

Orchards of the Arnside and Silverdale National Landscape



Bridgets, Keswicks and Reinettes

Foreword 2025

This booklet was originally produced by Ian Henderson, AONB Manager from 1988 to 2008, and Phil Rainford from the Northern Fruit Group and published by the then Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 2006. It was too good not to make it more widely available so this edition contains new and updated information for 2025.

AONBs have now been renamed as National Landscapes. Arnside & Silverdale is one of 38 National Landscapes in England and Wales which are safeguarded in the national interest for their character and beauty. Landscape means more than just 'scenery' and encompasses everything that makes an area distinctive: geology, climate, soil, plants, wildlife, archaeology, buildings, culture and people, past and present.

This booklet provides an excellent introduction to orchards as a distinctive feature of the heritage and landscape of our area. It shows us how fruit growing has played an important part in the area's history by bringing to life people's memories of orchard planting, apple picking and local characters, along with describing some of the area's orchards and different fruit varieties.

This edition is published with permission from the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape and the encouragement of its original authors. It has been updated by members of the Barnes Charitable Trust and the Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company and others. We have kept to the original where at all possible. We hope that you enjoy this edition.

Mary Hamilton: Barnes Charitable Trust.

Ann Kitchen: BCCIC



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*Allington Pippin - Orchard Barn
Established in 1750's*

I n t r o d u c t i o n

In the early 1990s an orchard survey was conducted in the Arnside and Silverdale National Landscape.

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 in 2005/6, made possible by financial support from the Sustainable Development Fund, was done to investigate, nurture and promote the National Landscape's special heritage as an historical fruit growing area.

The aims of this of this project were to

- a) discover the recent history of selected orchards in the National Landscape including the recording of personal memories associated with them.
- b) gather further information about the fruit varieties grown in the National Landscape. This includes identification work and consideration of rare and unusual varieties for conservation.
- c) identify any orchards in the area that can be practicably restored.
- d) provide advice on fruit tree maintenance, new planting, grant funding and marketing of fruit.
- e) promote the unique qualities and biodiversity of orchards in the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape. Enthuse and inspire fruit tree keepers throughout the National Landscape and more widely.
- f) achieve these aims to deliver the **Actions for Orchards** set out in the Arnside and Silverdale Management Plan (2004)





Gala - Hazelwood Lodge

History

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

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 the 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".



Newton Wonder

The annual rent was 6s 5d.

There is also early documentation of orchards present in the Yealands:

"9th February 1707. Conveyance for £12.6.0d Thomas Harrison of the Parish of Slaitburne, co York, Storres, cordwainer, to Joannah Chorley of Borwick widow - cottage at Yealand Storres, barn orchard, garden, paddock or hempland, dale in Yealand White Moss (half acre) and brackendale on Yealand Craggs."



Spartan

In a will dated June 28th 1732, Ann Beetham of Yealand Readman (Redmayne) bequeaths to her brothers *"a mesuage...consisting of house, garden, orchard."*

(The term 'mesuage' is used to mean house and surrounding grounds.)

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.

Storth had a good number of orchards (shown in green).

The 1891 map also reveals expanding orchards near Hale and also near Warton. There is evidence of fruit growing at this time in Sandside, Storth, Beetham and at many country houses and farms in the region.

Map section 1862
Orchards in the Storth Area

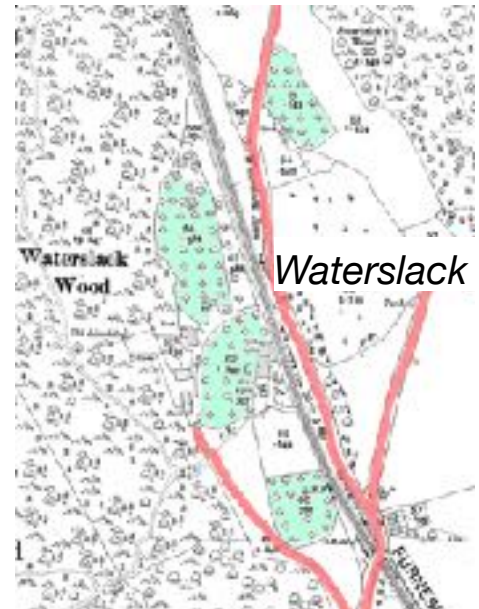


The history of fruit trees in the grounds of Ashmeadow can be traced back to over two centuries ago. The following references are testimony that today's Ashmeadow fruit trees are in fact the remnants of a very productive orchard. The Beetham Repository of 1770 said it was "*a remarkable orchard for bearing well*". This is referred to in *A Brief History of Ashmeadow* by Ann Kitchen. (Available at the BCT website <http://www.barnescharitabletrust.org.uk/>)

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.*"

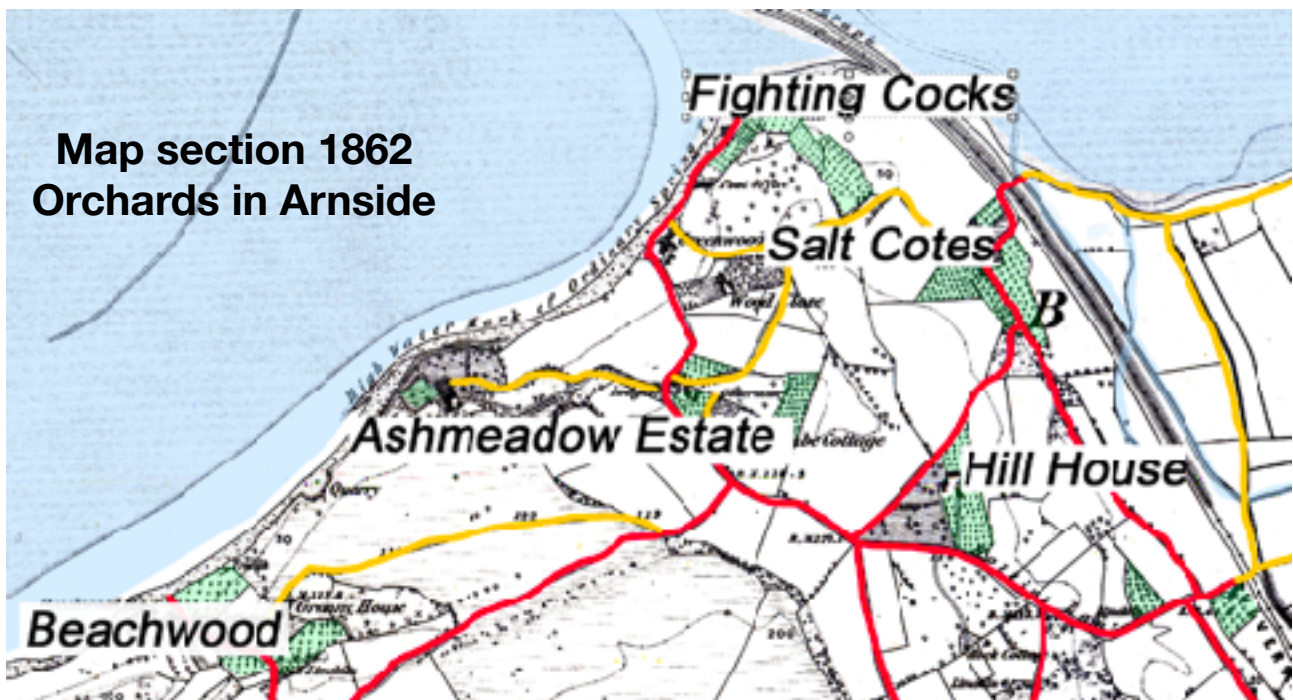


In the 1840s Silverdale was a tiny hamlet but, nevertheless, had a huge orchard located at the site of the now vanished Waterslack Garden Centre, where a few very old fruit trees remain. Apple varieties such as **Duke of Devonshire**, **Ribston Pippin**, **Scotch Bridget** and **Grenadier** grew in this orchard. Maps from the same period show that as well as the Waterslack orchard, two smaller orchards existed near Challan Hall.



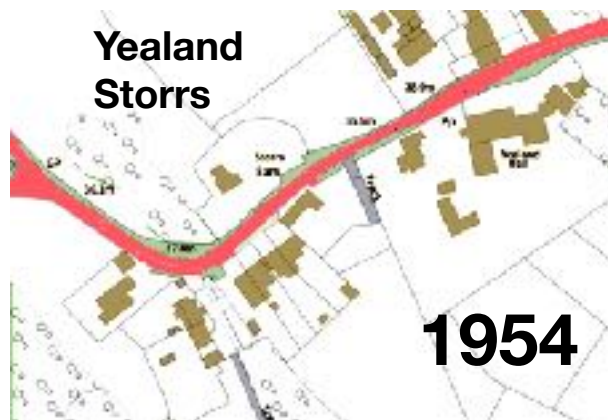
In Silverdale itself, orchards are recorded at The Green to the north of Stankelt Road and extending to Bottoms Lane. Smaller orchards are shown at the Row, along Cove Lane, where there is still an orchard today, and one named "Slack Orchard" was located on the coast south of Cove House.

Extensive orchards are shown on maps of the Arnside area which were published in 1862, reaching as far west as Beachwood and extending southwards from the Fighting Cocks Inn. At this time, substantial orchards still existed around and above Saltcotes Hall, now vanished, and around Hill House, now Orchard Barn.



The 1841 OS map shows numerous orchards around the Yealands. One at Yealand Hall is shown in green (right) . Seventy years later, (below), it has extended considerably but by the 1950's it had all gone (lower right).

1841



The 1910 O.S. map of Yealand Redmayne, (right) reveals expanding cottage orchards. Most of these have now gone. However one, *Clares Orchard*, is still being carefully maintained as a heritage orchard. It is thanks to owners like Tom Clare that our heritage varieties have survived. The old trees provide scions (shoots) for grafting onto new rootstock which allows them an almost infinite life. This work has been aided in many cases by FiPL grants (see page 30).



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.

Our Heritage Orchards

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.

Many of the orchards on the following pages are in private ownership. Some no longer exist. However Ashmeadow Orchard and part of the old Beachwood Orchard are open to the public. Leighton Hall Orchard can also be visited.



Glenside, Red Bridge Lane

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!



Keswick Codlin

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 found 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.



Sturmer Pippin

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)

Culinary apples

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. These two 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 declined. By 2005, only a few fruit trees, some dead and diseased, could be found near the shore. Beachwood Nature Reserve, owned by Arnside Parish Council, was part of the original orchard. In 2021, storm Arwen destroyed some huge Corsican Pines that had grown up since the orchard was abandoned. The Council decided that, given the history of the area, 12 new apple saplings should be planted.



These were sourced from Abi and Tom's nursery at Halecat and were mainly local species. Also, the remaining old fruit trees were pruned and restored. Thanks to Abi and Tom, the National Landscape team and volunteers, and local residents Tony Sturdee and Paul Barnes, the trees are now thriving and producing fruit.



Orchard Barn, Arnside

There is evidence of an orchard at Hill House Farm, possibly connected to Saltcotes Hall, as far back as the 1750s. It was enlarged and replanted in 1890 by Thomas Whinrey and his wife Ellin. He was born in Arnside and would have been in his late 60s at the time.



However the orchard now called Orchard Barn originates from the northern part of the original Hill House Orchard. Over the years the middle section was turned over to pasture and the southern part which bordered Briery Bank was kept mainly as a damson orchard. By the end of the 20th century, Hill House had been turned into 3 dwellings, the main farm house and 2 barn conversions, Hill Cottage and Orchard Barn

By 2005 the owners of Orchard Barn, Peter and Sheila Goulder, had over 130 trees. These are mainly apples with some pears, plums and damsons.

Several old wooden fruit boxes were discovered in an outbuilding. They are variously marked with "Docker Bros., Carlisle" and "Edward Mee & Sons, Fruit Merchants, Holmes Chapel." Locals recall 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, to be sold in the fruit markets there.

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. Also of interest, are individual trees grafted with two varieties e.g **Herrings Pippin** with **Allington Pippin**, **Ribston Pippin** on the same tree as **Grenadier**. Mistletoe was reintroduced here in 2011.



Grenadier

Mistletoe

Allington Pippin



Sheila and Peter hosted a number of wonderful Apple Days for the Arnside and Silverdale National Landscape before 2019.



A small area of the southern part of the original Hill House Orchard bordering Briery Bank was still a damson orchard until around 2000 when it was bought by a developer. It was then left to run wild (see left). It is planned that this will be the site of affordable housing. We hope some mature damson trees and a crab apple will be left around the edges of the site.

Some of the suckers from the rest of the damsons, which would otherwise be destroyed, will be transplanted to schools and reserves across the National Landscape.



Young Damsons in June

Crab Apples



Most of the old orchards would have had at least one crab apple tree and Orchard Barn was no exception. The fruits were prized because they were so high in pectin. The small hard apples would be boiled to a pulp with a little water and this would then be strained through a muslin cloth and the juice collected. Adding this to jams and jellies allowed the preserves to set. They would then keep through the year in ordinary jars with a waxed paper lid. This was vital in the days before refrigeration. They also provided the rootstock for grafting

There is a lovely crab apple tree in Ashmeadow Orchard.



Crab Apples

Ashmeadow Orchard, Arnside,

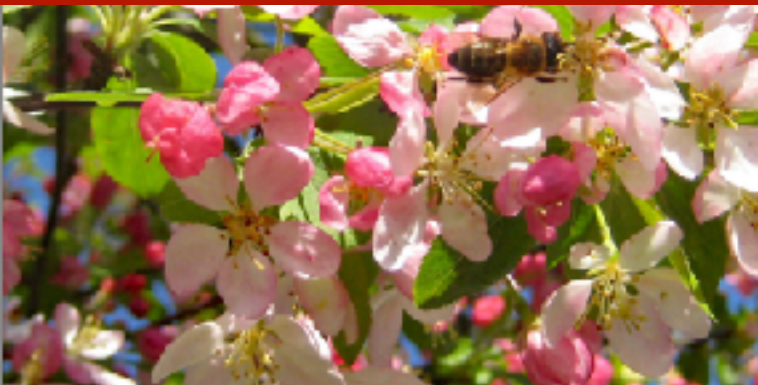
Ashmeadow is a small remnant orchard of about 60 trees within the five acre Ashmeadow Woodlands at Arnside. It is owned by the Barnes Charitable Trust, which was set up in 1990 to manage the Ashmeadow estate in the interests of the environment, the local community and visitors. Visitors are encouraged to pick the fruit in season. The trees are maintained and pruned by the trustees, with volunteers and support from professionals.

The orchard is mostly apples, with a few pear, cherry plum, damson and walnut trees of ages ranging from 12 yrs to over 50 yrs old. The orchard floor is grass with wild daffodils, bluebells and lesser celandine.

There has been an orchard at Ashmeadow for over two centuries. Like many of the orchards in Arnside, this one has gone through periods of decline. It was restored and replanted by James Barnes, founder of Earnseat School, around 1918. It was neglected for many years after WW2 but then revived by the Barnes Trust with the help of Tony Riden and Phil Rainford.

Some of the trees now growing were grafted from ancient local orchards which since have disappeared.

Apple Blossom



Cherry Plum Blossom





Eating Apples



Cherry Plums

Northern varieties of apple at Ashmeadow Orchard include: **Lord Derby, Arthur Turner, Cockpit, Hazelslack Striped** and **Annie Elizabeth**. Phil's expertise was invaluable in identifying the trees already there and getting new trees of local provenance.

The woodlands can be entered by permissive footpaths from the western end of the Promenade and also from Silverdale Road. These lead to the orchard.

Entry is free during daylight hours. More details about the orchard and access to the grounds as well as a map can be found at: www.barnescharitabletrust.org.uk/

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.



Lindeth Road Orchards

The area between Stankelt Road and Lindeth Road had several orchards at the turn of the 20th century. Some of the trees are now over 100 years old and although most of the orchards themselves have vanished, many of the trees survive in gardens or as the backbones of new garden orchards.

Down a private lane off Lindeth Road, the grandfather of Brian Dobson (lately deceased) and his brother, Alec Dobson, planted an orchard at Ivy Bank in the early years of the 20th century. It took in the garden area both behind and in front of the house, plus a larger area across the lane. Brian, in his lifetime, enthusiastically continued this work, planting more fruit trees. His list for the back garden of the house included **American Mother, Duke of Devonshire, Sunset, Jupiter, Epicure, Advance, Edward V11, Scotch Bridget, Howgate Wonder, Arthur Turner** and **Prince Albert**. Of these only the first two survive. While there are still apple trees across the lane and in the back garden, none remain in the front garden.

Further down the lane a large, old, very productive **Arthur Turner** flourishes in the next orchard at Levensfield, along with many apple and other fruit trees planted from 2012 onwards. Levensfield is thought to be the site of an orchard owned by James Gardiner. He bought a plot of land here 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 terrorised customers!



Limestones, Warton



It was James Gardiner's brother who set up the Limestones orchard on the west side of Warton Crag. The orchard was planted on the south-facing slopes. It is thought that he sold both fruit and eggs. James' grandson, Jim, was carrying on this work in 2006, planting young fruit trees there.

The present owners, Cath and Bill Grayson, are committed to looking after the orchard and are planting new trees too. This, like the orchard at Levensfield, is a lovely example of the National Landscape's orchard heritage continuing to thrive.



Ellison's Orange



Royal George



Keswick Codlin

Red Bridge Lane, Silverdale

Orchards are shown on the 1846 OS map around the area that is now occupied by **Red Bridge Barn**. These expanded over the next 100 years. By 1920 **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 30 shillings 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 who ran a stall on Lancaster market.



In the 1970's John Walker, the then owner of **Lake View**, started a new orchard over the other side of the road. By 2005 this was a well-established orchard boasting a fine collection of old and modern apples. Several of the trees were the product of the owner's own skilful grafting. If a tree was not doing well, it would be regrafted to create a different variety.



Monarch

John Walker won many prizes in local shows with his **Discovery** apples, but his favourites were **Jupiter** and **Crispin** (Mutsu), both modern varieties. He was 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.

Richmond Hill, Silverdale

In 2005 the Richmond sisters told about their 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 **Stirling Castle** and **Lady Henniker** apples growing in the orchard, but the **Loddington** was their favourite. It was a good keeper lasting until March. **Sowman's Seedling** was also grown, This was introduced in 1914.

Mr Sowman gave a lecture in January 1923, in which he is reported in the Preston Guardian as saying "*Two very popular varieties in Lancashire, though little known further afield, were **Scotch Bridget** and **Proctor's Seedling**. Both dated back probably 100 years.*"

While the Richmond sisters are no longer there, the orchard is being tended by the present owners. The many apple trees still produce well and there is a large pear tree climbing up the house wall.



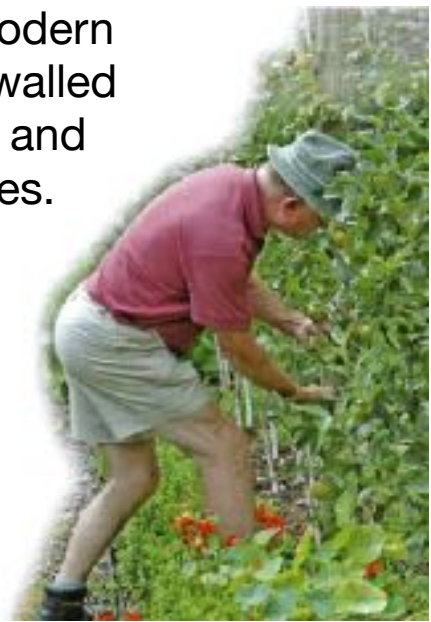
Hazelwood Lodge, Silverdale



Roger Walton, the present owner, grows many modern apple varieties in the grounds of his well tended walled garden in Silverdale. They are trained as cordons and he 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, damsons, 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.



Roger hard at work



Shore Road, Silverdale

In 2005 the late Jim Bolton, who was a schoolboy in Silverdale during the 1940s, provided memories of the orchards on Shore Road. He remembered 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 from Barrow in order to help. The ripening fruit was inspected by someone from Hartleys jam company and later collected in hessian bags.

He also remembered 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**. The area was built on after WW2 and while many trees remain in private gardens, most of the orchards were lost.



Yealand Manor



Metal fruit tags

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 there.



Leighton Hall Orchard



In most old country houses, the orchards and walled gardens were a vital part of running the estate in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Leighton Hall, the home of the Gillow family was no exception. The kitchen and garden staff were expected to produce either fresh or preserved fruit every day of the year. However, by the 20th century, fruit became available from all over the world and the importance of a productive orchard waned. The present orchard next to the walled garden contains a mixture of very old trees and much newer ones, many trained against the lovely brick walls. Care has been taken to get heritage varieties which are carefully labelled.

As you wander round the “Caterpillar Maze” you will pass a mixture of fruit trees, apples, pears, cherries and even hybrids. In the corner of the garden stands a magnificent fig tree bearing fruits. The micro-climate produced by the sheltering walls enables the figs to survive the winter and then grow and ripen the following spring.



Fig tree and flowers



Unlike most fruits we eat, the fig is actually an inside-out flowerhead.

The stem swells to surround the hundreds of tiny flowers which when pollinated form a sweet mass of crunchy seeds and flesh inside. Most orchard fruits are either pomes like apples and pears or drupes like plums and cherries.

Pomes have a central core of seeds covered by a membrane surrounded by a succulent layer of flesh. **Drupes** have a fleshy covering around a single seed in a hard “stone”.

Pollinators are vital to a healthy orchard and all round the walls you will find bug “hotels” and even a bee corner. Leighton Hall is well worth a visit. As well as the orchard there are woodland walks, the house itself and the shop and cafe.

Check the Leighton Hall web site for opening hours, prices and special events like Apple Day. www.leightonhall.co.uk/



Farm Orchards

Every farm in the 18th and 19th century would have had some form of orchard. Some only grew fruit for their own use. The farmer would put pigs in the orchard each autumn after harvest. Their job was to eat the diseased fruit that had fallen to the ground. If left, the fruit would harbour diseases and pests for the following year.

The pigs would root around in the ground. This would discourage rank weeds and bramble from taking hold. In addition it helped to fatten the pigs before the winter. After that the pigs would go out into the woods to eat nuts. This was called pannage. While these methods of cultivation are no longer used locally, these orchards can still be seen. An example is at Bank House Farm in Silverdale.

There are several small orchards at Hazelslack Farm. Looking over the gate at one you can see chickens pecking around the base of the trees. Another form of pest control.



Chickens forage at Hazelslack Farm

However many of the farms no longer exist. Some have been turned into barn conversions. Some have been turned into holiday lets or their land sold for building. Their orchards have either vanished or been forgotten.



One such hidden orchard (**not** open to the public) exists at Myers Farm which is now the visitor centre for RSPB Leighton Moss. It is an oasis of quiet. The old fruit trees together with elder, bramble, wild flowers and grass paths provide a haven for nature. While it is not run as a productive orchard it is carefully managed for wildlife and diversity.

The site is alive with insects when the trees flower, the small birds catch the bugs for their nestlings and, in the autumn, the thrushes and redwings gorge on the fallen fruit. An orchard is a nature reserve in its own right.



Orchard Surveys

Almost 100 orchards and gardens were visited between 2004 and 2005. They contained a varying number of fruit trees.

Over 100 trees: 2	Between 50 and 100 trees: 1
Between 21 and 49 trees: 15	Between 11 and 20 trees: 15
Between six and ten trees: 25	Between 1 and 5 trees: 45

In a small random survey done in 2025, 18 out of 54 gardens had no fruit trees. The other 36 had at least 1 fruit tree. The distribution and percentages (in brackets) are given below.

trees	0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10 plus	total trees
all fruit	18(33)	20(37)	7(13)	5(9)	4(8)	172
Apples	22(40)	23(43)	7(13)	0(0)	2(4)	99
Pears	47(87)	7(13)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	8
Plums/ damsons	30(56)	21(39)	3(5)	0(0)	0(0)	41
Others	43(80)	9(17)	2(3)	0(0)	0(0)	24

By 2005 the condition of many older orchards within the area had deteriorated. A large number were in need of restorative work in order to ensure their survival. Returning such orchards to their original condition would require considerable resources. On the other hand, many old orchards were thriving and yielding well. In some cases ingenious structures had been devised to ensure that the trees stayed upright, a tribute to the keepers.



Carr Bank Area - **Mère de Mélange**



Cove House - **Jonathan**

Many of the old orchards have been restored by their owners since 2005. Some of this has been aided by FiPL grants and expertise from the National Landscape Officers.

Some new orchards have been planted. These include a new orchard on Carr Bank Road and one in Storth.

On the other hand, a couple of old orchards have vanished since 2005. Many old trees remain in gardens but as they fall they are often being replaced with modern varieties. It is unlikely all our old varieties will survive unless an effort is made to increase knowledge of the importance of grafting scions of old varieties onto new stock.

In these days of climate change, a diversity of varieties of trees mean we are more likely to keep them as a source of food both for ourselves and also for all the insects at the bottom of the food chain and the other species that depend on them.

Farming in Protected Landscapes - FiPL

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has funded orchard restoration work from 2021.

This includes new tree planting and protective cages, restorative tree pruning, scrub management in old orchards, ground flora enhancement, fencing, walling and interpretive signage.

These orchards are important for conservation of our heritage varieties and could be sources of scion wood for future grafting for new orchards. FiPL has supported orchard restoration at Leighton Hall, Ashmeadow and Clares Orchard.



Apple Varieties and Identification

The collection of data on fruit varieties in the National Landscape is a continuing process. At the time of writing, not every orchard in the National Landscape 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 National Landscape but priority is being given to the identification of apples in older orchards. However, as many growers in the National Landscape 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. 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 Lancashire, pears are heavily favoured over apples.



Allington Pippin



Scotch Bridget



Bismark

Identification of Apples

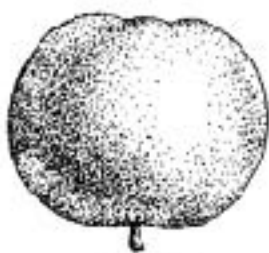
Identification of apples can be complicated by the fact that a mystery tree may be either an old recorded variety or a seedling. Pips sown in the ground do not generally "come true" to the fruit of the parent tree and therefore new varieties are spawned.

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".

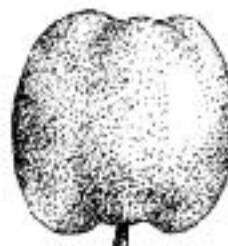
Nevertheless he produced one in which he describes five different apple shapes; flat, round, conical, oblong and oval.



Round



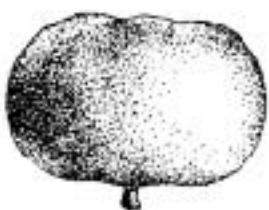
Round Conical



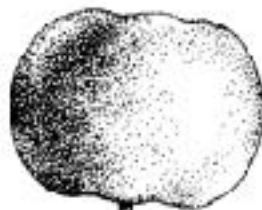
Oblong



Oblong Conical



Flat



Flat Round



Conical



Long Conical

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!

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



Bramley

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.



The most commonly-found apples in the National Landscape and their characteristics

Culinary apples

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 Sept. 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 Sept 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-Aug to mid-Oct.

Newton Wonder

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

Newton Wonder



Dessert Apples



Cox's
Orange
Pippin

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, nutty 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.

Season: 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 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 National Landscape

Culinary

Annie Elizabeth
Arthur Turner
Catshead*
Cox's Pomona*
Crimson Bramley
Edward VII
Emneth Early
Golden Noble
Golden Spire
Howgate Wonder
Loddington Seedling*
Mere de Ménage
Queen
Royal George*
Red Victoria*
Tom Putt
Warner's King
White Transparent
Winter Hawthornden
Laxton's Fortune

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
Reinette
Sturmer Pippin

*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 Arnside has a mixed row of **Beauty of Bath** and **Lady Sudeley**.



Sturmer Pippin

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

Monarch
Spartan
Orleans Reinette
Granny Smith
Rossie Pippin
Mother
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
Ashmead's Kernel
Dumelow's Seedling
Flower of the Town
Belle de Boskoop
Adam's Pearmain
Pitmaston Pineapple
Rosemary Russet
D'Arcy Spice
Ard Cairn Russet



Discovery

Modern varieties

Rival
Sunset
Jonagold
Acme
Winter Gem
Elstar
Scarlet Pimpernel
Falstaff
Merton Knave
Kent Winston
Red Sleeves
Gala
Greensleeves
Discovery
Crispin
Katy
Golden Delicious
Suntan
Jupiter



Monarch

Missing apples once grown here

King Apple: 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. **Irish Reinette** was first recorded in 1851 and appears to have been very popular in the late nineteenth century. It was described by Dr Hogg in 1884 as being "much cultivated about Lancaster and the county of Westmoreland, where it is highly esteemed." **Kane's Seedling** was described in the Apple Register and exhibited from Southwell, Nottinghamshire in 1889. It gained an award of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. An early to mid dessert apple, Kane's Seedling has a pale yellow skin flushed red when ripe.

In addition to these there are other missing apples from Lancashire and Westmorland which are likely to have been grown in the Arnside and Silverdale area. For example, there is written evidence that the missing 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 Titting** 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 **Irish Reinette** apple is awaiting rediscovery somewhere in the Arnside and Silverdale National Landscape.

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 will be a valuable contribution to apple conservation.



Cordon fruit trees at Leighton Hall





*Plums, Pears and
Damsons*



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 the 1820s. A Victorian metal name tag recovered from the grounds of Yealand Manor reveals that **Beurre Diel** was one grown there.



Young William

Other pear varieties found in Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape orchards include **Fondante d'Automne**, **Louise Bonne of Jersey**, **Emile d'Heyst**, **Beth**, **Pitmaston Duchess**, **Josephine de Malines**, **Beurre Superfin**, **Beurre Hardy** and **Catillac**. 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.

Plums & Damsons

Plum trees outnumber pear trees in the area. 101 plum trees have 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.



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, Oullins Gage** and **Old Transparent Gage**. In addition there are many wild plums to be found in the National Landscape's hedgerows. There are over 250 damson trees in this area, 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."*

Damson trees are often planted in rows on the exposed edges of orchards in order to provide protection for more tender fruits within. For example there are twenty-seven damson trees on the western boundary at Glenside, eleven on the northern end of Orchard Barn.

They still survive on the small plot on Briery Bank which was bought for development around 2000. Suckers from here are being replanted at various orchards in the area.



Ashmeadow Orchard has 2 very old specimens of Cherry Plums. These fruit prolifically most years. There are also some trees in Storth. The Cherry Plums can either be yellow or red.

Cherry Plums in the walled garden

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

Clearly, the commercial orchard does not exist anymore within the National Landscape. However, there are enough orchard owners to form a group which could promote the National Landscape'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 supermarkets. Orchard owners and other fruit tree growers would also be able to share knowledge and pool ideas to the long term benefit of the fruit trees.

South Lakeland Orchard Group hire out an apple press to members. (see page 52 for their website.)

Apple Days

Events may take place in Sep/Oct at various venues in Northern England

See **Acorn Bank** (National Trust), Temple Sowerby, near Penrith

Eccleston, near Preston

Hutton in the Forest, Skelton, Cumbria

RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate

Beetham Garden Centre, Beetham

Leighton Hall, Near Carnforth.

The Fairfield Association, Lancaster

Check their web sites for details

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.



You may be able to bring your own fruit for pressing. Sometimes there are pruning and grafting demonstrations and games such as apple bobbing and the apple and spoon race, storytelling and archery. The Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape partnership held their first Apple Day in October 2005.

Where to Find Local Fruit and Recipes

As well as the community orchards already mentioned and Apple Days, local fruit can be bought in season at Arnside Village Market in the WI Hall Arnside on Friday mornings and in the garden surplus stall outside the Gaskell Hall in Silverdale



Food Futures in Lancaster has good ideas for using or donating surplus fruit on their website: www.foodfutures.org.uk/cooking/

Community Orchards

Yealands Parish Council have one at their allotments aided by grant funding from the Landscape Trust/National Landscape. Arnside have a parish orchard in Beachwood Reserve and one funded by the Barnes Charitable Trust at Ashmeadow. Why not get involved either by helping at an established orchard or setting one up? There may be grants available to help. It could be some time until the fruit is ready to pick but you will be leaving a great legacy for others.

Leek and Russet Medley with Almonds

Serves 4 - 6

450g / 1 lb firm leeks

450g / 1 lb Egremont Russets

75g / 3 oz butter

Salt & pepper, Pinch of caraway seeds

150ml / 1/4 pt vegetable stock

50g / 2 oz split blanched almonds



Egremont Russet



Egremont Russets hold their shape well and have a nutty aromatic flavour, ideal for this blend of tastes and textures.

Caraway was a popular flavouring for apple preserves in the seventeenth century.

This dish goes well with roast and grilled meat, especially pork, ham and bacon or as part of a vegetarian meal.

Clean the leeks thoroughly, peeling away the outer skins, then slice them diagonally into chunks about 1cm (½") wide. Peel, core and slice the apples.

Melt 50g (2oz) butter in a heavy saucepan and sweat the leeks and apples in this for a minute or two, turning them till they are well coated in butter.

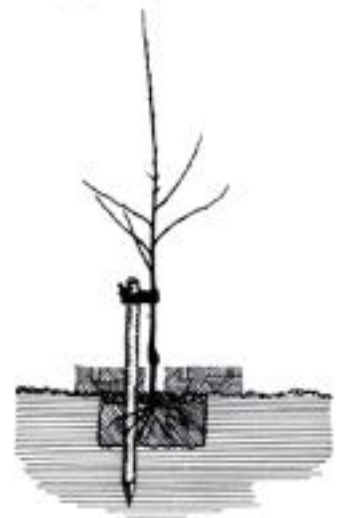
Season, and dust with caraway seeds. Add the stock, cover and cook very gently for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt the remaining butter and turn the almonds in it for a few minutes, until slightly browned.

Spoon the leek and apple mixture into a serving dish and scatter with the almonds.

Planting a Young Tree and Basic Care

Remove turf from a 1 metre square area. Dig a square 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.

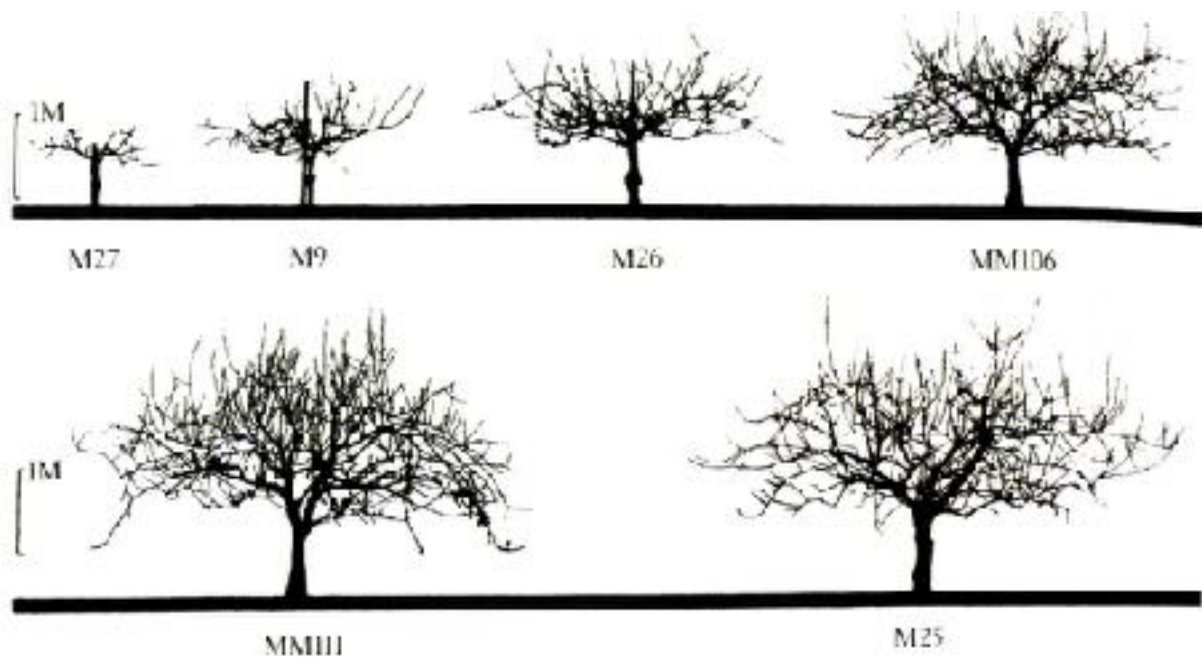


Basic Fruit Tree Care

- Sweep up fallen leaves from beneath trees in autumn to avoid spread of disease
- Prune for shape during the dormant season (Dec to the end of Feb) 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 Jan. 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 and Pear Rootstock



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.



Conclusions

Conclusions

The Orchards

Orchards have flourished in the National Landscape 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 new planting of fruit trees by individuals and communities has taken place.

Fruit Varieties

More than 100 apple varieties are present in the National Landscape, 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". There are large numbers of fruit trees in local gardens that are well loved and well tended.

Next Steps

In order to gain a comprehensive picture we will continue to collect information and disseminate it. We will encourage links between fruit growers in the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape and beyond.

Our 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 Collections

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 Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ

Tel: 01795 531 710

Email: office@brogdalecollections.org

www.brogdalecollections.org



RHS Gardens Wisley

Has an extensive collection of fruit trees.

R.H.S. Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

Tel: 01483 224 234

www.rhs.org.uk

National Orchard Network

The Orchard Network is a partnership of organisations working together for the conservation of orchards across the British Isles. This is a set of resources that include information about ways to protect, support and get involved with orchard and fruit heritage and production, and help conserve the wildlife that orchards support.

www.orchardnetwork.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.

Ford, Pineapple lane, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6HZ

www.commonground.org.uk

South Lakeland Orchard Group

This was formed in 2007 by people who are passionate about orchard fruits in the South Lakeland district of Cumbria, England. In 2019 SLOG was awarded **Plant Heritage National Collection** status for Malus Domestica (North West English varieties). www.slorchards.com

North Cumbria Orchard Group

The group runs visits to various Apple Days and other events. www.ncorchards.co.uk/main/

The Northern Fruit Group

The group was formed in 1995 and has over 300 members. It has set up registers of old fruit varieties and orchards and advises on orchard establishment and maintenance. It holds meetings to give help and advice to members, presently held at the RHS Garden, Harlow Carr, Harrogate. At other venues there are sessions on 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 are arranged; these may be private gardens and orchards or commercial operations. The group publishes information leaflets on all aspects of fruit growing. The majority of events take place in Yorkshire but there are active members of the group all over the North-West. www.thenorthernfruitgroup.com/

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. www.lythdamsons.org.uk



Grants

Grants are often available for the maintenance and planting of trees in orchards. Further information and contact details can be obtained from the National Landscape Office at the Old Station Building, Arnside LA5 OHG, email: info@arnside-silverdale.org.uk

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National Library of Scotland

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all who have helped in providing information for the compilation of this booklet and in particular to Cliff Brown, Phil's companion on many visits and whose expertise on all matters concerning fruit trees has proved invaluable.

Also 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.

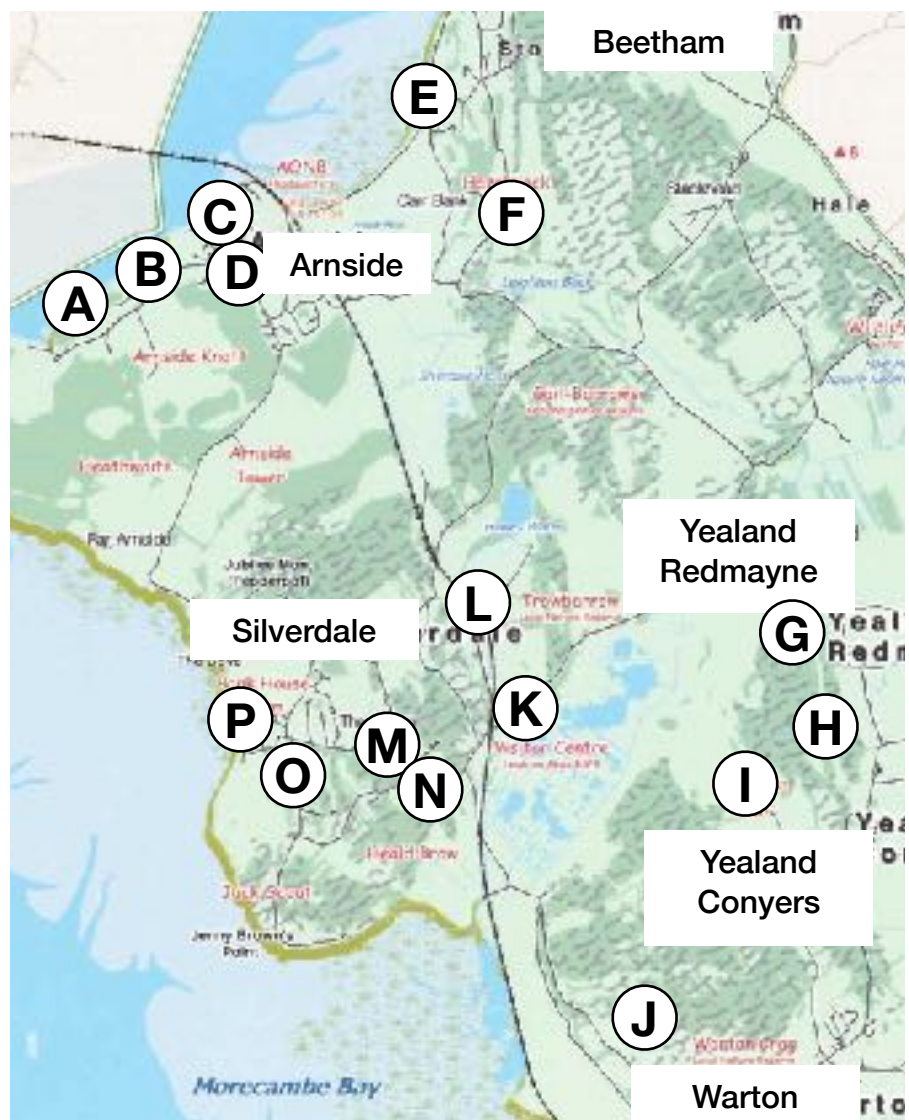


Map of Orchards Listed :

Some no longer exist, most are privately owned but one, Ashmeadow Orchard, is run as a community orchard by the Barnes Charitable Trust and one, Beachwood Reserve, is owned and managed by Arnside Parish Council.

In the map below, Orchards which can be visited are in **bold**. Those not open to the public are underlined and those that no longer exist are (in parentheses).

- | Orchard |
|----------------------------|
| A Beachwood, |
| B Ashmeadow |
| C (Saltcotes) |
| <u>D Orchard Barn,</u> |
| <u>E (Guard Hill Farm)</u> |
| <u>F Hazelslack Farm</u> |
| <u>G Clares</u> |
| <u>H Yealand Manor</u> |
| I Leighton Hall |
| <u>J Limestones</u> |
| <u>K Myers Farm</u> |
| <u>L Red Bridge</u> |
| <u>M Richmond House</u> |
| <u>N Hazelwood Lodge</u> |
| <u>O Lindeth Road</u> |
| <u>P (Shore Road)</u> |



Bridgets, Keswicks & Reinettes



Orchards of the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape

Research into the value of orchards and the diversity of fruit varieties within the landscape of this area

A look at the unique history of selected orchards

Practical advice on growing and maintaining fruit trees and where to get help

Where to get local fruit in season and what to do with surplus fruit.

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