

General History of Barley

Barley, known as Barelegh in 1324, means the infertile lea or meadow. The Township of Barley included Barley Booth, Wheatley Booth and Hay Booth and Whitehalgh (now known as Whitehough) - "Booth" means cowsheds. About 1266 a cow farm was established, followed by extensive cattle breeding in the 13th Century. Barley earned its livelihood from agriculture until the 18th century when textiles were manufactured and handlooms were installed in attics of many smallholdings as an extra source of income. Barley's brooks - as an effective source of waterpower attracted cotton factories. There was a small mill at Narrowgates and one at Barley Green, which is now the site of the water treatment plant. At its height Barley Green Mill worked 200 looms, until floods destroyed the building in 1880. A cotton twist mill at Narrowgates was built by William Hartley to spin cotton warp thread. Weavers cottages were built adjacent to the mill and are still occupied to this day. The Whitehough area is now the Camp School established in 1938 and run by the local Education Authority.

Geological and geographical information

The rocks of Black Moss and Stang Top area to the east of Barley are Pendle Grit - a grit stone of the upper carboniferous type - which also caps the summit of Barley Hill and forms nearly all Stang Top Moor. The large group of grits and interbedded shales is about 430m (1,400ft) thick. The lower part is probably mainly massive grits, with some shales, although the upper part is mainly shaley. Black Moss Reservoirs, Black Moss Water, Over Houses and Foot House Gate all lie in shales. Near Whitehough, about a mile east of Barley, the sandstone of Pendle Grit is separated from the overlying Warley Wise Grit by a hollow, indicating shaley beds about 92 metres thick. The uppermost beds of Warley Wise Grit are well exposed in Whitehough quarry.

Black Moss bird life

The Black Moss reservoir complex attracts a variety of birds, throughout the year. During the winter a number of wildfowl species can be seen, including the humble mallard, but also a number of diving ducks, principally tufted duck but also goldeneye, goosander and, occasionally, pochard and teal.

During the summer the numbers of ducks declines markedly, with only mallard remaining to breed. However, this is more than compensated for by the presence of breeding wading birds such as lapwing, curlew and redshank. These birds can be found breeding on surrounding fields and along the edge of the reservoir.

Other birds to look out for around the reservoir are linnet, stonechat, skylark, common sandpiper and reed bunting. These are scarcer but with a little luck and patience can be located.

Forest of Bowland

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. The AONB is managed by a partnership of landowners, farmers, voluntary organisations, local councils and government agencies, who work to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of this special area. For more information regarding the Forest of Bowland AONB, visit the website at

www.forestofbowland.com

or telephone 01772 531473 for an information leaflet.

Leaflets available from Barley Information Centre and Pendle Heritage Centre, Barrowford.

Public transport details telephone Travel Line 0870 608 2608.

Much of the land around Ogden and Black Moss forms part of a valuable water catchment area. The reservoir supplies drinking water and it is important to safeguard this supply.

You can help by guarding against risk of fire, fastening gates, keeping dogs under proper control, keeping to paths across farmland and avoiding damaging fences, hedges and walls. Be careful on country roads and please protect wild life, plants and trees.

When walking and riding in the countryside please follow the country code.



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Black Moss Reservoirs



Black Moss

There are no steep gradients on the walk and much of the walk is on hard surfaced tracks or tarmac road. However, the return leg of the route crosses fields, which may become muddy in the wet weather. The middle section of the walk is along a country lane and care should be taken to ensure you are visible to drivers using the road. There are several gates and kissing gates to negotiate but, at the time of writing, no stiles. Allow up to 1.25 hours.

The reservoir history

Both Upper and Lower Black Moss Reservoirs provide drinking water to Nelson when needed. Upper Black Moss, completed in 1894, can hold 204,568 cubic metres (45 million gallons), has a surface area of 5.17 hectares (12.78 acres) and is 9.45m (31ft) deep. The lower reservoir was completed in 1903 and can hold 295,487 cubic metres (65 million gallons), is 11.8m (41ft) deep with a surface area of 7.23 hectares (17.87 acres).

The plantations

37 hectares (91 acres) of forest around the reservoirs were planted before 1935. Part of Whitehough forest was planted in 1901 with Sycamore trees - the remainder, planted in 1935 with Sitka Spruce, Norway Spruce and Scots Pine. Slacks Wood and Heys Lane were planted in 1900 with Beech and Sycamore. Heys Lane was replanted in 1981.

Upper Blackmoss Reservoir



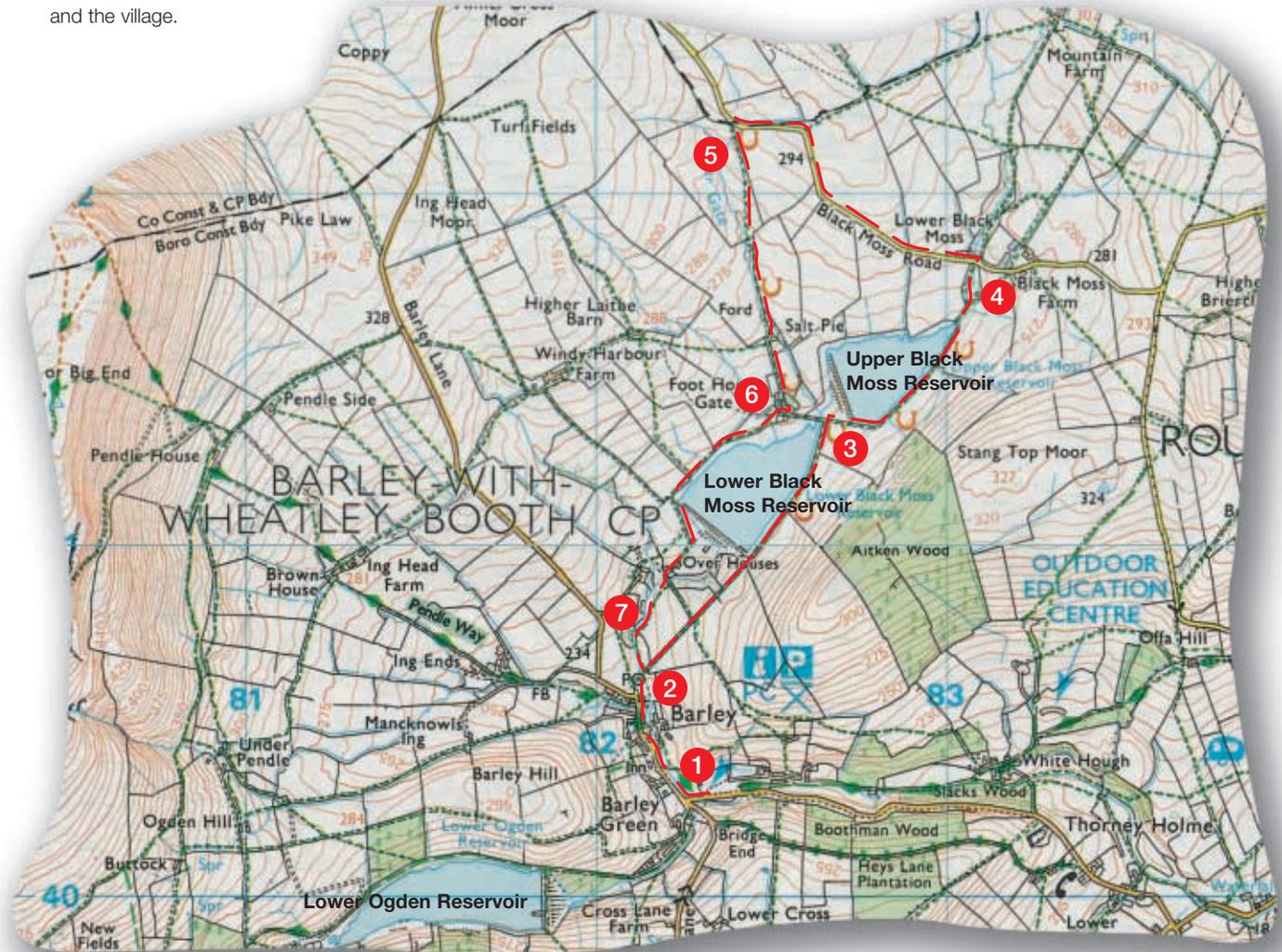
Front cover: Lower Blackmoss Reservoir

The walk

1 On leaving the car park, walk through the picnic area and the village.

2 Turn first right past the Methodist Church taking the track signposted private road which leads to Black Moss Reservoirs.

3 At the junction turn right and follow the path to Blackmoss Road.



7 Follow the track past Over Houses, go over the bridge, and pass through the small gate on the right and back to Barley.

6 At the farm, pass through the gate on the right. Take the path skirting the reservoir.

5 Turn left through the gate and follow the track, passing Salt Pie Farm, to Foot House Gate Farm.

4 At the road turn left and continue along the road to the signpost on the left hand side, by a field gate. Take care on the road.