



1 *Barley and Black Moss*

A fantastic countryside route, offering stunning views of Pendle Hill

START: The Barley Mow, Barley (GPS waypoint SD 821 404)

DISTANCE: 6.5 miles (10.5km)

DIFFICULTY: 🟡🟡 **HEIGHT GAIN:** ▲▲

APPROX. TIME: 2 hours 30 minutes

PARKING: The Barley Mow or Barley car park

ROUTE TERRAIN: Tarmac lanes, fields and moorland

FACILITIES: Toilets and refreshments available in Barley

SUITABILITY: Not suitable for wheelchairs or prams, dogs allowed but must be kept under control around livestock

OS MAPS: Landranger 103 (Blackburn and Burnley), Explorer OL21 (South Pennines)



This route starts from the Barley Mow pub, Barley, and takes the walker by Lower and Upper Black Moss Reservoirs and up to Wheathead Height, with the option of visiting the Pendle Sculpture Trail near the end.

There are great views of Pendle Hill throughout the route, plus plenty of wildlife spotting opportunities – especially by the reservoirs – so make sure you bring your camera!

Due to the terrain covered, we cannot class this as an accessible walk. Dogs are permitted but please keep all pets on a lead through farmland and near livestock.

Barley is a village in the borough of Pendle, close to Pendle Hill and an ideal base for walkers looking to climb the hill or undertake one of the many walking routes around the area.

Said to mean 'infertile lea or meadow', Barley was a township that also included Barley Booth, Wheatley Booth, Hay Booth and Whitehalgh or Whitehough. Barley earned its livelihood

through agriculture and there is evidence of a cattle farm being established in the area around 1266. The village continued to earn its living through farming until the 18th century, when textiles were manufactured and handlooms were installed in the lofts of many smallholdings, as an extra form of income.

The brooks in the village proved to be an effective source of waterpower and attracted cotton factories to the area – there was a small mill at Narrowgates and another at Barley Green, which is where the water treatment plant is now.

At its peak, Barley Green Mill worked 200 looms, however floods destroyed the building in 1880. Weavers cottages sprung up near Narrowgates and adjacent to the mill, which are still occupied to this day.

The reservoirs play a big part in this walk; Lower and Upper Black Moss Reservoirs provide drinking water to nearby Nelson when needed. Upper Black Moss was completed in 1894 and can hold 204,568 cubic metres – or 45 million gallons – of water and has a surface area of 5.17 hectares. The lower reservoir holds more water, at a limit of 295,487 cubic metres – or 65 million gallons – and was completed in 1903. A forest was planted around the reservoirs sometime before 1935 and now 37 hectares surround the bodies of water.

Getting there

If you're travelling to the area by public transport, there's a bus service direct to the Barley Mow Monday through to Saturday on the Clitheroe to Nelson route. You're after the 7, 7A or the 7B and it calls at the Clitheroe Interchange, Chatburn,

Downham, Barrowford and Nelson. For more times, visit www.lancashire.gov.uk and search for the Clitheroe Local Services and Pendle Witch Hopper timetable. If you're

travelling from further afield, you can catch the train to Clitheroe from Manchester Victoria, which calls at Salford, Bolton, Blackburn and Darwen, then catch the bus to Barley from there.

Where to visit

The Barley Mow

Barley Village, Barley, Pendle, Lancashire, BB12 9JX

This walk starts at the Seafood Pub Company's latest venture, the Barley Mow, which is set to open this month. When we visited, the refurbishment was well under way and the company has big plans for the newest pub in their portfolio.

The Barley Mow will be a bit of a departure from the other Seafood Pub Company sites; it will be a pub that does food, as opposed to the others around the region, which are gastro-pubs. But what's the difference? The executive chef explains:



"Well, to me, simple pub food is everyday stuff that you might eat at home – gammon, chilli, stews – and most people carry a mental picture of their favourite 'pub classic'. It's a more substantial meal. More emphasis on meat. Probably grilled. Usually it's one course – everything on the plate and no side dishes. Or it's grazing food – sandwiches, burgers, and salads. Add the sort of crumpets, crepes, waffles and bacon butties that we could be doing and you have a likely hybrid Euro-American daytime menu.

"Pub food is definitely more 'daytime' compared with the rather stylish dishes that gastro-pubs do in the evening. Later in the day you're more likely to find a broader range of creative world dishes. More cosmopolitan ingredients and spices. And served up differently.

"It's not an ingredient thing. They don't really change. Neither do the suppliers. And quality certainly doesn't."

The Barley Mow is located right at the start of this route, so what better time to pop in and try out the brand new menu? Stop in before the walk and burn off your lunch or make sure to visit after as a treat.

The walker's view



David Turner explores Pendle on this route

I felt a pang of regret as I pulled into the car park to begin this walk around the fields and moorland of Barley. Fancy turning up in the shadow of Pendle Hill and not climbing to the top! Unforgivable – or so I thought.

The track signed for Blacko soon leads to the Black Moss Reservoirs. When needed, these large bodies of water provide drinking water to Nelson and the surrounding area. They also play host to a variety of bird life, including lapwing, which were plentiful along the waters edge as I made my way along the path. Pendle Hill sits proudly behind and looked particularly handsome reflected in the water of the reservoir.

Views of Pendle Hill remain as you make your way up and away from the reservoirs and onto the moorland beyond. I did think I'd come unstuck when arriving at Higher Black Moss, as numerous gates appears to be tied shut, however the actual gate needed to carry on along the route was indeed open and I was soon on my way again.

The back end of this walk gets more remote as you gain height and approach Wheathead Height, and the path towards the top of the hill can appear a little vague at first. As long as you continue towards the highest point, you'll soon spot the path leading up the hillside, and the stile which is taken about half way up.

After returning back to the reservoirs, Aitken Wood appears to your left shortly before you reach Lower Black Moss reservoir



again. The wood houses the Pendle Sculpture Trail, and it's worth taking a little detour up into the wood and doing a short loop of the sculptures that have been dotted around among the trees. The footpath leading out of the southern end of the wood was closed when I visited, so you'll need to retrace your steps back to the reservoirs in order to return to Barley.

I must admit, there's more to Barley than the

famous whaleback of Pendle Hill and it's well worth exploring the surrounding footpaths and reservoirs. Even if you're not climbing Pendle Hill, it rarely disappears from view all the way around this route and when the sun's shining it's a treat to look upon it from a distance. Come to think of it, it's a treat whatever the weather.

Geocaching in Barley



While in the area testing out this Pendle-based route, David Turner decided to see what he could find geocaching wise. It turns out that there are quite a few in the vicinity, so why not see if you can find a couple while you're on this walk?

Please remember to respect the environment when out geocaching and take care not to disturb any local wildlife. If you're worried about the location of a cache and its vicinity to nesting birds or rare habitat, contact the cache's owner via the geocaching website – www.geocaching.com

Cache 1 - Witch 400 - Jennet Device - The new Malkin Tower (GC3AY96)

My first find of the day was situated on the actual walk route and wasn't too far from the start point. A young family walked past as I was approaching the cache, and the children were poking around in the stone wall looking for spiders and other creepy crawlies. Had they looked a bit further, they might have stumbled across the cache itself. When all was quiet again, I soon managed to discover the hiding place and popped the cache on the wall to take some pictures before hiding it away again.



Cache 2 - 3 Witches & The Warlock's 1st cache (GC1HP99)

I had to smile as I approached the co-ordinates for this cache. I've walked the path and crossed the bridge here numerous times, and each time have walked straight past the cache without knowing it was there. The hiding place is an ideal place to rest your legs for a minute until the coast is clear and you can hunt around for the cache. I soon had the cache in hand but didn't want to hold onto it for too long, as it was rather wet from all the rain! On to the next one...

Cache 3 - U P 1 (GC56T6D)

This cache is the first in a series, which form a figure of eight loop around Under Pendle. I wouldn't be able to grab them all on the small route I'd planned out, but I could certainly try for a few of them.

This first one was hidden near an old stone building. From a distance it looked like there were going to be an awful lot of stones to turn over before I discovered the hiding place! Thankfully, while the cache was well hidden away from passing walkers, it was still a fairly easy find once I started looking for it. Unlike the previous cache, this one was bone dry too which was a bonus. This was only a small container and held little more than a logbook and pencil to record the visit.



Barley geocache locations



Cache 4 - U P 2 (GC56T7F)

Another cache from the Under Pendle series and this one, like the previous one, wasn't too far from the main footpath. There were a few places that this one might have been, and it took me a minute or two to realise that I was searching in the wrong place. Some slight adjustments to my search meant that I soon discovered the cache and pulled it free from its hiding place. I had to move a few stones around to find this one, but I was careful to put them back in their place after looking – disturbed rocks and stones are always a sure sign that a geocacher is about!



Cache 5 - U P 10 (GC56V41)

This was a cleverly hidden cache position just before the wooded area that overlooks Lower Ogden Reservoir. There's a line of twisted, wind swept trees leading up to the wood and the co-ordinates for the cache led me towards them. This turned out to be a small container and I certainly struck lucky with where I decided to start looking – I might have been there for a while looking for this one!

Cache 6 - U P 11 (GC56V49)

Another cheeky hiding place which probably sees lots of people pass by without knowing that a cache is hidden away at their feet. I found a few swappables in this container, including some sheep's wool. I wasn't too surprised, as about 50 sheep stood around watching me pull this cache from its hiding place and rummage through the contents! There are some great views down towards the reservoir from this particular cache too. ➤



While you are there!

Sculpture Trail

Explore the famous Pendle Witch story on the Pendle Sculpture Trail in Aitken Wood, which is passed on this walk route. The trail features 10 ceramic plaques, designed by Sarah McDade, each one with its own unique symbol to represent the 10 people from Pendle who were accused of witchcraft more than 400 years ago.

Families can enjoy finding the plaques as they are presented in a treasure trail style quiz to be hunted down and found!

As well as the trail, there is also new work from lead artist Philippe Handford, including a 'walking wall' and 'tumbling' tree arches, plus if you look high in the trees you may spot Steve Blaylock's metal bat, owl and spider web sculptures. There's also a beautifully carved life size figure of a witchfinder, by Martyn Bednarczuk.



Cut out this page and take with you...

1 Barley and Black Moss

BARLEY VILLAGE, BARLEY, PENDLE, LANCASHIRE, BB12 9JX

A six and a half mile route taking the walker by Upper and Lower Black Moss Reservoirs and up to Wheathead Height.

There is also the option to explore the Pendle Sculpture Trail, which is indicated on the map by a red dashed line.



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Wildlife watch

The area around the Black Moss reservoirs attracts a variety of birds all the way through the year. Wildfowl are the stars of the show come winter, when you can see tufted duck, golden eye, goosander and the humble mallard, plus occasionally pochard and teal.

Summer sees a decline in the number of ducks, but breeding waders, including lapwing, curlew and redshank, can be found along the reservoir edges and in surrounding fields. You may also spot linnet, reed bunting, common sandpiper, skylark and stonechat, but these species are a bit scarcer so luck and time will need to be on your side!

In Aitken Wood, common birds like blue and coal tits, robins and blackbirds can be seen, while in summer, there's a chance to see the migratory redstart in areas with broadleaved trees. Where there are conifers, listen for the goldcrest, which has a very high-pitched trill.



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OS MAPS: Landranger 103 (Blackburn and Burnley), Explorer OL21 (South Pennines)



1 Your walk, step-by-step

START From the Barley Mow car park, head along the road – with the pub on your right.

“When we visited, the Barley Mow was still being refurbished so we parked in the main Barley car park. If you’re starting the walk from here, make your way behind the toilet block and follow the footpath, which passes over the stream. When the footpath ends, keep on in the same direction along the main road through Barley, passing the Barley Mow pub on your right.”



As the road bends left a little further on, take the footpath straight ahead signed for Blacko. Carry on along the footpath, making your way uphill and eventually passing Lower Black Moss Reservoir. **A**

Turn left at the top end of the reservoir and pass between the two reservoirs and towards the farm houses. Continue through a wooden gate, and then another gate a bit further on. After the second gate, bear right towards the wall and follow it to the far end of the field and out onto the road. Turn right along the road. When



the road starts to bend right, follow the public footpath sign on the left and pass over the stile.

Keep to the wall and pass over a stone stile, then a wooden stile further along. Go over a small wooden boardwalk and through the gate, before making your way towards the farmhouses in the distance. **B** At the corner of the field, pass through the metal gate. There are other gates to the left and right, but these are tied up and can't be opened. Go through a second metal gate a few metres on, before bearing slightly left to take the rising footpath, which runs alongside the gully to the right.

Follow this path over the fields and towards a dilapidated farmhouse in the distance, which is surrounded by a few trees. Cross over the footbridge and head towards the house. Go around and pick up the wall on the other side of the house. Ignore the footpath sign leading over the wall and instead, follow the wall upwards to the top of the moorland. **C** At the top, bear right making your way towards Wheathead Height. As the path

ascends towards the crest of the hill, take the stile on the left beside a metal gate.



Follow this path all the way down to a more well defined track further down the hill. Turn right and pass through the metal gate. Follow the track all the way down to the road, passing **D** through a few gates as you go. At the road, turn right and follow the road uphill. Continue around to the left and then to the right and down towards Black Moss Farm. **E** Take the metal kissing gate on the left and carry on towards the rundown building a little further on. Pass over the stile and go around the building to arrive on the main path around the reservoirs. Turn left and continue on around the reservoir. The path



eventually leads back to the top end of Lower Black Moss Reservoir and from here, your steps can be retraced back down into Barley.

Extend your route

Just before arriving back at Lower Black Moss Reservoir, the path passes the entrance to the Aitken Wood and the Pendle Sculpture

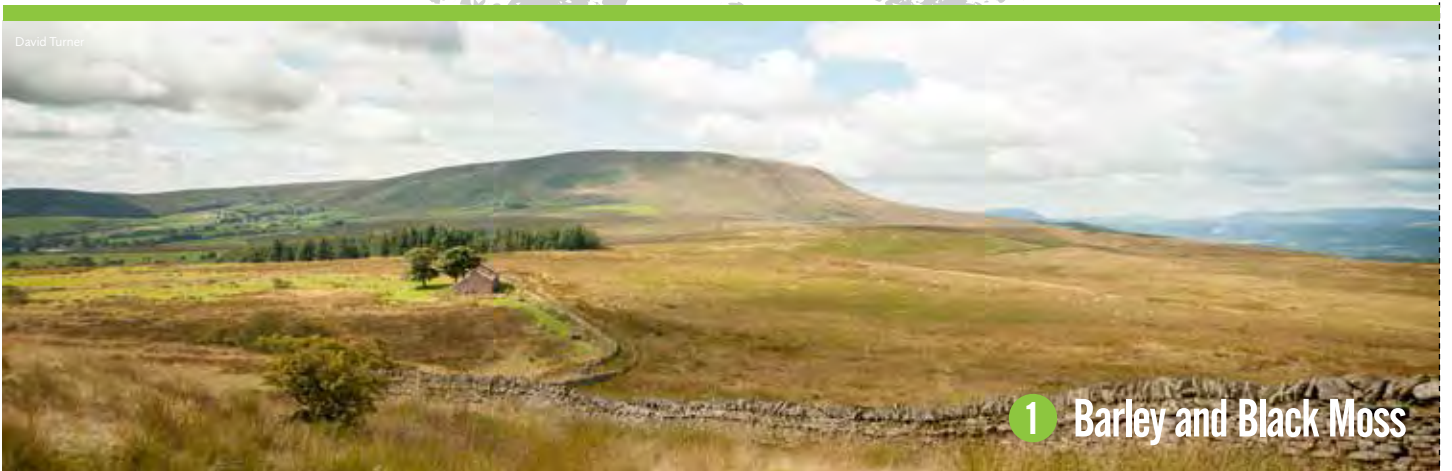


Trail. We'd recommend branching off into the wood and doing a loop of the sculpture trail – marked by the red dashed line on the map – before returning to the footpath beside the reservoir and making your way back into Barley. The



OS map shows a concessionary footpath leading out of the southern end of the woods, but this is unfortunately now closed off.

Walk images provided by David Turner



1 Barley and Black Moss

