

Barrow Town of Celebrant

Location Overview

The location is named 'The Barrow Town of Celebrant'. 'Barrows, sometimes described as tumuli on early maps, are mounds of earth and/ or stone of various shapes and sizes.' [1] Barrows are an often-reoccurring theme in Tolkien's world building in the form of tombs, such as the Barrow Downs near the shire. The fields of Celebrant, which is the location of the Barrow town of Celebrant, was the location of a large-scale battle between the forces of Gondor and the Easterlings known as the Balchoth. This war was named the Balchoth war. The Éothéod, who later became the people of Rohan, also helped in the battle. After the war was won against the Balchoth, the Barrows of Celebrant were formed to bury and dispose of the corpses of the battle, mainly those of the Balchoth. While the Éothéod later traveled south to found the kingdom of Rohan, some stayed behind with some people of Gondor, especially those who were too wounded to travel back home, to form a small settlement to build the barrows as well as look after the wounded. This formed the Barrow town of Celebrant.

The town is rather small, containing only 10-15 medieval thatch houses made mainly from wood, as well as a small-town hall and a inn. It serves as a good stopping point for travelers, especially dwarves, as it is near to Moria, but also serves as a stopping point for travelers going to Rohan or Gondor. The inn, named 'The Ruling Steward', after the twelfth ruling steward of Gondor, Cirion who led the Gondorian armies during the battle of Celebrant, is a key location for travelers such as elves of Lothlórien or Rivendell, Dwarves of Moria or men of Gondor or Rohan.

The landscape of the fields of Celebrant is very luscious and green due to the fact that it sits between the river Anduin and the river Limlight, giving the town a vital source of water for farm growth and produce. The Barrow town of Celebrant is known for growing high quality vegetables due to the surrounding landscapes and fields and so they are a primarily

farming town. Furthermore, due to the town's proximity to the river Anduin, there is a large supply of high-quality fish.

In a videogame scenario, players will get quests from the significant/main characters of the town (as featured below) regarding issues they're having. For example, Éodelca the herbalist asks the player for help because her herbs keep mysteriously rotting. The player eventually discovers that all these issues stem from the barrow tombs and the wraiths within poisoning the land.





Key Figures



Town Lord, Héodwyne

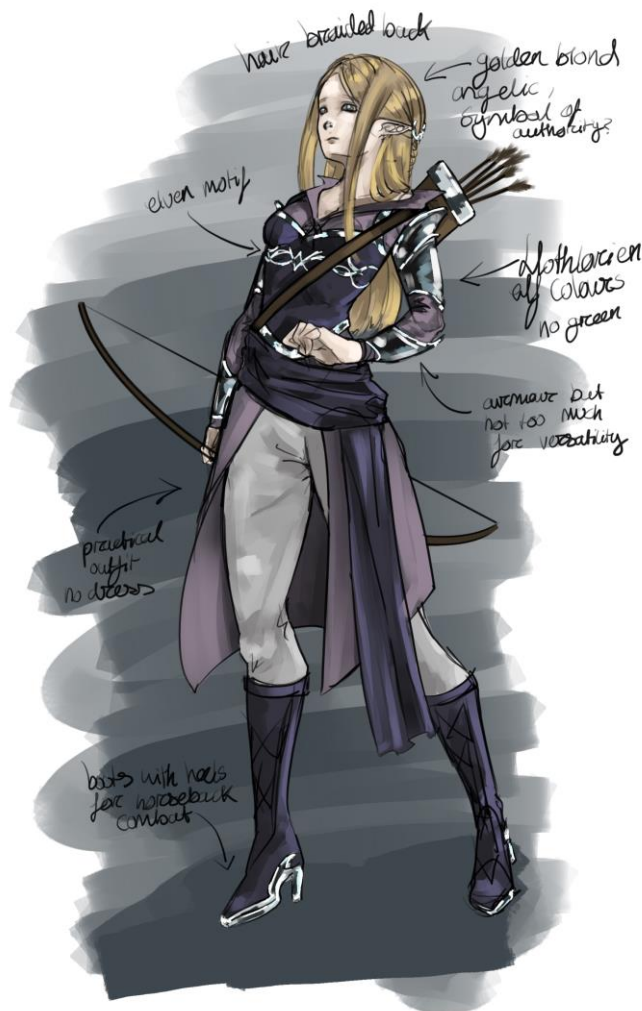
Héodwyne is a descendant of a Éothéod commander that fought in the Balchoth war and became the lord of the Barrow Town of Celebrant. Through his lineage, the lords of the town were chosen. Héodwyne is responsible for managing the town and its resources as well as any trades that may occur. Héodwyne is a fair lord with his people's safety and wellbeing as his priority, however, he has a growing worry regarding the barrow tombs and an evil that dwells inside that could endanger his people.



Dwarven blacksmith, Dwelir

One of the residents and key figures of the town is the dwarf that manages and works at the blacksmith. Dwelir, the name of the dwarven blacksmith, comes from a long lineage of dwarves originating from Moria who have served this town. Using his dwarven craft and knowledge, he mixes styles from the Rohirrim and Gondorians to create unique weapons.

However, he also plays a crucial part in the town as he is responsible for crafting its high-quality farming tools and equipment which is crucial for the town's high quality crop produce.



Elven commander, Teralehti

Teralehti is an elven commander from Lothlorien. With a small group of trained elves, they protect the town and stand guard. In return, the town supplies Lothlórien with vegetables and fish acting as a vital food source. Teralehti is both strict and cold yet takes great duty in protecting the village and its people.

I made the name Teralehti from a mix of Finnish words meaning 'thorn blossom' to mimic Sindarin which is the main elvish language of Lothlórien, which was originally inspired from

Finnish also. Elves of Lothlórien often named themselves after nature, hence blossom, but thorns allude to Teralehti's commander side.



Innkeeper, Anadir

Anadir is the innkeeper of 'The Ruling Steward' inn. He is of Gondorian lineage and takes great care in offering the best services to his customers. However, he can come across as rude, loud or stern but is still a honest and kind man past his initial image. His family have been a long-term resident at the Barrow Town of Celebrant, as his ancestor was a soldier in the Balchoth war who stayed behind to feed the wounded that could not travel back to Gondor, and so, the Inn was founded and passed through his family to him.



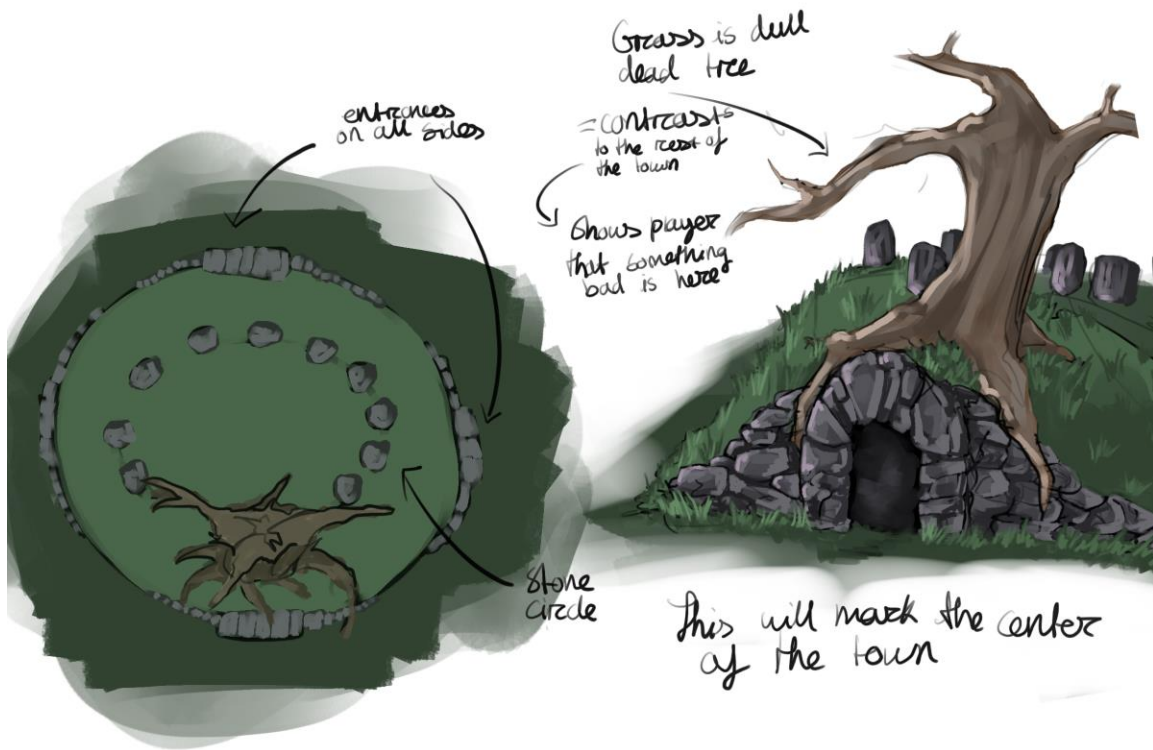
Healer/ Herbalist, Éodelca

Éodelca is the towns healer/herbalist. She is a healer and heals the wounded. She is also the wife of Anadir and so her healers house is next door to the inn. She is kind and gentle. The 'Éo' in her name, inspired by other Rohirrim characters, is derived from the word 'eoh' which meant horse, or war horse in old English. The rest of the name is inspired from the term herb in old English.

Landmarks and Geography

First, due to the Fields of Celebrant being between the river Anduin and the river Limlight, there is a big supply of fish as well as the crops. This is crucial for the kingdom of Edoras as it does not have any significant large sources of water near it and therefore a short supply of fish. Therefore, the Barrow Town of Celebrant supplies fresh fish to Edoras as well as mainland villages of Rohan. Furthermore, fish is also supplied to the elves of Lothlórien. The river Anduin is said to have fish of the highest quality due to the water's quality as well as its cultural significance in middle earth, and so the fish caught and sold by the Barrow Town of Celebrant is very sought after in middle earth.

The main landmark of the Barrow Town of Celebrant and the reason for it existing is of course the barrow tombs, created after the Balchoth war to contain the bodies. This was created because there were too many bodies which had to be disposed of. Furthermore, they did not want to burn the bodies as this would damage the luscious green land which was considered precious and valuable for farmland. As a result, the barrow tombs were created and as an extension, the town to care for them and build them. The tombs consist of an underground network of tunnels under the town, expanding from the initial barrows. The Tombs are deep bellow the ground as this was done to prevent the smell of the corpses and spread of disease and rats. The entrance is a main big barrow in the centre of the town.



Additionally, the town features a prominent inn. This inn is in a crucial travel location and therefore sees many kinds of guests, from dwarves, elves and men alike. The inn is known across middle earth due to its location and prominence in crossing the misty mountains to Eriador or travelling to Moria, Rohan or Isengard. Due to the town's lineage of Éothéod (Rohirrim) and Gondorians, the food of this inn and the town is a unique mix of both cultures, while also containing a lot of fish due to its proximity to the Anduin. Furthermore, some foods also have Elven inspiration due to the Barrow people of Celebrant's close relationship with Lothlórien creating a unique culture and food pallet compared to other towns or kingdoms of men.

The last main landmark of the town includes the dwarven blacksmith. Due to the town's proximity to Moria, many dwarves from when Moria was thriving travelled to the barrow Town of Celebrant to trade their crafts for food. Due to this, a close relationship between the dwarves and the town was made and so a permanent dwarven blacksmith was founded in the town. Using dwarven craft and knowledge, the head dwarf working here mixes both Rohirrim and Gondorian style and craft with dwarven craft to create weapons

unique to this town which many in middle earth travel to the town to seek out purchasing these weapons due to their craft quality.

Political and Cultural Dynamics

The peoples of the Barrow Town of Celebrant are very passive with elves and dwarves and often trade with them. The Barrow Town of Celebrant acts as a trade point with Lothlórien for wine which is then supplied to Rohan and Gondor. In return, the Barrow Town of Celebrant trades the elves' fresh vegetables and wheat. They also trade food for coin to the dwarves and supply much of the food for Rohan and its northern villages which are nearer to the fields of Celebrant.

Due to the Barrow Town of Celebrant's proximity to Lothlórien, many elves of Lothlórien mix and reside in this town and offer protection to it due to its importance in providing a food source for Lothlórien. This makes the town very diverse, causing a mix in cultures and aesthetics. This is also affected by the number of travellers passing through, such as dwarves, and so many dwarven blacksmiths can be seen finding work here, offering dwarven tools and weaponry to the town. Furthermore, due to the town's history with Gondor, there are many Gondorian aspects to it, as well as aspects from Rohan making the town stand out and more unique compared to other settlements of men in middle earth.

While the Barrow Town of Celebrant trades with elves such as those from Lothlórien and is also home to a few, they do not trade with the elves of Mirkwood, regardless of their proximity to them. This is because King Thranduil of Mirkwood is a Sindar elf, and Galadriel of Lothlórien is a Noldorin elf. While they are allied, Thranduil is not friendly with Lothlórien due to past conflict between Noldorin and Sindarin elves and would rather not be involved with the Barrow Town of Celebrant believing that Mirkwood is sufficient without the food supply the town offers, as to not become closer with the elves of Lothlórien.

This causes a mild conflict between the Barrow Town of Celebrant and elves of Mirkwood, as trade is the town's lifeforce and a kingdom refusing to trade due to past irrelevant conflicts comes across as childish from the elves of Mirkwood. Due to this, residents of the Barrow Town of Celebrant come across as very unfriendly and unwelcoming towards elves of Mirkwood.

During the war of the ring, Dol Guldur made three assaults on Lothlórien in the year 3019, these assaults included an attack on the Barrow Town of Celebrant as it is significant food

supply for the elves of Lothlórien and so the forces of Dol Guldur wanted to cut this supply to weaken Lothlórien. The elves residing at the town protected it from the armies of Dol Guldur, although significant losses did occur and the town, especially its crops, were burnt and destroyed, besides this, Edoras offered a helping hand in restoring many of Rohan's villages, and this hand was also reached to the Barrow Town of Celebrant due to its Rohirrim history and trade with Edoras and Rohan's villages.

Bibliography

[1]“Prehistoric Barrows and Burial Mounds Introductions to Heritage Assets.” Available: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-prehistoric-barrows-burial-mounds/heag217-prehistoric-barrows-burial-mounds/> (accessed 23 March. 2025)