

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

Created by www.skyestrolls.co.uk
Contact - Paul.Skyestrolls@gmail.com



Carrshield Camping Barn

WALK 1

A short walk up to The Dodd, returning along the West Allen river

A circular walk of approximately 6.6 km / 4.1 miles with 233 metres of ascent taking you through industrial landscape around Carrshield to isolated moors with sweeping views in all directions. Return along the beginning of the West Allen river. The terrain can be boggy in places, especially after rain.

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|--------------------------|---|
| Distance: | Approximately 6.6 km / 4.1 miles |
| Time to complete: | Approximately 2 hours |
| Terrain: | One lengthy ascent, with boggy ground found throughout. There are also extensive stretches of uneven terrain. |
| Maps: | OS Explorer Map OL31 or Landranger Map 86. Route available for free download to smartphone and tablet on www.ViewRanger.com |

www.carrshieldcampingbarn.co.uk

enterprise

WALK 1

A short walk up to The Dodd, returning 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 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.

WAYPOINT 3 Turn left along the ridge to-wards The Dodd
Grid Ref NY 788 468



On reaching the ridge where there is a junction of routes, take the opportunity to enjoy the wide-open views over the valley and neighbouring Tyne valley to the north. There is evidence of several abandoned mines and quarries still visible along this ridge. Turn left and head towards The Dodd but keep to the track that passes below the summit on the eastern side of the hill. The summit is very boggy even in dry weather. After contouring around the summit, you will eventually reach another dry-stone wall that passes along the ridge to the south of The Dodd, this wall is the county boundary between Cumbria and Northumberland. Head left along the wall until you reach a small gate with a yellow topped sign that marks the long-distant walk known as Isaac's Tea Trail. Take a moment to look over the neighbouring Nent valley towards Cross Fell in the distance.

WAYPOINT 4 Follow Isaac's Tea Trail away from the
county border - Grid Ref NY 791 451



Turn left across the top of the moorland following the yellow posts, there is a small pathway to follow. On arriving at the top of the old coal mines wind your way to the main access track and over Alston Cleugh, arguably the beginning of the West Allen river. Pass through the metal gate then turn left just after the house.

WAYPOINT 5 Follow the small cleugh back to Carrshield
Grid Ref NY 801 452



Follow the route of the ancient old road, through the gate below the house then cross the small stream. Ignore the small path that heads towards the Sycamore tree by the main river, instead head across the boggy slope towards the line that contours along the hill. The North Pennines are due to fence this area off in 2020 in order to protect trees they are also planting; the fence will run just below the course of the path. Once opposite the Sycamore tree the line of the path is easier to make out and follow, although the reeds and boggy ground do not make for easy walking. Make your way along this until reaching more footpath signs close to the mines and quarries near the Camping Barn. As you make your descent be aware there are some steep slopes, these can be avoided quite simply by detouring around. On reaching the relative flatness of the riverbank make your way over the footbridge back to the Camping Barn.



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