

History

- A comprehensive recommended reading list for the history of Cumbria can be found here:
<http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/learning/lakedistrictfacts/archaeologyhistory/archaeologylinks/archaeologylearnmore>
- There is a useful timeline on the Lake District National Park website:
<http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/learning/lakedistrictfacts/archaeologyhistory/archaeologytimeline>
- We have some excellent history books at the hostel, including *The English Lakes: a History* by Ian Thompson.
- We have a catalogued archive of material relating to the history of Barrow House and its former occupants.
- We have some displays about the history of Barrow House throughout the hostel.
- Keswick Museum and Art Gallery (founded in 1873) welcomes educational visits.
- Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery in Carlisle offer workshops and educational resources for KS1-KS5 History:
<http://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/your-visit/education/key-stage-2-sessions>
- [The Wordsworth Trust](#) in Grasmere provides workshops for all ages. You can learn about life in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and explore their extensive collection of fine art and manuscripts.
- Since the 13th century Honister Slate has been an important part of the Borrowdale community, although the first known records of Honister slate mining do not begin until 1643. [Honister Slate Mine](#) has a resident historian, and we have several books and a DVD about the slate mine and its relationship to social, economic, and landscape history. Tours of the slate mine can be adapted to specific ages and areas of interest. For instance, the guides can focus on technology, working conditions, specific time periods, landscape change, or Honister's place within a national and international context throughout time. A tour of Honister is a really exciting way to explore the history of Borrowdale and its relationship to wider Cumbrian and British history.

Prehistoric Cumbria: Neolithic and Bronze Ages

- Neolithic farmers arrived in Cumbria in approximately 3000 BC.
- Neolithic stone axes have been found in Cumbria:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/JpeSCpHKShSi1jvZBJ9D5A>
- Stone circles (such as Castlerigg Stone Circle near the hostel) were built during the Neolithic and Bronze ages.

Romans: from AD 43

- By AD 100 the Romans had reached the Lake District. They built lots of military defences because the region was at the frontier of their Empire.
- Tullie House in Carlisle and Senhouse Museum in Maryport have Roman artefacts on display. Senhouse Museum: <http://www.senhousemuseum.co.uk/>
- The nearest Roman Forts to the hostel can be found at Ambleside, Ravenglass, and Hardknott, with Ambleside being the closest.
Ambleside Roman Fort: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/ambleside-roman-fort/>

Britons

- The Rheged Centre (near Penrith) provides an excellent introduction to the history of Cumbria (part of the ancient kingdom of Rheged). It also offers several educational workshops and resources.
- The Kingdom of Rheged spanned the late 5th to early 8th centuries. The Britons of Rheged occupied Cumbria. The P-Celtic Brythonic language was spoken.
- The Briton Cymry had a strong influence in Cumbria. The names Derwent (meaning thick with oak trees) and Blencathra (meaning hill of the chair) come from the Cymry, and the name Cumbria comes from the same origins as Cymru, the ancient Briton name for Wales.

Vikings and Anglo-Saxons: 430 - 1066

- The Vikings who settled in Borrowdale probably came from Ireland, via the Isle of Man, rather than from Scandinavia. They do not appear to have been hostile invaders.
- You can see a Viking burial mound at Low Bridge End Farm in St John's in the Vale (free educational visits).
- You can be a Viking for a Day with [Plattyplus](#), one of our local partners. Try sailing a Viking-style long boat, dressing up in Viking-style clothing, and learning about the daily lives of the Vikings.
- The [Jorvik Viking Centre](#) in York is an excellent museum. You might be able to combine it with your journey to or from the hostel.

Note: in the 11th century most of the land in Borrowdale was owned by Furness Abbey. In the late 12th century it was sold to Fountains Abbey (Yorkshire).

Tudors: 1487 - 1603

- Between the late 12th century and 1537 most of the land in Borrowdale belonged to Fountains Abbey (Yorkshire). In 1537 the monastic lands were transferred to the Crown and yeomen. The Fountains Abbey land was sold by

Henry VIII to Richard Greames of Eske. In 1615 this land passed into the hands of tenants.

- 1558: Elizabeth I began her reign.
- In 1564 Elizabeth I invited a company of German miners to extract copper from the Newlands Valley. They made a base for themselves on Derwent Island on Derwent Water.
- In 1597 the Treaty of Carlisle between England and Scotland was designed to put an end to the border troubles.
- By the beginning of the 17th century the yeomen farmers, descendents of the original Norse-Irish settlers, were the most powerful social group in the Cumbrian valleys. Throughout the seventeenth century they used local stone to rebuild farmsteads and construct dry-stone walls.

Georgian era and William IV: 1714 – 1837

- At Honister, slate quarrying was taking place on a large scale by 1750. Tunnels leading to open chambers or closehead caverns were also well advanced.
- Joseph Pocklington bought Derwent Island (then called Vicar's Island) in 1778.
- Barrow House was built for Joseph Pocklington in 1787. You can see many of the original features throughout the house.
- JMW Turner made a tour of the Lake District in 1797.
- This was the period in which travellers first started to write about the Lake District. Many of their journals and guides have been transcribed and are available to read here:
<http://www.geog.port.ac.uk/webmap/thelakes/html/lakemenu.htm>
- The poet William Wordsworth wrote his *Guide to the Lakes* in 1810.
- We have done lots of research into the cakes and biscuits that were made during this time. We have original recipes that you can try.
- Herdwick sheep were first recognised as a breed in 1790s.
- In 1829 there were 21 farms in Borrowdale.
- 1832: first record of pencils being made in Keswick.

Victorians: 1837 - 1901

- In 1851 there were 4 pencil factories in Keswick, using the graphite mined from Borrowdale.
- In 1856 the Rotary Slate Saw was introduced at Honister Slate Mine.
- In 1865 the Cockermouth-Keswick-Penrith Railway opened for passenger traffic. This allowed more tourists to travel to Borrowdale.
- In 1895 the National Trust was created. One of the founders was Canon Rawnsley, a Keswick resident.

1901 to 1945

- In 1931 Barrow House was part of the Youth Hostel Association (YHA) and its warden was Joseph Glaisyer.
- During the Second World War, Barrow House was used as a boarding house for evacuees from Newcastle Central High School. Barrow House relied on its small-scale hydro-electric plant for electricity, and on Barrow Beck for water.
- In 1943 Robert Graham started running Barrow House as a hotel/guest house.

1945 to present

- The Lake District National Park was formed in 1951.
- In 1961 the YHA bought Barrow House and it became known as Derwentwater Youth Hostel (or YHA Derwentwater).
- There was a working sawmill in Dodd Wood until 1970.
- Local government reform in 1974 created the present county of Cumbria.
- In 1997 Mark Weir bought Honister Slate Mine and reopened it as a working mine. He also created educational and adventure experiences, including mine tours and Via ferrata.
- In 2006 there were 12 farms in Borrowdale (all sheep farms).
- Cumbria (particularly Cockermouth) was badly affected by flooding in 2009.
- In 2011 Derwentwater Youth Hostel was sold by YHA and became an independent hostel.
- The Herdwick breed of sheep was given Protected Designation of Origin status in 2013.
- In 2013 a vote was held on whether to bury nuclear waste in Ennerdale.