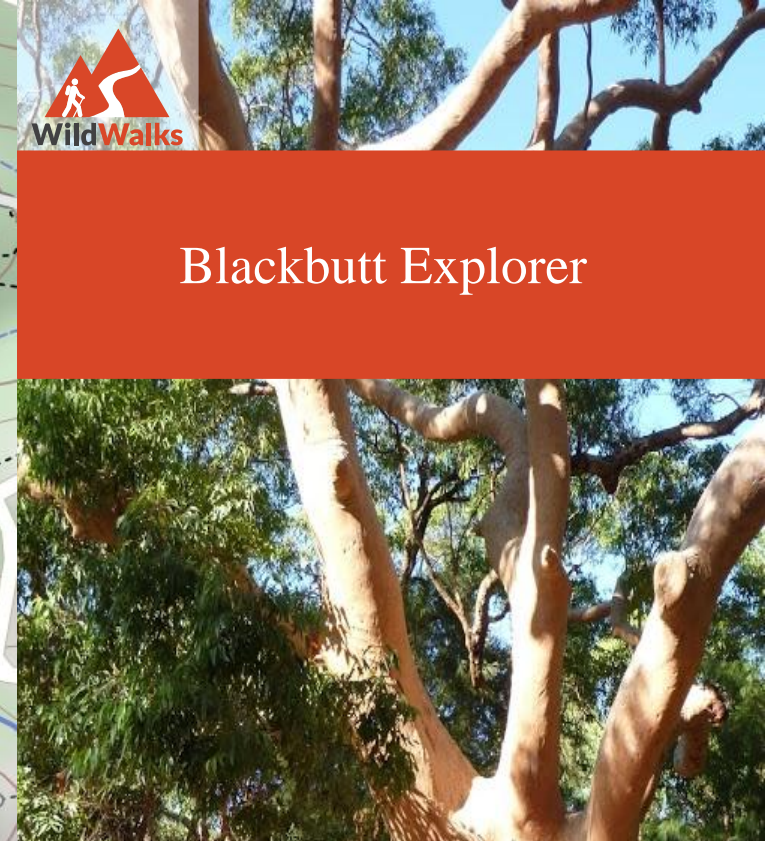
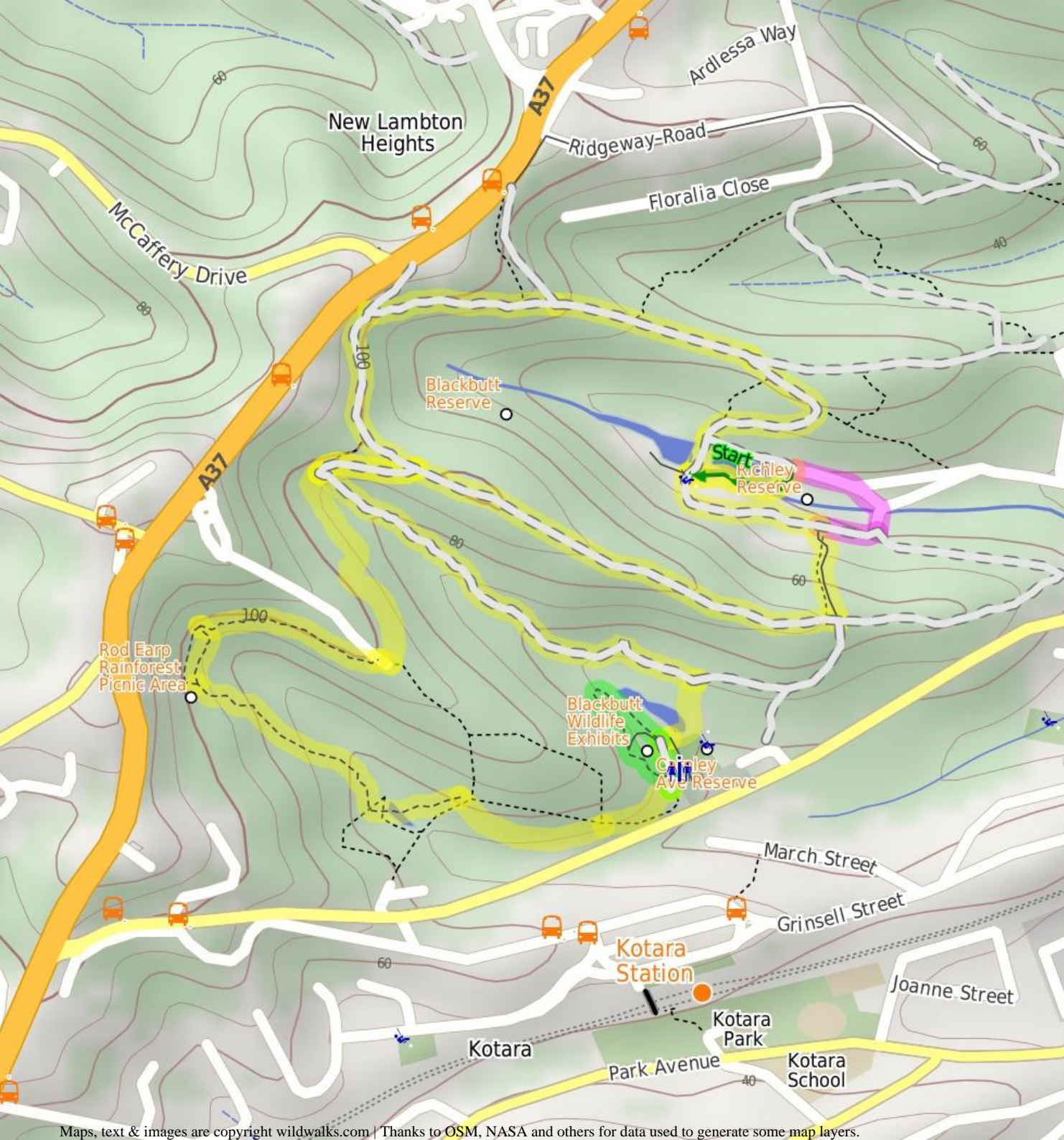


Blackbutt Explorer



2 hrs 30 mins

Moderate track

3

6 km Circuit

225m

A meandering walk that takes in much of what Blackbutt Reserve has to offer. This walk completes a figure 8 while following the trails around Blackbutt Reserve. The side trip to the Wildlife Exhibits is considered a must see. There are many opportunities to stop along this walk, be it at a seat along the way or at one of the established picnic areas. A recommended classic.

30m

104m

Newcastle LGA

Blackbutt Reserve

Blackbutt Reserve, near Newcastle, occupies over 182 hectares of land and provides visitors with the chance to enjoy nature trails, wildlife exhibits, children's playgrounds and recreational facilities. The reserve is the perfect place for a relaxing family picnic or to explore on a bushwalk. Native wildlife, such as the Powerful Owl and the Grey-headed flying fox can be seen within the park. There is an information cottage at Carnley Avenue, which is open 7am to 5pm, or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. The reserve has car parking at Carnley Avenue, Richley Reserve, Lookout Road and Mahonoy Drive. For more information, phone 02 4904 3344.

Richley Reserve

The Richley Reserve, within Blackbutt Reserve, has a park office, large pond areas with swans (beware the swans as they defend their territory), sheltered picnic tables, water taps, toilets, open grassed areas, a children's playground, electric barbecues and a car park. The Richley Reserve car park has disability friendly parking and is open from 7am to 5pm or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. For further information phone 02 4904 3344.

Carnley Ave Reserve

The Carnley Avenue Reserve, within Blackbutt Reserve, is wheelchair accessible and has toilets, drinking fountains, gas/electric barbecues, sheltered picnic tables, a children's playground, fenced displays of kangaroos and emu, a large black duck pond and an information centre that is housed within a replica pioneering cottage. The information cottage has a range of souvenirs, focusing on quality and affordable products. A fee of \$4 per vehicle can be paid from the automatic machines in the car park. The information centre is open 7am to 5pm, or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. For further information phone: 02 4904 3344.

Blackbutt Wildlife Exhibits

This boardwalk in the Blackbutt Reserve offers wildlife exhibits on an elevated timber boardwalk which is wheelchair accessible. Some of the wildlife that you are likely to encounter are kangaroos, koalas, wombats, Lace monitors, Wonga Pigeons, Red-winged Parrots, Black-winged Stilt, Buff-banded Rail, Herons, Eastern long-necked Turtle, Kingfishers, Turquoise Parrot, Banded Plover, Peaceful Dove, Cockatoos, Lorikeets, True Parrots, Major Mitchell Cockatoo, Bush Stone Curlew, Long-tailed Finch and Barking Owls. Entry is free and the exhibit is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm every day (closed Christmas Day, Good Friday and until 1pm ANZAC Day). Personal koala encounters are available at 2pm daily and cost \$3.50/person. For further information, phone: 02 4904 3344. [More info.](#)

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Hunter District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Hunter](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ()
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps


The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

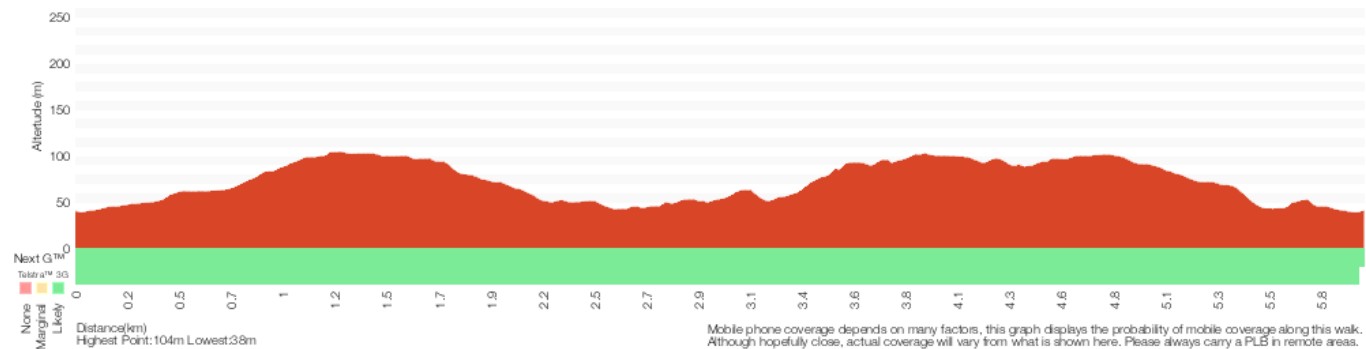
1:25 000 Map Series:92323S WALLSEND

1:100 000 Map Series:9232 NEWCASTLE

Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.

 Grade 3/6 Moderate track	
Length	6 km Circuit
Time	2 hrs 30 mins
Quality of track	Clear and well formed track or trail (2/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
Infrastructure	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (1/6)



Mobile phone coverage depends on many factors, this graph displays the probability of mobile coverage along this walk. Although hopefully close, actual coverage will vary from what is shown here. Please always carry a PLB in remote areas.

Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walks overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

Getting there You can get to Richley Reserve (car park) (gps: -32.9324, 151.7) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

This is a circuit, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/2m>

0 | Blackbutt Reserve

Blackbutt Reserve, near Newcastle, occupies over 182 hectares of land and provides visitors with the chance to enjoy nature trails, wildlife exhibits, children's playgrounds and recreational facilities. The reserve is the perfect place for a relaxing family picnic or to explore on a bushwalk. Native wildlife, such as the Powerful Owl and the Grey-headed flying fox can be seen within the park. There is an information cottage at Carnley Avenue, which is open 7am to 5pm, or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. The reserve has car parking at Carnley Avenue, Richley Reserve, Lookout Road and Mahonoy Drive. For more information, phone 02 4904 3344.

0 | Richley Reserve

The Richley Reserve, within Blackbutt Reserve, has a park office, large pond areas with swans (beware the swans as they defend their territory), sheltered picnic tables, water taps, toilets, open grassed areas, a children's playground, electric barbecues and a car park. The Richley Reserve car park has disability friendly parking and is open from 7am to 5pm or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. For further information phone 02 4904 3344.

0 | Richley Reserve (car park)

(260 m 4 mins) From the Richley Reserve car park (next to the 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign), this walk follows the footpath, while keeping the sign and pond on your right. This walk continues with the pond on your right for about 180m, until the footpath becomes gently uphill and comes to a four-way intersection, with a timber footbridge on the right and a children's playground on the left.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail over a timber footbridge, while leaving the children's playground behind you (on the right). This walk continues, leaving the pond behind after about 80m, then comes to a four-way intersection with a gently uphill trail into forest and a timber post with chain attached directly ahead.

0.26 | Richley Reserve (Ponds end)

(650 m 13 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently uphill, while initially keeping the timber post with chain attached on your right and keeping the large pond directly behind. This walk continues through attractive forest (ignoring side tracks) for about 300m, until coming to a level T-intersection, with a 'Richley Carpark' sign directly ahead.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Tall Trees Walk to Carnley Ave Carpark' sign and sealed trail gently uphill. This walk continues through forest for about 300m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign directly ahead.

0.91 | Tall Trees & Forest Way Walks

(640 m 13 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows

the 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign and sealed trail gently downhill, while keeping the valley on the left. This walk continues, undulating through thick forest for about 290m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Tall Trees Walk to Richley Carpark' sign directly ahead.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Tall Trees Walk to Carnley Ave Carpark' sign gently downhill, while keeping the valley on your right. This walk continues, undulating through forest for about 400m until coming to a level three-way intersection, with a 'Tall Trees Walk to Richley Carpark' sign (on the left) and a sealed trail (on the right).

1.55 | Int of Main Ridge & Tall Trees Walks

(920 m 18 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill, while walking directly away from the 'Main Ridge Walk to Carnley Carpark' sign and keeping the valley on the left. This walk continues through dense forest for about 170m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'To Tall Trees Walk' sign (on the right) and a gently downhill trail (on the left).

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the gravel trail and 'Blueberry Ash Walk to Carnley Ave Carpark' sign gently downhill, while walking directly away from the 'Tall Trees Walk' sign. This walk continues through mature forest for about 800m, with Black Duck Creek visible (on the right), until coming to a three-way intersection, with a metal ring fence directly ahead and a 'Black Duck' sign (on the right).

2.46 | Int of Blueberry Ash Walk & Carnley Trail

(130 m 2 mins) Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Black Duck' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the metal ring fence on your left. This walk continues for about 150m, passing a sheltered picnic area and children's playground (on the left), until passing Black Duck Pond (on your right) and coming to a four-way intersection, with a replica pioneering cottage directly ahead.

2.59 | Carnley Ave Reserve

The Carnley Avenue Reserve, within Blackbutt Reserve, is wheelchair accessible and has toilets, drinking fountains, gas/electric barbecues, sheltered picnic tables, a children's playground, fenced displays of kangaroos and emu, a large black duck pond and an information centre that is housed within a replica pioneering cottage. The information cottage has a range of souvenirs, focusing on quality and affordable products. A fee of \$4 per vehicle can be paid from the automatic machines in the car park. The information centre is open 7am to 5pm, or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. For further information phone: 02 4904 3344.

2.59 | Carnley Avenue Reserve

(110 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Animal' sign and sealed trail gently uphill, while initially passing the replica pioneering cottage on the right. This walk continues for about 20m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a large timber fenced gate (on the right).

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently uphill, while initially passing the large timber fenced gate on the right and keeping the valley on the left. This walk continues for about 90m, passing an 'Animals' sign and 'Information' sign (on the right) and concrete stairs (on the left), until coming to a four-way intersection, with an 'Animals' sign and elevated boardwalk (on the right) and disabled parking and general car parking (on the left).

2.71 | Blackbutt Wildlife Exhibits

This boardwalk in the Blackbutt Reserve offers wildlife exhibits on an elevated timber boardwalk which is wheelchair accessible. Some of the wildlife that you are likely to encounter are kangaroos, koalas, wombats,

Lace monitors, Wonga Pigeons, Red-winged Parrots, Black-winged Stilt, Buff-banded Rail, Herons, Eastern long-necked Turtle, Kingfishers, Turquoise Parrot, Banded Plover, Peaceful Dove, Cockatoos, Lorikeets, True Parrots, Major Mitchell Cockatoo, Bush Stone Curlew, Long-tailed Finch and Barking Owls. Entry is free and the exhibit is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm every day (closed Christmas Day, Good Friday and until 1pm ANZAC Day). Personal koala encounters are available at 2pm daily and cost \$3.50/person. For further information, phone: 02 4904 3344. [More info.](#)

2.71 | Optional sidetrip to Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge

(480 m 10 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Animals' sign and timber boardwalk gently uphill, while initially keeping the car park on the right. This walk continues, undulating for about 300m on an elevated boardwalk through large and small animal enclosures, with a fascinating selection of native animals and birds. Then this walk continues on a sealed footpath for about 70m, until passing through a high timber fenced gate and coming to a three-way intersection, with a sealed trail (on the left towards the pond) and a trail directly ahead.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently uphill, while initially passing the large timber fenced gate on the right and keeping the valley on the left. This walk continues for about 90m, passing an 'Animals' sign and 'Information' sign (on the right) and concrete stairs (on the left), until coming to a four-way intersection, with an 'Animals' sign and elevated boardwalk (on the right) and disabled parking and general car parking (on the left). At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

2.71 | Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge Trail

(380 m 8 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed road gently uphill, while initially keeping the timber fenced boardwalk to the Wildlife Exhibits on your right. This walk continues through forest for about 140m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Lookout Road Carpark 400m' sign (on the right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Rainforest Walk' sign and sealed road gently downhill. This walk continues undulating for about 260m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a sealed road (on the right) and a 'Rainforest Walk to Lookout Rd Carpark' sign (on the left).

3.09 | Main Ridge & Rain Forest Walks

(530 m 13 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Rainforest Walk to Lookout Rd Carpark' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the valley on the left. This walk continues for about 110m, passing a closed toilet block (on the left), until crossing over a bridge at the Rainforest picnic area. Then this walk continues gently uphill for about 30m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a gravel trail (on the right). This walk then turns right, following the 'Rainforest Walk' sign on the gravel trail for about 400m through dense rainforest (passing a 'Rainforest Picnic Area' sign on the left), until coming to a three-way intersection with a gently downhill trail (on the right) and a gently uphill trail (on the left).

3.62 | Rod Earp Rainforest Picnic Area

This secluded, dense rainforest within Blackbutt Reserve has bench seats and a picnic table. The forest in this area hosts a large population of grey-headed flying foxes. These large bats migrate for food and then return to roost during the day. Watch out for the bat guano on the ground. This picnic area feels a world away from downtown Newcastle.

3.62 | Int of Rain Forest Walk & Lookout Trail

(120 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the gently uphill trail on your left and the

valley on your right. This walk continues through rainforest for about 130m, passing a 'Rainforest Restoration Project' sign (on the left), until coming to a three-way intersection, with a trail and bridge on the right, and a 'Lookout Rd 420m' sign on the left.

3.74 | Int of Lookout Trail AND Rain Forest Walk

(310 m 7 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk crosses the bridge and follows the trail moderately steeply uphill, while leaving the face of the 'Lookout Rd 420m' sign directly behind. This walk continues, passing the 'Senses Track 150m' sign (on the right) and becoming gently uphill through forest for about 170m to pass a 'Rain Forest Area/Picnic Park' sign (on the left). Then this walk continues for about 140m, until coming to a car park and sealed road, with a 'Sensory Trail (return)' sign on the left.

4.05 | Int of Rain Forest Walk & Lookout Road

(450 m 9 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the road gently downhill and across the car park, while initially leaving the 'Sensory Trail (return)' sign on your right. This walk continues for about 25m, until passing through yellow metal posts and coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign and trail (on the left) and square brick buildings (on the right).

Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign and sealed road gently downhill, initially keeping the sign on your left and the valley on your right. This walk continues, undulating through attractive forest for about 400m until coming to a three-way intersection with a trail (on the right) and a 'Tall Trees Walk' sign (on the left).

4.49 | Int of Main Ridge & Blueberry Ash Walks

(870 m 17 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Main Ridge Walk to Carnley Ave Carpark' sign and sealed trail gently uphill, while leaving the gently downhill trail behind on your right. This walk continues through dense forest for about 170m until coming to a level T-intersection, with a 'Main Ridge Walk to Carnley Carpark' sign directly ahead.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Main Ridge Walk to Carnley Ave Carpark' sign and sealed trail gently uphill, while keeping the sealed gently downhill trail on your right. This walk continues through forest on a ridge for about 70m, to find an open gravel area (on the left). Then this walk continues straight ahead, undulating for about 600m, until coming to a four-way intersection, with a 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign (on the left).

5.36 | Int of Main Ridge & Tall Trees Walks

(190 m 4 mins) Turn left : From the intersection, this walk passes around a metal post and follows the 'Richley Carpark 400m' sign and sealed footpath gently downhill, while leaving the bench seat directly behind. This walk continues through forest for about 140m, to pass around a metal post and find a large grassy picnic area. Then this walk continues straight ahead over grass and through some trees for about 70m, until coming to a sealed trail (with the valley beyond).

5.55 | Alternate Route Richley Reserve (Short Cut Interse

(290 m 6 mins) Turn right: From the trail below the large elevated grassed picnic area, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the valley on your left. This walk continues through grassed parkland for about 120m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a sealed trail and a 'Tall Tree Walk (loop)' sign (on the right).

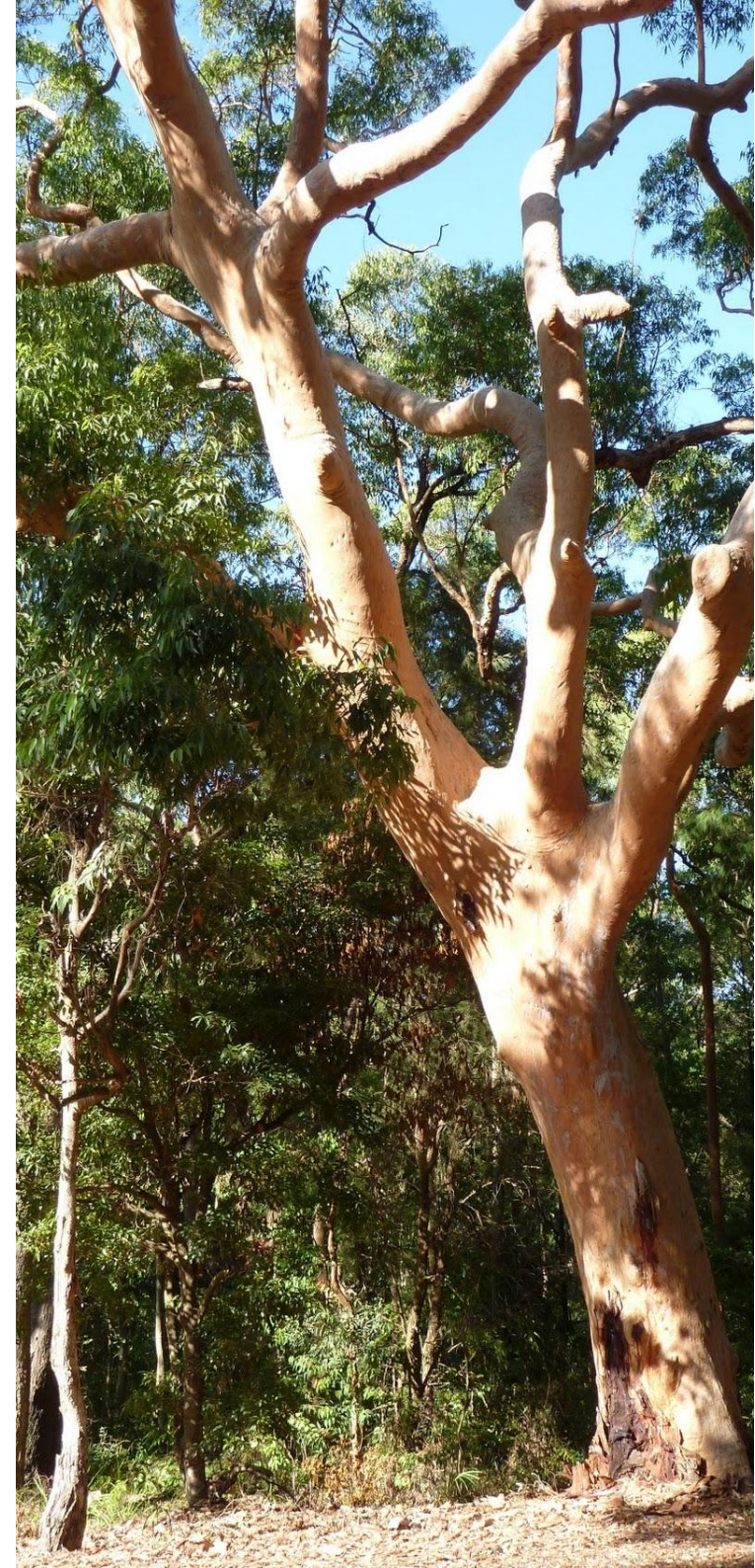
Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill, keeping the 'Tall Tree Walk (loop)' sign directly behind you while walking towards the road and car park. This walk continues for about 45m, passing through a metal gate to find a three-way intersection, with a road on

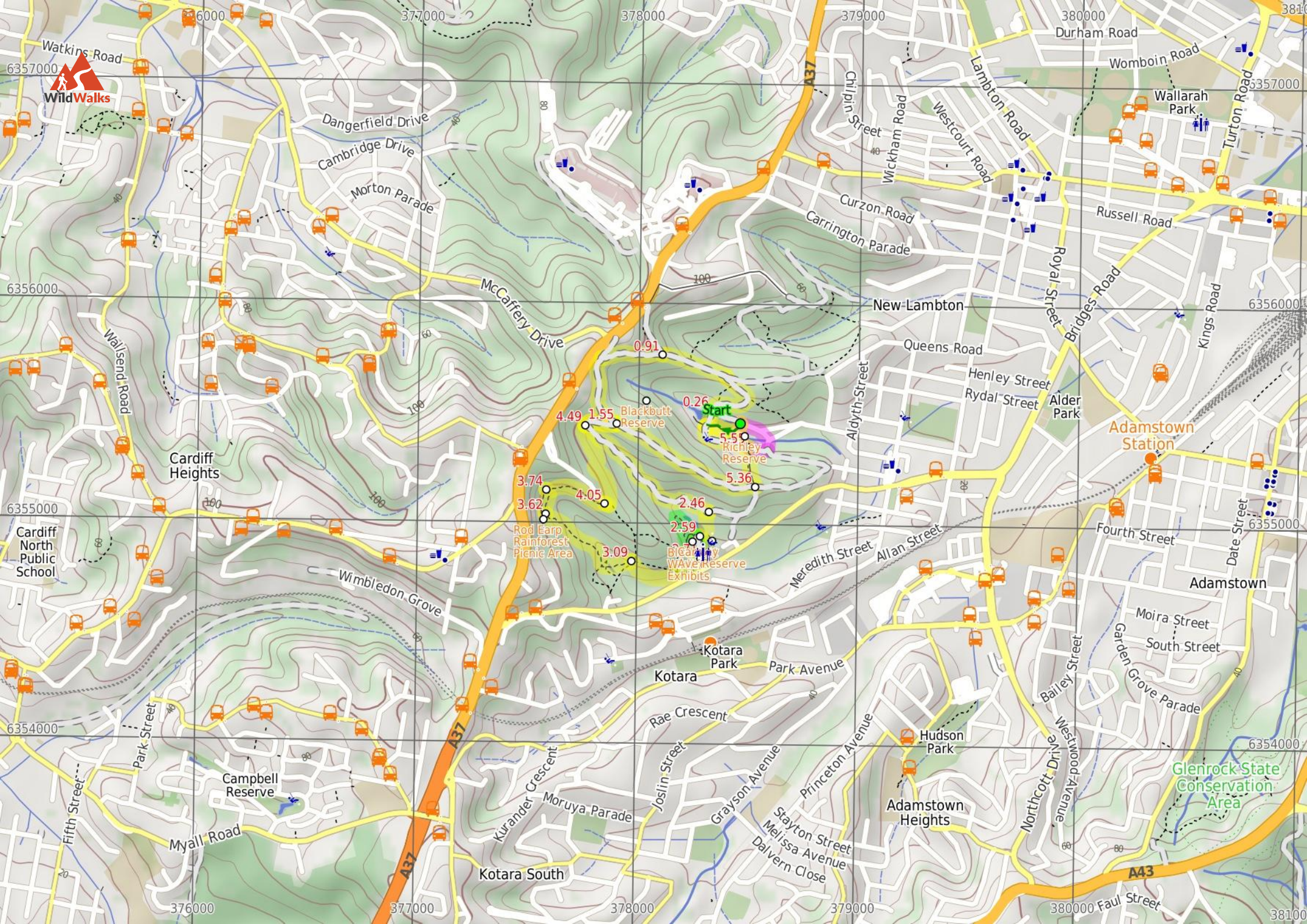
the right and the car park on the left. Then this walk turns left and follows the car park gently uphill for about 150m, until coming to a 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign and sheltered picnic tables ahead.

5.55 | Richley Reserve (Short Cut Intersection)

(440 m 8 mins) Turn left: From the trail below the large elevated grassed picnic area, this walk follows the gently downhill trail west, while keeping the valley on your right. This walk continues for about 120m to find a sheltered picnic area (on the right). Then this walk continues straight ahead and gently uphill for about 160m, becoming gently downhill and passing timber steps (on the left) and a toilet block (on the right), until coming to a four-way intersection, with a playground on the right and a timber footbridge directly ahead.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the footpath gently downhill, while initially keeping the timber footbridge on your left. This walk continues for about 180m, beside a pond (on your left), until coming to a car park with a sheltered picnic table and 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign (on the left).





Summary navigation sheet for the Blackbutt Explorer



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Richley Reserve (car park) -32.9324,151.7 (GR Wallsend, 785555)	10 -2	260 m 4 mins	From the Richley Reserve car park (next to the 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign), this walk follows the footpath, while keeping the sign and pond on your right.
0.26	Richley Reserve (Ponds end) -32.9319,151.6986 (GR Wallsend, 783555)	35 -1	650 m 13 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently uphill, while initially keeping the timber post with chain attached on your right and keeping the large pond directly behind.
0.91	Tall Trees & Forest Way Walks -32.9296,151.6962 (GR Wallsend, 781558)	33 -16	640 m 13 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign and sealed trail gently downhill, while keeping the valley on the left.
1.55	Int of Main Ridge & Tall Trees Walks -32.9324,151.694 (GR Wallsend, 779555)	10 -58	920 m 18 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill, while walking directly away from the 'Main Ridge Walk to Carnley Carpark' sign and keeping the valley on the left.
2.46	Int of Blueberry Ash Walk & Carnley Trail -32.936,151.6985 (GR Wallsend, 783551)	1 -9	130 m 2 mins	Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Black Duck' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the metal ring fence on your left.
2.59	Carnley Avenue Reserve -32.937,151.698 (GR Wallsend, 783549)	4 -2	110 m 2 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Animal' sign and sealed trail gently uphill, while initially passing the replica pioneering cottage on the right.
2.71	Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge Trail -32.9379,151.698 (GR Wallsend, 783548)	14 -15	480 m 10 mins	Optional sidetrip to Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge Trail. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Animals' sign and timber boardwalk gently uphill, while initially keeping the car park on the right.
2.71	Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge Trail -32.9379,151.6981 (GR Wallsend, 783548)	24 -6	380 m 8 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed road gently uphill, while initially keeping the timber fenced boardwalk to the Wildlife Exhibits on your right.
3.09	Main Ridge & Rain Forest Walks -32.938,151.6947 (GR Wallsend, 780548)	44 -14	530 m 13 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Rainforest Walk to Lookout Rd Carpark' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the valley on the left.
3.62	Int of Rain Forest Walk & Lookout Trail -32.9361,151.6905 (GR Wallsend, 776550)	8 -5	120 m 3 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the gently uphill trail on your left and the valley on your right.
3.74	Int of Lookout Trail AND Rain Forest Walk -32.9351,151.6906 (GR Wallsend, 776551)	17 -12	310 m 7 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk crosses the bridge and follows the trail moderately steeply uphill, while leaving the face of the 'Lookout Rd 420m' sign directly behind.
4.05	Int of Rain Forest Walk & Lookout Road -32.9357,151.6934 (GR Wallsend, 778551)	17 -23	450 m 9 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the road gently downhill and across the car park, while initially leaving the 'Sensory Trail (return)' sign on your right.
4.49	Int of Main Ridge & Blueberry Ash Walks -32.9325,151.6925 (GR Wallsend, 778554)	10 -36	870 m 17 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Main Ridge Walk to Carnley Ave Carpark' sign and sealed trail gently uphill, while leaving the gently downhill trail behind on your right.
5.36	Int of Main Ridge & Tall Trees Walks -32.935,151.7007 (GR Wallsend, 785552)	0 -25	190 m 4 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk passes around a metal post and follows the 'Richley Carpark 400m' sign and sealed footpath gently downhill, while leaving the bench seat directly behind.
5.55	Richley Reserve (Short Cut Intersection) -32.9334,151.7004 (GR Wallsend, 785554)	6 -9	290 m 6 mins	Alternate Route Richley Reserve (Short Cut Intersection). Turn right: From the trail below the large elevated grassed picnic area, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the valley on your left.
5.55	Richley Reserve (Short Cut Intersection) -32.9334,151.7004 (GR Wallsend, 785554)	12 -15	440 m 8 mins	Turn left: From the trail below the large elevated grassed picnic area, this walk follows the gently downhill trail west, while keeping the valley on your right.