seedling

Cropping is heavy; the apples have plenty of flavour and juice.
Raised in Southwell between 1809 and 1813.
Pick in October.
Season: November to March.

Scotch Bridget

White tender flesh, soft and juicy. Can be a dessert apple too. First recorded in 1851, Scotland. The Lancashire Scotch Bridget was exhibited in 1893. Pick in early October. Season: October to January.

Grenadier

Tangy and juicy, can be cooked to a fluff. Recorded in 1862. Pick in August. Season: August to October.

Blenheim Orange

Dry, distinctive flavour. Can also be a dessert apple. Raised in Oxfordshire in the 1740s Pick in early October. Season: November to January.

Lord Derby

Good flavour and stays intact when cooked. Raised at Stockport, Cheshire in 1862. Pick in late September. Season: October to December.

Keswick Codlin

Pale, yellowish-white flesh, very juicy, tender and soft. Discovered at Gleaston Castle, Ulverston in 1790. Pick in late August. Season: late September to October.

Lane's Prince Albert

Stays intact when cooked. Raised in the 1840s. Pick in early October. Season: December to March.

Bismark

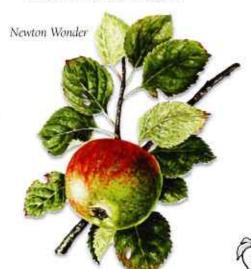
Strong and fruity flavour.
Possibly originating from
Tasmania in the 1870s.
Pick in late September,
Season: November to February.

Lord Grosvenor

A reasonable flavour, breaks up when cooked. Heavy cropper. Raised in the 1870s. Pick in mid-August. Season: mid-August to mid-October.

Newton Wonder

Large and colourful with good full flavour. Raised in Derbyshire in 1887. Pick in mid-October. Season: November to March.



Dessert



Cox's Orange Pippin

The most widely-planted dessert apple but it does not always flourish in the north. Dates from 1825. Pick in October. Season: October to January.

Allington Pippin

Rich, aromatic flavour. Raised in Lincolnshire in 1884. Pick in late September. Season: October to December.

Ellison's Orange

Rich aniseed flavour. Prone to early canker in areas of high rainfall. Recorded in 1904. Pick in September. Season: September and October.

Egremont Russet

Sweet, rich, nutry flavour. Another variety which does not always do well in the north. Raised in Sussex in 1872; has no connection with Egremont in Cumbria! Pick in late September. Season: October to December.

Beauty of Bath

Perfumed and sweet, an early cropper. Raised in 1864. Pick in August.

Laxton's Superb

Tends to be biennial in bearing and does not always thrive in the north. Raised in 1897. Pick in October. Season: November to January.

Lady Sudeley

Very attractive fruit but a tip bearer. Originated from Sussex in 1849. Pick in mid-August. Season: mid-August to early September

Lord Lambourne

Very reliable heavy cropper with good flavour. Raised in 1907. Pick in late September. Season: late September to November.





Worcester Pearmain

Sweet and pleasant flavour reminiscent of strawberries when ripe. Introduced in 1874. Pick in September. Season: September and October.

James Grieve

Sweet apple prone to canker in wet areas. Recorded in 1893 in Edinburgh. Pick in early September. Season: September and October.



Other varieties found in older orchards

of the A.O.N.B.

Culinary

Annie Elizabeth

Arthur Turner;

Catshead*

Cox's Pomona*

Crimson Bramley

Edward VII

Emneth Early

Golden Noble

Golden Spire

Howgate Wonder

Irish Reinette*

Loddington Seedling*

Mere de Ménage

Queen

Royal George*

Red Victoria*

Tom Putt

Warner's King

White Transparent

Winter Hawthornden

Laxton's Fortune

*found only in one orchard

Dessert

Gladstone*

James Grieve

Herrings Pippin*

Irish Peach*

King of the Pippins

Miller's Seedling

Lady Sudeley

Cockle Pippin*

Duchess of Oldenburgh*

Proctor's Seedling*

Ribston Pippin

Kane's Seedling*

Jonathan

Joybells*

Yellow Ingestrie*

Sturmer Pippin

Charles Ross

*found only in one orchard

There are some unusual "combinations" of apple varieties present in several

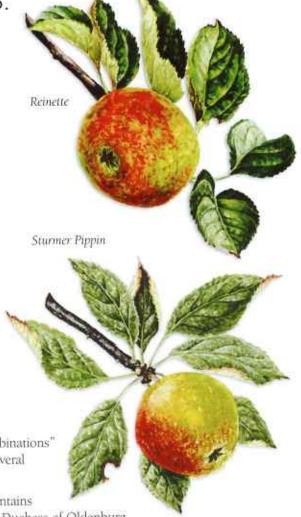
orchards.

One old Silverdale location contains

Royal George, Gladstone, and Duchess of Oldenburg amongst several Grenadiers and another in Amside has a

mixed row of Beauty of Bath and Lady Sudeley.

The dark crimson Mère de Ménage and Golden Noble, found in a Carr Bank orchard, must have been planted for the contrasting visual impact they provide as well as for their excellent tasting fruits!



Other apple varieties present in younger orchards or planted recently.

Older varieties

Spartan Monarch Orleans

Orleans Reinette

Granny Smith

Rossie Pippin

Mother

Monarch

Laxton's Epicure

Twenty Ounce

Duke of Devonshire

Christmas Pearmain

Irish Peach

Claygate Pearmain

Wagener

George Cave

Hawthornden

Lady's Finger of Bledington

Lady's Finger of Lancashire

Hargreave's Greensweet

Tydeman's Early Worcester

Adams Pearmain

Ashmeads Kernel

Dumelow's Seedling

Flower of the Town

Belle de Boskoop

Adam's Pearmain

Pitmaston Pineapple

Rosemary Russet

D'Arcy Spice

Ard Cairn Russet





Acme

Scarlet Pimpernel

Kent

Gala

Crispin

Suntan

Sunset

Winter Gem

Falstaff

Winston

Greensleeves

Katy

Jupiter

Jonagold

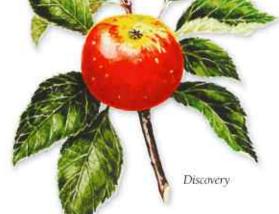
Flstar

Merton Knave

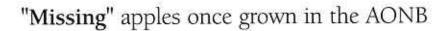
Red Sleeves

Discovery

Golden Delicious







to have been grown in the Arnside and Silverdale area. For example, there is written

westmorland apple Green
Soldier, which has not been recorded since 1883, was
planted on a terrace
"at the Rectors in Heysham the first of November 1753".
Interestingly, the terracing is still visible today at the side of St Patrick's church and some pear trees survived there until the late 1980s. The original apple trees are long gone but perhaps a graft was taken at some time and the variety is surviving today in a local garden.

Many northern apple varieties which are missing now are described in "The Fruit Manual" of 1884. Culinary apples Fillbasket, Royal Shepherd, Small Stalk, Stirzaker's Early Square, Scarlet Tiffing and Trumpeter are all recorded as growing in the Lancaster area. Other lost Lancashire apples include Pomeroy of Lancashire, Green Tiffing, Archimedes, Livsey's Codlin and the exotic-sounding Sugar and Brandy described by Hogg as "juicy, very sweet, so much so as to be sickly!" Some of these varieties

may have found their way to the Arnside and Silverdale area.

Another document valuable in the search for missing fruit varieties is the 1820 Levens Hall catalogue produced by the gardener of the time. Alexander Forbes. Eighty-seven apple varieties, fifty-four pears and twenty-three plums are included in the catalogue. Importantly, the names of those who ordered the catalogue are listed in the back pages. A number of these people lived in the Arnside and Silverdale area....perhaps some of those fruit plants that were purchased so long ago, of varieties considered to be unobtainable now, have in fact survived somewhere in our local villages.

Maybe a Little Black Damask plum, Gray Goodwife pear or Silver Pippin apple is awaiting rediscovery somewhere in the Arnside and Silverdale AONB.





This apple was exhibited from Beachwood in 1883. It is described as conical, of medium size with green skin flushed bronze.

Prussian Pippin

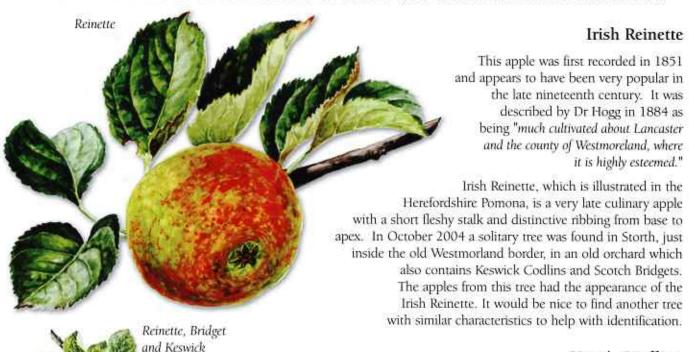
Also from Beachwood, this variety was first recorded in 1853 and exhibited in 1883. Size small; shape tall, rectangular and convex; skin yellow; flesh very hard; season late.

In addition to King Apple and Prussian Pippin there are other missing apples from Lancashire and Westmorland which are likely



"Missing" Apples Rediscovered

Excitingly, two apple varieties which were thought to have died out have possibly been rediscovered in the AONB (although this is still to be confirmed by experts). Grafts have been taken from the trees in order to asses them and to ensure their survival.



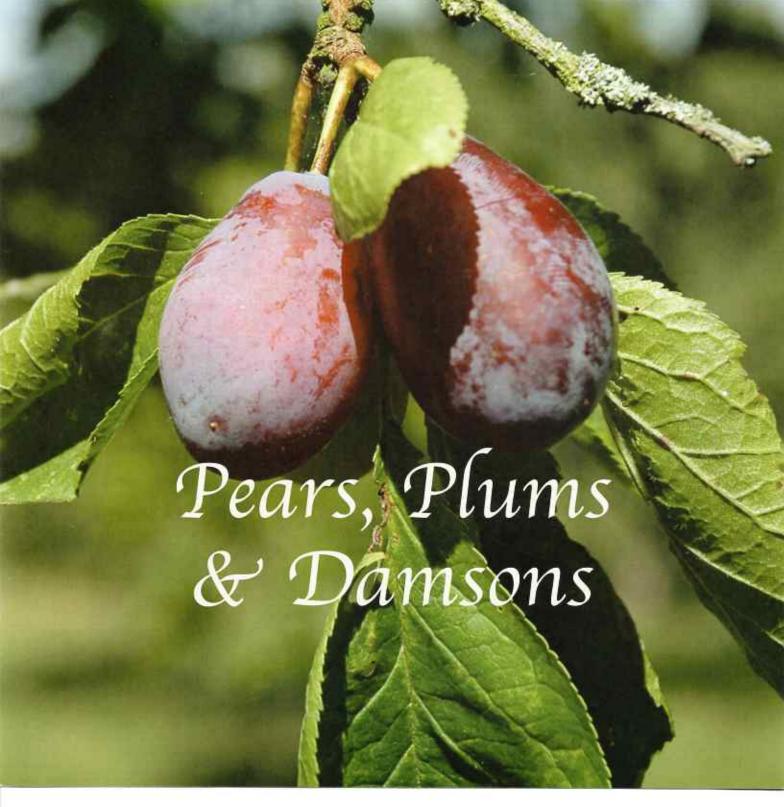
Kane's Seedling

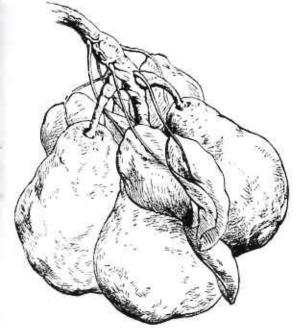
Described in the Apple Register and exhibited from Southwell, Nottinghamshire in 1889, Kane's Seedling gained an award of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. It then seems to have disappeared until, in June 2005, an example was found in Arnside. An early to mid dessert apple, Kane's Seedling has a pale yellow skin flushed red when ripe. Graftwood from this tree has been sent to the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale.

Traditional Northern Apples

Work is in progress on the Leighton Hall estate to plant cordons of historic northern apples within the walled garden. Eventually there will be more than twenty varieties in place with room to add more should any local "missing" apples be rediscovered. This planting will be a valuable contribution to apple conservation.









Conference

Pears

There are comparatively few pears in the region.

In an old Arnside orchard, fifteen neglected trees have been recorded, but no other orchard seen to date contains more than six pear trees.

Although the trees are decaying, it has been possible to identify specimens of Conference, Doyenne de Comice, Jargonelle, Hessle and William's Bon Chretien. The Hessle or "Hazel" pear is widely planted in the North of England, having originated in the village of Hessle in East Yorkshire in Young the 1820s.

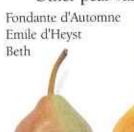
A Victorian metal name tag recovered from the grounds of Yealand Manor reveals that Beurre Diel was one grown there. Other pear varieties found in
Arnside and Silverdale AONB
orchards include Fondante
d'Automne, Louise Bonne of
Jersey, Emile d'Heyst, Beth,
Pitmaston Duchess,
Josephine de Malines,
Beurre Superfin, Beurre
Hardy and Catillac:

Young William's So far 90 pear trees have been recorded, including 15 Conference, 1 William's Bon Chretien and 7 Hessle. Several remain unidentified at this stage.

Beurre Superfin

Catillac

Other pear varieties present in our orchards include









Plums & Damsons

Plum trees outnumber pear trees in the Area.

been recorded so far, 57 of which are Victoria. This might say something about

the commercial possibilities of plum-growing here, in either the past or present, as a 1944 nationwide survey discovered that 20% of plum trees growing on commercial holdings were Victoria.

37 remnant plum trees have been recorded in the orchard at Glenside, Silverdale, including Belle de Louvain, Czar, Early Rivers, Kirke's Blue, Victoria, Purple Pershore, possibly Pershore Yellow Egg.

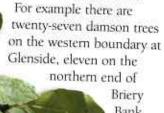
Other plums present in our orchards include Opal, Severn Cross, Marjorie's Seedling, The President and Mirabelle de Nancy. Greengages, which are a green variety of plum, include Cambridge Gage, Reine Claude Dorie, Ouillins Gage and Old Transparent Gage. In addition there are many wild plums to be found in the AONB's hedgerows.

There are over 250 damson trees in the AONB, a few of which are Farleigh and Merryweather whilst the vast majority are Westmorland.

"the Westmorland damson is a member of the plum family. It is thought to be a type of Shropshire prune, possibly the Blue Violet, but improved by the unique conditions in Westmorland and pollination by the wild Bullace and Sloe."

A member of the Northern Fruit Group is interested in discovering the presence in the north of the Blue Violet damson which apparently originated in Westmorland, is of a small blue-black colour and is ready to use from early August.

Damson trees are often planted in rows on the exposed edges of orchards in order to provide protection for more tender fruits within.







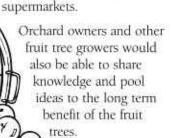
Cherries and other fruits

There are a few cherry trees in gardens and orchards including Morello and Stella varieties. At Leighton Hall Home Farm there is a small cherry orchard containing ornamental and culinary varieties.

Other fruits found at individual locations include mulberries, medlars (a small, brown, apple-like fruit), walnuts, filberts, figs, hazel, cob and sweet chestnuts.

What to do with Surplus Fruit

There is no getting away from the fact that the commercial orchard does not exist anymore within the AONB. However, there are enough orchard owners to form a group which could promote the AONB's fruit. Such a group could, for example, organise fruit picking sessions, run occasional market days and/or collaborate on the juicing of fruits. These, or similar, enterprises would provide the public with varieties of fresh fruit not to be found in



Orchard Link

An Orchard Link initiative has been set up by the north-west section of the Northern Fruit Group in order to support small scale orchard production. The initiative is backed by the Cumbria Fells and Dales LEADER+ Programme in order



to link orchard owners with Cumbrian businesses which require supplies of apples and other orchard and soft fruits. Much orchard fruit goes unpicked each year, yet there are local producers who need apples and other fruit to make juice, preserve and other value added products



to co-ordinate with other areas of the country to promote and conserve orchards and orchard produce



to gather good practice in all areas of orchard conservation and produce a definitive guide

Interested Orchard owners should contact:

Cumbria Fells and Dales LEADER+ Programme, The Old Stables, Redhills, Penrith, Cumbria CAH ODT Te1: 01768 869533







Apple Days

Apple Days are becoming more and more popular.

Annual events take place in October at many venues in northern England e.g.

Acorn Bank (National Trust), Temple Sowerby, near Penrith
Eccleston, near Preston
The Gregson Centre, Lancaster
R.H.S Harlow Carr, Harrogate

At an Apple Day you can sometimes see hundreds of different varieties of apples, taste some of the more unusual kinds that you cannot find in the shops and buy some to take home. Nurseries offer interesting varieties of apple trees to buy. There is often an apple identification service when you can bring some apples from your mystery garden trees to be identified by experts and an Apple Doctor with whom you can discuss your problems. There is usually lots to eat and drink from apple cakes and chutney to apple juice and cider and often cookery demonstrations with apples. Sometimes there are pruning and grafting demonstrations and games such as apple bobbing and the apple and spoon race, storytelling and archery. The Arnside and Silverdale AONB Unit held their first Apple Day in October 2005.

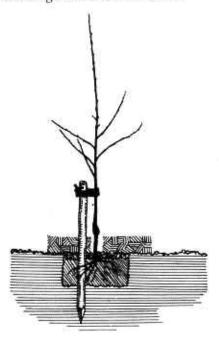






Planting a Young Tree

Remove turf from a 1 metre square area. Dig a hole, then loosen the soil in the bottom. Fork in compost or manure and bonemeal. Aim to build the hole so that the tree will be buried at the same depth as it was in the nursery. Drive stake firmly through the bottom of the hole. Add the tree into the hole. Leaving a gap of 7.5cms (3 inches) between supporting stake and tree, add a rubber tree tie in a figure of eight between the stake and the tree stem. Firm the soil around the roots and mulch at the base. avoiding contact with tree stem.



Basic Fruit Tree Care

- Sweep up fallen leaves from beneath trees in autumn to avoid spread of disease
- Prune for shape during the dormant season (December to the end of February) cutting out diseased, crossing or rubbing branches and removing deadwood
- Reduce crowns of taller, older trees to limit damage from winter gales
- Thin out overcrowded areas within the tree in order to encourage light to penetrate
- Prune older trees gradually, over 3 or 4 years
- Feed with blood, fish and bone at the end of January. Mulch with well-rotted manure or compost
- When planting new fruit trees, keep grass away from base
- Stake and provide adequate tree guards where rabbits and deer are a threat
- Plant bare-rooted trees in the dormant season

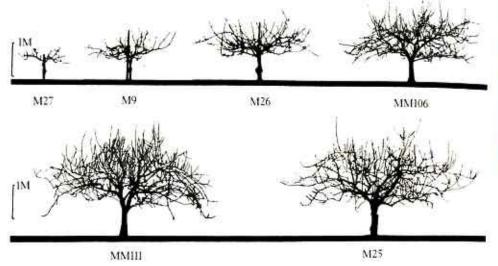








Apple & Pear Rootstock







Some unidentified apples from the AONB, grafted onto MM106 rootstocks. There may be 'missing' varieties amongst them.

Apple Rootstock

MM 106 General purpose, good for cordons.

Semi-vigorous. Height after 10 years

- 3.5 metres.

M26 Semi-dwarf. Requires support.

Good for bush or cordons. To 3 metres.

M27 Very dwarf Excellent for small gardens.

To 2 metres.

M9

Dwarfing, producing trees to 2.5 metres in height. Ideal for pyramid, bush or cordon. Needs permanent staking.

MM111 Vigorous. To 4 metres.

MM25 Very vigorous. To 4 metres.

Other apple rootstocks are also available.

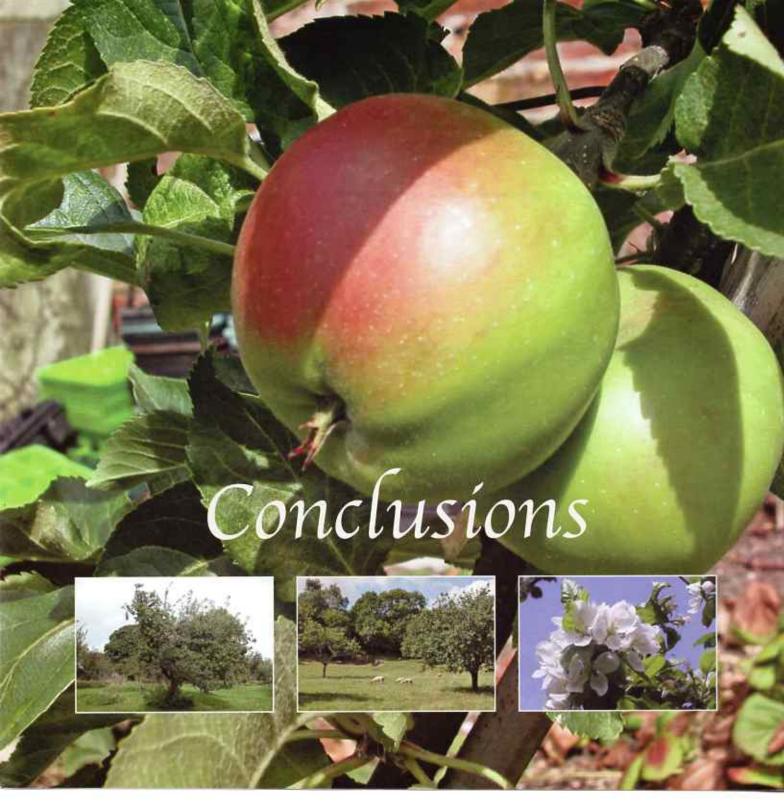
Pear Rootstock

Quince A. Semi-dwarf Ideal rootstock for bush trees.

Quince C. Dwarf and slightly earlier into cropping.

Pyrus communis and crataegus can also be used. A new dwarfing form of pyrus will be on the market shortly.

One supplier of rootstock for apple, pear, plum and cherry cultivation is Frank. P. Matthews Ltd., Berrington Court, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, WR15 8TH Tel: 01584 810214, e-mail enquiries fpmatthews.co.uk



Conclusions

The Orchards

Orchards have flourished in the AONB and its environs for hundreds of years. Now the number of older orchards is declining; work is needed if they are to be saved. There has been a particularly dramatic fall in orchard numbers since the Second World War but some new planting of fruit trees by individuals has taken place.

Fruit Varieties

More than 100 apple varieties are present in the AONB, with others yet to be identified. Importantly, rare varieties have been discovered.

Apples predominate followed by damsons, plums and pears.

Fruit Growers

There has been an enormous amount of interest and goodwill from all concerned.

Many requests have been received for "new" replacement trees of old well-loved varieties and for advice on orchard maintenance.

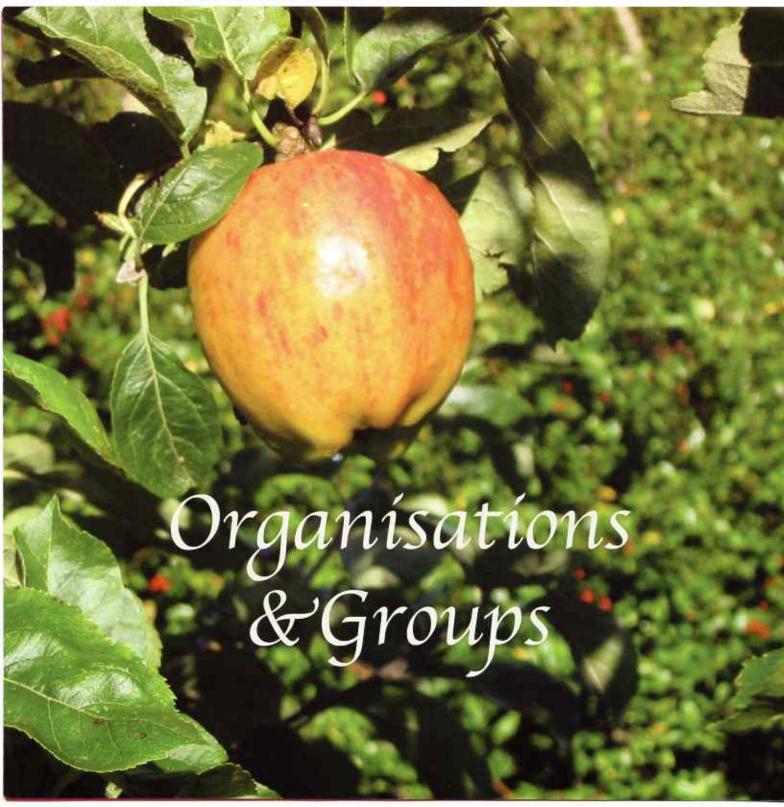
Enthusiasts have expressed interest in visiting other orchards in order to "compare notes".

Data

Gathering of information will continue in order to gain a comprehensive picture of fruit-growing in the AONB.

The AONB's unique orchard heritage originates from many centuries ago. With nurture, our remaining orchards can flourish again and be part of our landscape far into the future.





Organisations and Groups

Brogdale

Home of the National Fruit Collections, the largest collection of fruits in the world. Includes over 2300 varieties of apple, 550 of pear, 350 of plum, 220 of cherry and more.

Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME 13 8XZ Tel: 01795 531 710 Email: info cc; brogdale.org.uk www.brogdale.org

Wisley

Has an extensive collection of fruit trees. R.H.S. Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB Tel: 01483 224 234 Fax: 01483 211 250 www.rhs.org.uk

Common Ground.

Instrumental in alerting the public about the plight of British orchards and in organising the first Apple Day festivals. Champions the preservation of "local" varieties. Produces advisory pamphlets on all matters relating to orchards and much more.

21 High Street, Shaftesbury, SP7 8JE Tel: 0174 785 0820

www.commonground.org.uk

National Orchard Forum

Launched in 2002. Facilitates sharing of information and ideas between local orchard groups and also more widely within the country. Aims to encourage orchard owners in the protection of traditional varieties which are threatened with extinction. Winter and summer newsletters published plus occasional flyers during the year.

Membership and Secretary Linda Blenkinship (of the Northern Fruit Group) Email: lindablenkinship@yahoo.co.uk 12, Calverley Road, Oulton, Leeds, LS2 8JQ

Tel: 0113 282 8324



The Northern Fruit Group

The group was formed in 1995 and currently has over 300 members.

Group Aims:

To promote knowledge of the cultivation of fruit of all types, particularly those varieties suitable for growing in the North of England.

To organize or assist with displays, exhibitions, shows and meetings open to the public. To set up registers of old fruit varieties and orchards in the North of England and advise on orchard establishment and maintenance.

What the Group Offers:

Meetings to give help and advice to members are presently held at the RHS Garden, Harlow Carr, Harrogate. At other venues there are sessions on winter and summer pruning, propagation techniques such as budding and grafting, restoring neglected trees and disease control.

A quarterly newsletter is issued keeping members informed about meetings, shows, the introduction of new varieties etc. Visits to other interesting fruit collections are arranged; these may be private gardens and orchards or commercial operations. The group publishes information leaflets on all aspects of fruit growing.

Although the majority of events take place in Yorkshire, there are activemembers of the group in the North-West engaged in many pomological activities west of the Pennines (like the writing of orchard booklets!).

Membership secretary Mrs Sharan Packer 54 Cookridge Drive, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS16 7HW.

Subscription currently £5.00 p.a. or £8.00 for a couple sharing the same address.

The Westmorland Damson Association

Formed by a group of local people in 1996 who wished to preserve and promote the damson orchards in the old county of Westmorland, especially in and around the Lyth Valley. The annual Damson Day festival attracts visitors from far and wide. Advice on all aspects of damson cultivation.

Hon. Secretary and Membership Secretary - Bill Clifford, Greenside, Crosthwaite, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8JL

Tel: 07979495390 email: enquiries@lythdamsons.org www.lythdamsons.org.uk





Stewardship Grants

Grants are often available for the maintenance and planting of trees in orchards. Further information and contact details can be obtained from the AONB Office at the Old Station Building, Arnside LA5 0HG. Tel: 01524 761034.

Green Partnership Awards

Grants for Environmental Action in Lancashire.

Funding of many eligible projects, including treeplanting, orchard conservation and the organisation of Apple Days. Contact: Lancashire County Council, Environment Directorate, PO Box 9, Guild House, Cross Street,

Preston PR1 8RD

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M. Smith

R. Hogg

E. Bunyard

R. Sanders

J. Morgan and A. Richards

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I am also indebted to Hilary Wilson for advice on uses of surplus fruit and for the sourcing of local scion wood. Hilary has re-discovered several "lost" fruit varieties north of the Kent estuary.

This project was made possible by means of a Sustainable Development Fund Grant awarded through the offices of the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Arnside and Silverdale AONB The Old Station Building, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 OHG

Tel: 01524 761 034.

Phil Rainford is North-West representative on the committee of The Northern Fruit Group.

Any information about the location of ancient orchards will be gratefully received.

email: p.f.rain@btinternet.com



