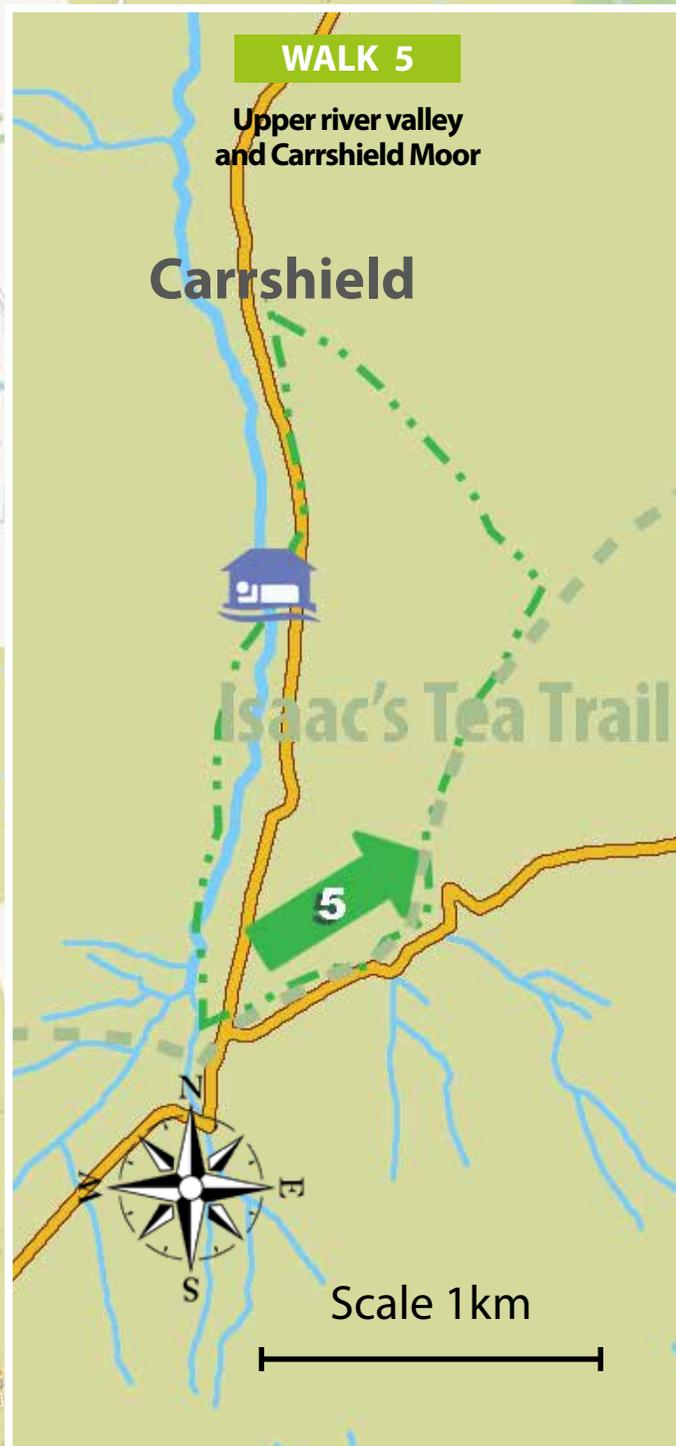


Please follow the Countryside Code whilst on this walk, especially: -

- 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 5

Upper river valley and Carrshield Moor

A walk-through old mining areas that have been partially claimed back by nature since the closure of these pits. The stroll across the moors is in contrast, the home of endangered birds, with the slopes being used for sheep grazing and rearing of grouse.

Distance: Approximately 6.0 km with almost 200 metres of ascent

Time to complete: Between 2 and 2.5 hours

Terrain: Some steep sections as you climb out of the valley, but gentle slopes thereafter. The ground is very boggy in places, especially after wet weather.

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 5

Upper river valley and Carrshield Moor

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



Leave the Camping Barn by turning up the small valley crossing the small green and over the footbridge. You will see a footpath post set above the lower quarry, make your way up to this and then the second which become visible as you rise above the river. A metre behind the second post is a small almost invisible track, take this to the left then gradually turn up hill along a slightly more defined track to a third post. At this post go up the track through the old higher-level quarry and then turn left along the remains of the old road. This gently rises up the hill. At points your imagination will need to determine your route, with soft rush obscuring the old road. The North Pennines AONB are fencing off the lower slopes (in 2020) to provide protection for new trees, the path between Carrshield and Coalcleugh will follow along the top border of this fence.

WAYPOINT 2 Descend towards the gate
Grid Ref NY 800 457



Not far after the solitary Sycamore tree a metal gate will be seen below the house, make for this in a gradual descent through the boggy slopes. Staying above the fenced area at all times. Cross the small stream, take great care if doing this walk immediately after heavy rain. Make your way to the metal gate and up the slope to the left of the house. On reaching the main track turn left to the road, turn left to the junction and then right towards Allenheads.

WAYPOINT 3 Turn right towards Allenheads
Grid Ref NY 802 452



Take the Allenheads road from the junction onto Carrshield Moor. The area is dotted with derelict buildings, a sign of when there was a thriving community centred on the lead, zinc and coal being mined from the hills. There are now only three habitable houses within this old village that has been lived in since medieval times. After a short distance you pass over a cleugh (a Scottish term for ravine or steep sided valley) and stream, after which you will join the long-distance route known as Isaac's Tea Trail heads into the centre of the moor. Take this pathway.

WAYPOINT 4 Turn left along Isaac's Tea Trail
Grid Ref NY 807 455



On leaving the road the route follows an old track that served the houses that once stood proud upon these moors. Now it is a little overgrown and boggy in places. Continue to follow the Isaac's Tea Trail signs on to the moor. When you reach junction of paths at the last post before the summit, take the faint pathway to the left which will gently lead you back towards the village of Carrshield. On arriving at the remains of Loud side go through the gate, straight over the first field then diagonally across the second field towards the houses near the road. Pass between the buildings to reach the roadway.

WAYPOINT 5 Turn left along road by Downview Barn
Grid Ref NY 802 475



Turn left onto the road for a short distance until a Restricted By-Way is found on your right just after a stone house overlooking the old mine works. Take this track down to the Carrshield Camping Barn.

 **Carrshield
Camping Barn**

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