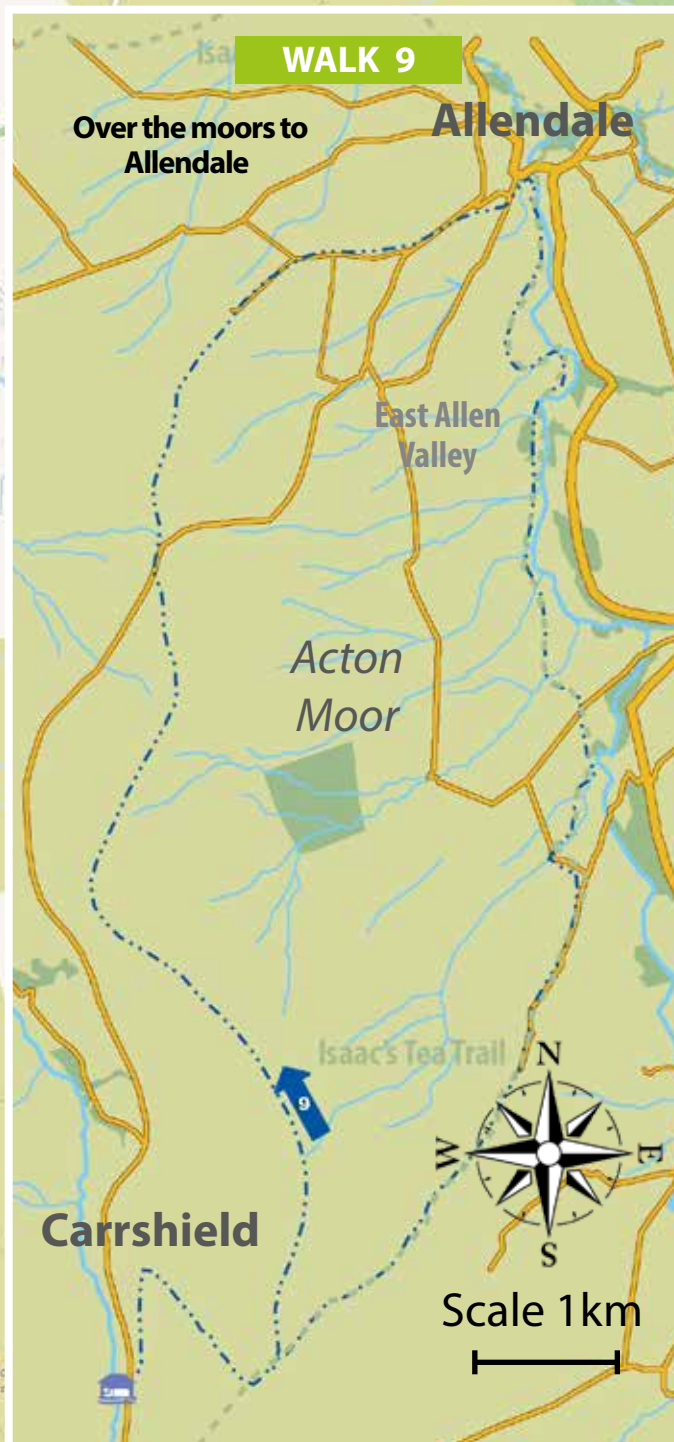


Please follow the Countryside Code whilst on this walk, especially: -

- 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 9

Over the moors to Allendale

This circular walk is a challenge both in distance and navigation but rewarding with some spectacular views and interesting historical monuments along the way. **Good walking boots and waterproofs, as well as the ability to use map and compass, are essential.**

Distance: Approximately 29km with just over 700m of ascent, without detour to Allendale Town centre

Time to complete: This is a fully day walk of between 7 and 8 hours

Terrain: There is a small amount of road walking, a majority is along well signed pathways, although the actual path in certain parts may not be easy to see. There is also a large part of rough moorland walking to navigate across without paths or signage. It can be very boggy in places after rain.

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

WALK 9

Over the moors to Allendale

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

From the Camping Barn take the old road up a gentle slope with dog bin on your right, through the gate and onto the tarmac road.



Turn left along the road into the main part of the village to find Downview Barn on your right. Turn up the drive and circumnavigate around the house to reach open fields on far side. Make your way across the first field then a more direct upwards route to the left of the ruin that is Loudside. After passing through the gate the route heads up the grassy, and boggy, slope to the right but it is not marked and little used. As the ground flattens on Carrshield Moor the route of Isaac's Tea Trail will be seen, joint the Trail for a short distance before turning left to the summit of Blackway Head, not to the large cairns to the south-west of the summit plateau.

WAYPOINT 2 Blackway Head Grid Ref NY 814 470

From here navigation could be a challenge during poor visibility, so compass bearings should be used.



This part of the route takes you to the summits of all the hills running between the two Allen Valleys. From Blackway Head the route goes to the large cairn (currick in local dialect) atop the hill between Hartley and Knockshield Moors. Keep to the west of the higher ground as you pass Fullo Currick and then to a gap between hills with shooting butts crossing the route. From here it is possible to drop down the slope and use a farmers/shooters track that will take you over much easier ground to the trig point on top of Brownley Hill. The next leg is to cross the boggy terrain towards Black Hill, it is important to stay on the higher ground as it will be very boggy to either side. On reaching the slopes of Black Hill gradually move to the northern side where the Allendale Chimneys will be seen. Resist the urge to head directly towards these impressive landmarks, instead go to the gateway that will be seen on the road to the south-east of the Chimneys. Then walk along the road to pass through the gate by the information board.

WAYPOINT 3 Path to Allendale Chimneys Grid Ref NY 807 530

Take the obvious path to the Chimneys and take a few moments to enjoy their splendour and marvel at



the industry that filled these valleys over 100 years ago. Returning to the planned walk continue on the path that passes close to the more southerly stack and remain on this as it gradually descends into the East Allen Valley giving tremendous views to the east, south and especially the north. Join the road heading into Allendale Town paralleling the route of Wager House Burn to the area that was the old mill. There used to be four mills along the banks of the East Allen River. With many of the old buildings still standing it is easy to think of how this area would have been in its heyday. From this point it is possible to take a short detour into Allendale Town centre to look at the many historic buildings or take some refreshment.

WAYPOINT 4 Riverside road Grid Ref NY 835 557

Take the road alongside the East Allen River then into the meadows at the sharp right turn, from here follow the signs of the



Isaac Tea Trail as it leads, up the valley. Whilst the path is very well signed there are places where underfoot it is difficult to discern. Keep looking for the signs and use of a map and compass to ensure that you do not stray too far from the given route. After crossing a footbridge over Steel Burn, you will soon see the impressive Peckriding Crags on the opposite bank. This was a popular picnic spot during Edwardian times. Continue along the path as it leaves the river towards Park Farm, named as this used to be a medieval hunting park, although the present buildings only date back to around 1860. The path goes up and down several valleys as it gains height along the main valley, the Pry Hill Barn (or Wesleyan Chapel which was its original function) can be seen in the distance.

WAYPOINT 5 Pry Hill Barn Grid Ref NY 839 518

At the barn turn right along the road for a short distance then over the stile on your left,



continuing along Isaac's Tea Trail. Pass through the buildings comprising Pry Hill Farm and then again into open pastures eventually coming down to river level. Part way across the water meadows after the bridge crossing the River East Allen take the path that goes to the right directly passed Rowantree Stob Bastle. Bastle were fortified farmhouses where cattle could be brought in and protected from the Border Reivers who roamed and plundered in the area. It is possible to explore this ruin, see if you can find the old bread oven. The path continue upwards and the around the top of the pretty Knockshield Burn until reaching the road. Turn left along the road and then right at the junction that will lead onto the moors.

WAYPOINT 6 High Knock Shield Grid Ref NY 838 500

You are now on the Black Way. This has been a busy route for many hundreds of years, even pre-dating the heavy usage during the lead



mining era. Follow the gravel track for a distance as it gradually ascends towards the moors that are extensively used for grouse shooting during summer and autumn months. Look out for a large finger board on the right that shows where Isaac's Tea Trail leaves the track and heads onto the open moorland. Although the route is used by other walkers it is not always easy to find, but there are posts along the way that should ensure that you do not stray too far. The ground underfoot is good in most places with only the occasional area of boggy terrain. Eventually, you will reach the plateau that is close to the summit of Blackway Head. Remain on the Tea Trail until reaching the first signpost on the way down. This is now where you left Isaac's Tea Trail earlier to head across the moors.

WAYPOINT 7 Carrshield Moor Grid Ref NY 811 464

From the footpath sign it is now a case of retracing your footsteps down the grassy slope to Carrshield and then back to the Camping Barn for a well-earned rest.



 **Carrshield
Camping Barn**

Carrshield, Hexham NE47 8AR

OS map ref. NY803467 (Explorer OL31, Landranger 86/8)