

BURNBANKS

MODEL SETTLEMENT



NEW LIFE AT BURNBANKS

As the Haweswater scheme and its associated works were finished, the number of people living at Burnbanks continued to dwindle. Many houses became unoccupied, and some people came to live whose jobs were not directly connected with the dam nor with its adjoining vast estate. Yet at the beginning of the twenty first century, some residents remained who could trace family links back to the original 'navy village'.



In the spreading undergrowth of trees and brambles, foundations of Burnbanks' original meeting places and homes could still be traced. Beyond some well-kept gardens and houses, paths skirted the village, striking out onto the wild fell above Haweswater with its special natural habitats.



Disputes frequently arose about whether to open up this and neighbouring areas to leisure pursuits such as fishing, boating and water skiing, to return it to wilderness or to maintain its established residential use. The matter was finally resolved in favour of the redevelopment of the 18 remaining bungalows on their original plots and with a design that closely resembled the cast-iron dwellings erected by Manchester Corporation. Occupation was restricted to local people and indeed the first house of the new scheme became the home of someone whose links with Burnbanks went back to its very beginnings.

New life is coming to Burnbanks, but clearly the recent and more distant past of this model settlement continues to shape its character.

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DID YOU KNOW THAT.....?

- 1.** The name Haweswater probably comes for the Norse Hafr's water. This could be a Norse personal name or the Old Norse for 'goat'.
- 2.** Haweswater dam is 30 meters (96 feet) high and 470 meters (1550 feet) long. The safe reliable yield from the Haweswater scheme is 66 million gallons (about 300,000 cubic meters) of water a day. The draw-off tower stands on the shore about half-a-mile south of the Haweswater Hotel.
- 3.** The capacity of Haweswater is almost 19 thousand million gallons (about 85 million cubic meters). This is enough to provide every man, woman and child in the UK with almost 8000 cups of tea, enough to keep us all going for about 7 years!
- 4.** When full, the surface of Haweswater is about 240meters (790ft) above sea level. Water from Haweswater flows 'downhill' to Manchester without the need for any pumps on the way.
- 5.** In 1972 a proposal was made to raise the height of the dam to about 70 meters (230 feet), increasing its capacity to 65 thousand million gallons (290 million cubic meters).
- 6.** Before the valley of Mardale was flooded, the natural Hawes Water was the highest in the Lakes. It was about 4 km (2½ miles) long and almost divided into two parts at Measand Beck. The smaller eastern end was known as Low Water and the end beyond Measand as High Water. The Kitchen family rowed a ferry across the narrow strait.
- 7.** The Earls of Lonsdale retained the fishing rights to Haweswater. Trout and char were caught for the Lonsdale table. Today trout, perch and pike can still be found.
- 8.** At the entrance to Burnbanks village there used to be gates that were locked at night to keep the residents in (and intruders out?)
- 9.** One of the first babies born in the village of Burnbanks was named Irene Burnbanks Thompson.
- 10.** A resident of Burnbanks who now lives in Sydney, Australia, has called her house 'Burnbanks'.
- 11.** The lynch gates at Bampton Parish Church were made in the workshop at Burnbanks and presented by Manchester City Corporation as a 'thank you' for putting up with the disruption caused by the building of the dam.
- 12.** Alderman William Walker, Chairman of the Manchester Waterworks Committee in the 1930s, retired to Naddle Gate where he died in 1961, aged 93.