

Please follow the Countryside Code whilst on this walk, especially:-

- Take litter home with you
- Dogs to be kept on leads or close control as sheep roam the hills across this area, there is also endangered wildlife breeding within the moorland.
- Take dog excreta away to ensure others can enjoy the walk.
- Do not damage trees and other vegetation as these provide valuable habitat for the wild life.
- Care must be taken on the roads; they are relatively quiet but agricultural vehicles use them at all times of the day.
- Stay on the designated footpaths.

**Leave only
footprints.**

**Create memories,
take only
photographs**

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Carrshield Camping Barn

WALK 2

High and low along the West Allen river

A walk from the industrial heart of the village to the upper grassy slopes of the valley, returning along the river. Superb views over the lower reaches of the valley towards the Tyne, moorland views all around, followed by sparkling waterfalls as the river winds its way down the beautiful valley.

Distance:

Approximately 10.3 km with around 320 metres of ascent.

Approximately 3.5 hours.

Time to complete:

Terrain:

There is one steep ascent at the beginning of the walk. Throughout the walk there are areas that are boggy especially after wet weather. The ground along the river is uneven and rocky in places. Due to the state of some stiles care needs to be taken when using them.

Maps:

OS Explorer Map OL31 or Landranger Map 86. Route available for free download to smartphone and tablet on the OS Maps and OutdoorActive apps.

www.carrshieldcampingbarn.co.uk

WALK 2

High and low along the West Allen river

WAYPOINT 1 Start at the Carrshield Camping Barn
Grid Ref NY 803 467



Leave the Camping Barn and progress along the track over the road bridge, follow this rough track until a footpath sign is found on your left, just before the gate and remains of a kiln.

WAYPOINT 2 Turn left before the kiln, up the grassy slope - Grid Ref NY 799 473



Turn left up the grassy bank and follow this small bridleway as it ascends to the ridge above the West Allen valley. There are places along this section that are steep and can be very boggy. For most of the way you will be close to the dry-stone wall. Where this turns to the right continue upwards following the bridleway signs. On arriving at the grassy summit, turn right along another small pathway, heading gently downhill onto a wide grassy swathe.

WAYPOINT 3

Large cairn on grassy plateau
Grid Ref NY 787 147



Take the right fork at the cairn along a faint and not well signed path that continues to descend towards the West Allen valley. This path gradually becomes a track used by local farmers and landowners. Stay on this track until after Jackson's Fold, an old and large sheepfold. The maps show the path descending the slope to the east of this point towards Farney Shield. This is very rarely used and involves much boggy ground. To avoid this remain on higher ground and take the track that heads down the slope some distance after the fold, just after a small stream. On reaching the road proceed along this until the junction at The Nook.

WAYPOINT 4

Turn right at road junction
Grid Ref NY 784 497



Follow the road down into the valley until reaching the farm at the end, turn right through the gate and follow the track leading gently back up the valley.

WAYPOINT 5

Leave track for open fields
Grid Ref NY 791 495



On reaching more open ground follow the faint path that goes over a small rickety stile then down to a foot-bridge over the river.

Turn right and continue to follow the small path that meanders along the east bank of the river.

This is not well signed, and as some stiles are broken or missing, it is easier to walk close to the riverbank.

WAYPOINT 6

Small road bridge to Black Cleugh Farm
Grid Ref NY 801 487

On arriving at this small bridge where a farm track comes off the road and ascends to a hill farm, it is necessary to climb

the bank between bridge and road. Make your way through a small gate to walk through a small copse. The path remains slightly above the river, passing through several grazing fields. At the end of the fields go into a slightly overgrown area between old partially derelict buildings. These remains are actually of the oldest building in Carrshield; the aforementioned bastle house, a reinforced farmhouse built to protect against the Reivers.

WAYPOINT 7

Path adjacent to old bastle house
Grid Ref NY 802 481



The path descends to the river; again it is not well marked, so keep to the east side of the river until arriving at a small footbridge. Cross the bridge and go up and through the boggy meadow until you reach the gravel track on which the walk started. Turn left and you will soon be back at Barney Craig Camping Barn.



**Carrshield
Camping Barn**

Carrshield, Hexham NE47 8AR
OS map ref. NY803467 (Explorer OL31, Landranger 86/8)