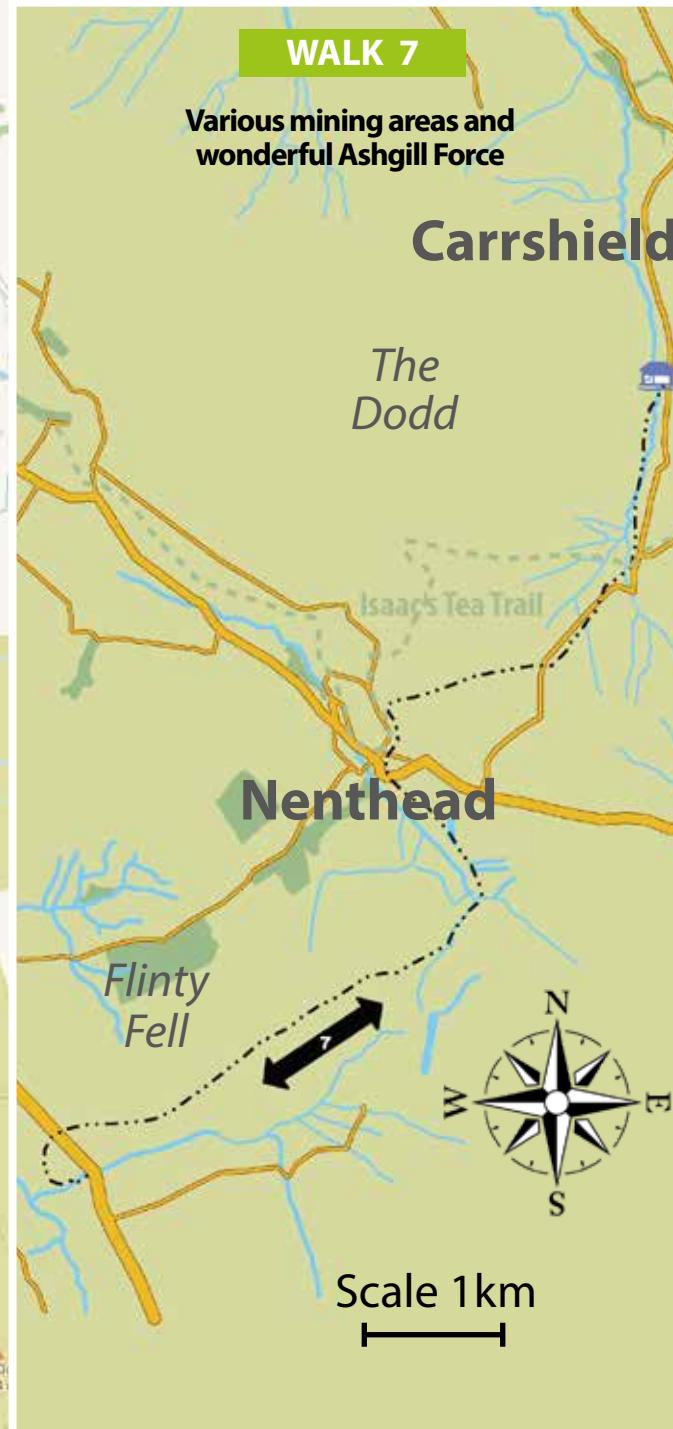


Please follow the Countryside Code whilst on this walk, especially:-

- 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 7

Various mining areas and wonderful Ashgill Force

This walk takes in three different valleys that all flow into the South Tyne River. Two joining at Alston with the other joining near Haydon Bridge. Along the journey there are three different mining areas and a museum. Culminating in the 17 m high Ashgill Force, that the intrepid can venture behind.

Distance:

Approximately 22.2km with

around 820 metres of ascent

Up 6 hours of good walking

Terrain:

A variety of terrains will be experienced from the boggy slopes along the upper West Allen valley, through the industrial terrain of Nenthead mines and the grassy but often wet slopes above Ash Gill.

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

John Villiers
enterprise

WALK 7

Various mining areas and wonderful Ashgill Force

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

Leave the Camping Barn by turning up the small valley over the small green camping ground and across the



footbridge. Follow the footpath posts above the lower quarry. Just 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 higher-level quarry and then turn left along the remains of the old road. Follow the gentle rise of the old road through some soft rush and small streams. After a distance a solitary tree will be seen on the opposite bank of the river. 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 (AONB to fence and plant trees in 2020). Cross the small stream, taking 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 right and then left to follow the signed path through the old spoil heaps to the road above.

WAYPOINT 2 Road above Coalcleugh Grid Ref NY 799 145

On reaching the road, turn right up the slope along the road, then right down the rough track into Nenthead, enjoying the superb views



over the Nent Valley across to Cross Fell. Turn left at the base of the track, following the road into the village, past the Community Shop, Visitor Centre and Café on your right. Then cross the road and proceed through the car park into the buildings of Nenthead Mines. Follow the marked main track up towards Priorsdale.

WAYPOINT 3 Nenthead Mines Grid Ref NY 783 433

Go through the wooden gate between the buildings and along the rough track that gradually climbs the valley, giving excellent views of all the old mine workings. Stay on the main track as it starts to rise a little more steeply just after an isolated building. As the terrain begins to level out towards the top of the slope take the larger right-hand fork towards the old quarries of Flinty Fell.



WAYPOINT 4 Fork in track above mines Grid Ref NY 784 420

Remain on this track enjoying the splendid views across to Cross

Fell, 12 km to the southwest; and a little closer to Burnhope Seat almost due South. Just



visible near to the summit of the latter hill are the pylons for the ski tows, which are used most winters. After crossing two cattle grids the track bends to the right, to the old quarry, with a footpath sign indicating Ashgill Dale. Take this path.



WAYPOINT 5 Footpath to Ashgill Dale Grid Ref NY 774 416

This path is very indistinct at the start, so a little imagination may be required by heading



towards Cross Fell in the distance. After a short while an isolated and derelict farm building will be seen, marked appropriately on the map as Seldom Seen. Cross the new fence at the stile and make for the left side of this building. From here the path is clearer and marked at walls with signs and stiles as it eventually drops to the B6277 road.

Go through the gate and down the drive opposite, taking the left-hand fork part way along.

WAYPOINT 6 Ashgillside Grid Ref NY 754 406

Just before the house go over the stile on the left and follow the marked pathway around the house to the meadow. Continue down the steep track that descends towards the riverside. Turn left before the small footbridge then gradually climb up into the gorge at the end of which is Ashgill Force. This last section can be wet and slippery and there are rocks and tree roots to negotiate. Cross the small foot-bridge into a picnic area. The path continues to ascend on the southern side of the stream until it reaches the falls.



WAYPOINT 7 Ashgill Force Grid Ref NY 758 404

Enjoy this spectacular waterfall including the pathway that leads to the back of the cascade



allowing an interesting view through the water. The return to Carrshield Camping Barn is by reversing this route.



**Carrshield
Camping Barn**

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