



Guide to the

**circular
Walks of
Warkworth**



Introduction :

- Warkworth with its position on the magnificent Northumbrian coastline, the history that permeates the village through the castle, St Lawrence's church, the Hermitage, the burgage plots (to name a few) is understandably an increasing magnet for tourists to the North East of England.
- The intent of this brief guide is to provide the walker with an opportunity to walk not just the 'honey pots' but also the quieter and more unexpected delights that the village and its environs has to offer.
- Warkworth is now an intersection point for many long distance walks St Oswald's Way (Holy Island to Heavenfield), Northumbrian Coastal Path (Berwick upon Tweed to Creswell) and The Way of the Sea (Warkworth to North Shields)
- The guide provides varied seven circular routes that all start in the centre of the village (the cross by the market square) by the so that walkers who travel using public transport can take full advantage of the location.
- The climate on the North East coast is often mild, lending itself to routes that can be walked throughout the year.
- The village has numerous accommodation options, places to eat as well as a newsagents and various gift shops.
- There is a wealth of other information available about Warkworth and Northumberland. The best sources can be found at visitnorthumberland.com

History :

- The imposing St Lawrence's Church next to the River Coquet at the north end of the village is a large Norman building. In 1174, the church was the scene of a massacre when some 300 people were brutally butchered by Duncan Earl of Fife during a Scottish raid.
- The village is dominated by the magnificent castle that was possibly built by King Henry II. The timber castle was first documented in a charter of 1157–1164 and the village featured in the doomsday book.
- Edward II improved the castle strengthening the garrison in 1319. Twice, in 1327, the Scots besieged the castle without success.
- The castle came under the control of the Percy's during Edward III's reign, but fell into ruin during the eighteenth century.
- The Hermitage, which can be visited by a short boat ride, was built as a chapel for the first Earl of Northumberland.
- The Masons Inn pub was the scene in 1715 of a meal where James Stuart was publicly proclaimed as the rightful king of England.
- There is a thriving history society in the village that meets on the first Monday in each month at the Memorial hall. All are welcome.

Wildlife :

- **Sea** – At sea gannets can be seen plummeting into the north sea along with little terns, arctic terns and the Roseate terns who breed at Coquet Island. Bobbing on the sea close to land are frequently flocks of eider ducks (known local as Cuddys). Dolphins and occasionally whales are spotted from the beach.
- **Shoreline** - Frequent shore based sightings include clockwork like sanderlings, ringed plovers, oyster catchers and cormorants. Lapwings, sand martins and occasional avocets can be seen near the estuary to the south of Warkworth.
- **Dunes** – Early in the morning barn owls can be frequently seen, along with stonechats. During the breeding season the dunes are alive with the sound of skylarks. Closer to Alnmouth the fields in the winter months host flocks of visiting curlew and pink footed geese. Secretive warblers are abundant in the reeds near the coastline.
- **River** - The Coquet attracts waders, notably redshanks and the occasional curlew as well as heron, cormorants, kingfisher, shelducks and merganser
- **Inland** – The hedgerows are alive with tits, goldcrests, wren as well as frequent buzzards
- Bird spotters tend to congregate near the Killiecrankie area just to the north of Warkworth. One birder identified 70 plus species in Alnmouth in a day.
- Boat trips around coquet island can be arranged through Puffin cruises (beth.gray@virgin.net)

Getting to Warkworth :

- Warkworth is situated 31 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne and is easily accessible from the A1 by car.
- The railway station at Alnmouth is 4 miles north of Warkworth. There are regular trains stopping at the station from London. The current providers are GNER and Lumo. Cross country services from Manchester are provided by Trans Pennine Express. Services from the midlands are provided by Cross Country.
- The station has a number of taxis. In addition the frequent X18 and X20 buses stop at Warkworth

Accommodation :

- **Serviced accommodation** – warkworthhousehotel.co.uk, www.bertrams.co.uk, thesunhotelwarkworth.co.uk
- **Holiday cottages** – www.crosshousecottages.co.uk, coquetcottages.co.uk
- B&B –
- **Camping/tents/caravans** – walkmillcampsite.co.uk

Food :

- Warkworth House hotel, Bertram's, The Sun Inn, The Masons, The Hermitage, Jackdaw, Topsy Turvey

Shops :

- Village shop provides a good range of food, newspapers and a post office
- Cabosse has a chocolaterie and lovely gifts
- Greenhouse
- Gray's
- Fenwick Art Gallery has a great range of pictures

The routes :

- There are seven routes ranging from 5.5km to 24km.
- All the routes are reasonably flat
- All the routes are circular and start from the cross at the market place
- The A1068 is crossed in most of the routes. Care should be taken at all times.
- Walking boots are recommended for the November to March period. Outside this time good walking shoes or trail runners should suffice.
- It is highly recommended that you bring binoculars, snacks and adequate water for the walks as well as a map.
- There are public toilets near the entrance to Hotspur Court near the start as well as at the end of Beach Road.
- A lot of the routes involve beach walking. It is important to avoid high tides for some of the walks. I normally type in 'Amble tide times' to find the relevant information.

Mapping & GPX tracks :

- The maps provided are taken from GAIA software.
- The Ordnance Survey map Alnwick and Amble (#332) covers the area for the routes provided.
- The GPX tracks for the route are available separately but allow users to follow the trails precisely
- The red pointer marks on the maps that follow correspond to the trail notes.
- The blue circular points on the maps that follow are spaced 1KM apart from each other
- I would also recommend bringing a compass

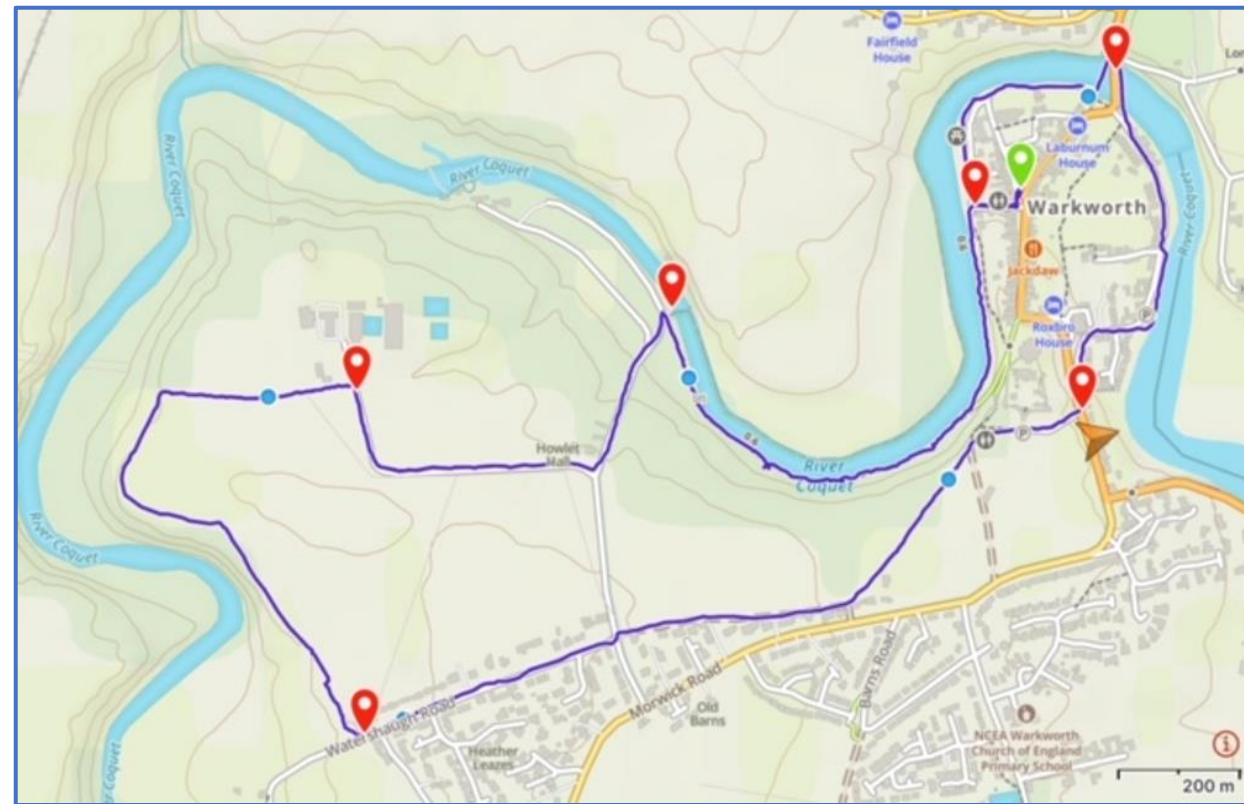
The local's one

Start & finish : Warkworth centre
Distance : 5.5km
Ascent : 40m
Approx time : 1.5-2.0 hours
Grade : Easy
Facilities on route : None
Terrain : Paths and fields

Overview : Gentle walk following the River Coquet to the Hermitage, then rolling fields and finally back to Warkworth Castle

Directions :

- Leave the cross, heading towards the castle. Immediately, turn right into Hotspur Court. This brings you to the River Coquet where you turn left following the river to the Hermitage along Mill Walk.
- Turn left at the Hermitage following the tarmac road up the short hill. At the top of the hill follow the road right through to the signposted Northumbrian Water plant.
- Just before the Northumbrian Water plant turn left through the field and follow the track looping around the bottom of the field. Maintain a straight line after the loop towards a gate and Watershaugh Road.



Directions (continued) :

- At Watershaugh Road turn left up the hill. At the end of the road follow the obvious path that continues, in the same direction, behind the houses with a field on the left. The path continues in a clear manner through to the entrance of Warkworth Castle.
- Leaving the Castle by the car exit, cross the main road to the small downhill road that again leads to the River Coquet. Follow the grass path and road (The Butts) and cross the bridge.
- Cross the road to the old bridge and turn right just after the tower. Follow the River Coquet again on Monks Walk through the back of St Lawrences Church. At this point turn left back to the starting point of the walk.

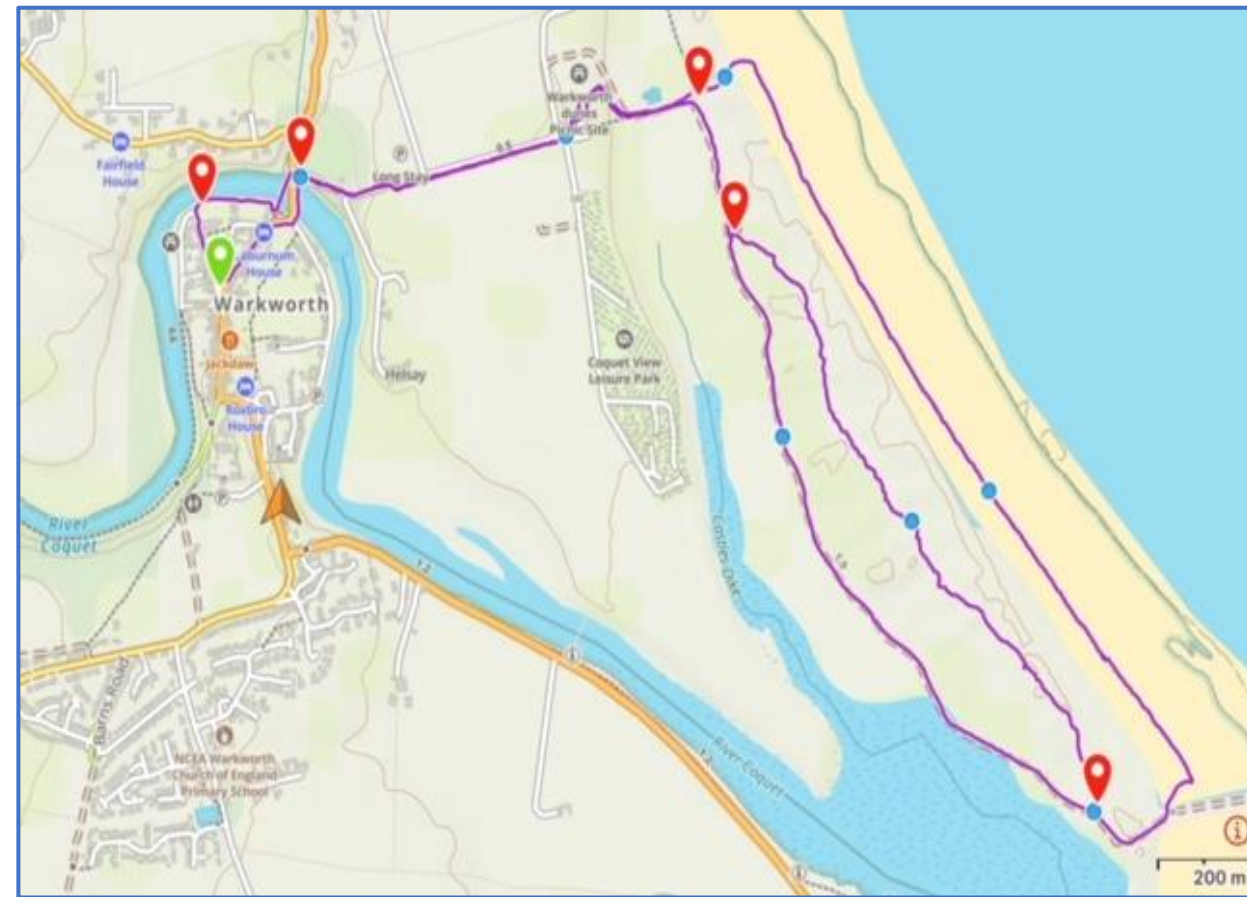
The Dune one

Start & finish : Warkworth centre
Distance : 6.5km
Ascent : 25m
Approx time : 1.5 - 2.5 hours
Grade : Easy
Facilities on route : None
Terrain : Paths & coast

Overview : Classic beach walk up to Amble pier. The optional route through the dunes is not signposted but is pretty logical and makes for a lovely varied walk. Best walked at low tide.

Directions :

- Leave the cross and head to the left of St Lawrences Church. Turn right along the River Coquet and then through the gate tower across the old bridge. Cross the road and head to the coast following the Coastal Path signs.
- Rather than go straight on the beach turn right opposite the finger post through a barred gate and head in a southerly direction. This gravel track can be followed all the way to its end overlooking Amble Pier.



Directions (continued) :

- Alternately after about 300M there is a signpost warning of fines for dog fouling. Follow this track for 70M and follow the path through the dunes. There are many 'ups and downs' through this route but generally the route is straight and on a SSE trajectory. It re-joins the main path at the end.
- Walk back along the beach until the final high dune followed by the lifeboat sign.
- Head back up the path back to Warkworth retracing the original route

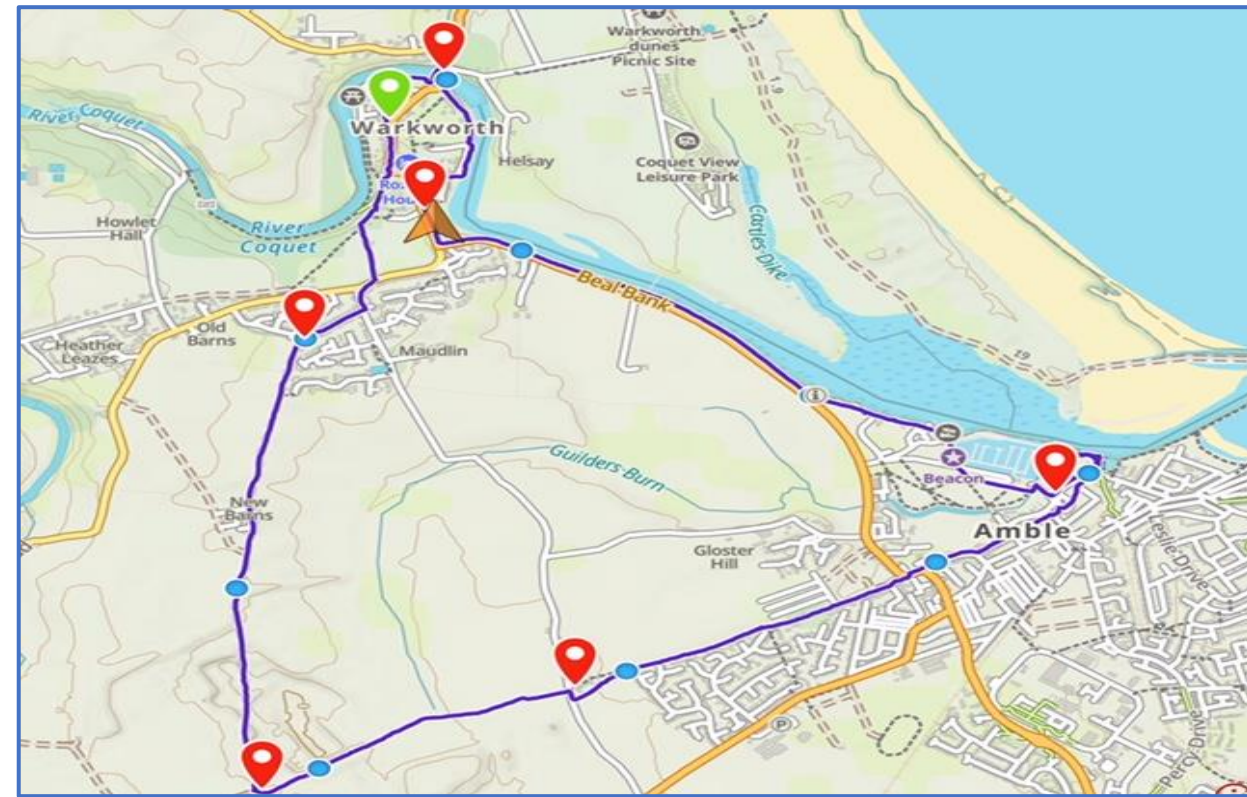
The Pod one

Start & finish : Warkworth centre
Distance : 9.5km
Ascent : 25m
Approx time : 2.5 - 3.5 hours
Grade : Easy
Facilities on route : Amble
Terrain : Paths & fields

Overview : Gentle walk to Amble, Queen Street and the retail pods. The route follows part of the Amble Sculpture Trail on the return to Warkworth. The route then follows the River Coquet back to Warkworth and it's castle.

Directions :

- Leave the cross and head up the hill past the RHS of the Castle. Continue straight on past the Cricket Club. Cross the main road and follow Warkworth Avenue (signposted for St Oswald's Way).
- Turn left and follow the track through New Barns farm up to the finger post by the green barred gate.
- Turn left (east) following the clear path between fields.
- At the road turn a slight right and then continue East through the metal gates on the signposted route with housing on the RHS and fields on the LHS. Continue past the cemetery. Cross the main road (with care) and continue to follow East down the slight hill. Follow Queen Street, the Town Square towards the Pods. There is a particularly good sculpture by the Town War Memorial.



Directions (continued) :

- After the pods pass Spurellis and turn right by the main car park. Walk past the boat yards, for additional sculptures. Track the Coquet and the coastal path towards Warkworth. By the pavement opposite Warkworth Castle car entrance turn right down to the Butts.
- Follow the grass path and road (The Butts) and cross the bridge.
- Cross the road to the old bridge and turn right just after the tower. Follow the River Coquet again on Monks Walk through the back of St Lawrences Church. At this point turn left back to the starting point of the walk.

The Cross one

Start & finish : Warkworth centre
Distance : 10.5km
Ascent : 50m
Approx time : 3.5 - 4.5 hours
Grade : Moderate
Facilities on route : None
Terrain : Paths & coast

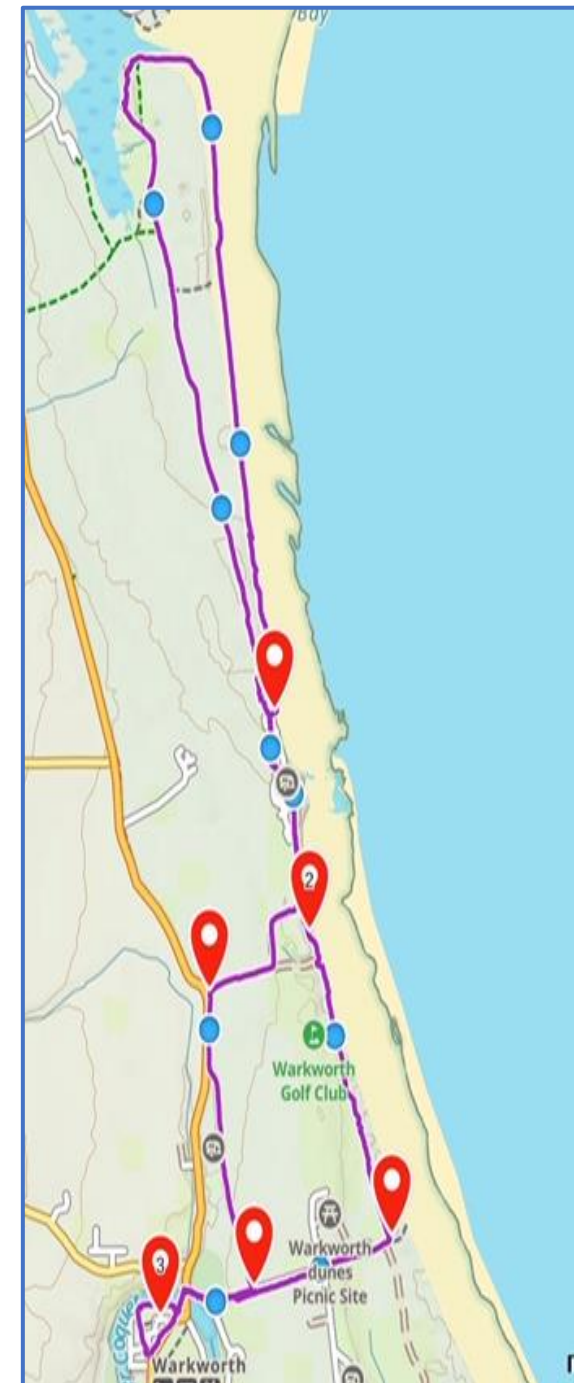
Overview : Classic beach walk up to the iconic cross overlooking Alnmouth. The route also visits an old chapel an ancient fertiliser storage barn and is a haven for wildlife. Make sure the beach route is walked at low tide (less than three hours from high tide)

Directions :

- Leave the cross and head to the left of St Lawrences Church. Turn right along the River Coquet and then through the gate tower across the old bridge. Cross the road and head to the coast following the Coastal Path signs.
- Rather than go straight on the beach there is a delightful route signposted to the side of Warkworth Golf Club. Follow this path for 0.8km through the dunes and assorted wildlife.
- Assuming tides are OK head on to the beach in a northerly direction across Birling Carss (by the lifebelt). Continue along the beach until the estuary at Alnmouth around 4.5km away.

Directions (continued) :

- If the tides are not good follow the Coastal Path signs north and head onto the beach just past the caravan site. Again watch for tides but this is generally OK. Follow the beach to the estuary at Alnmouth.
- Heading around the Estuary follow the obvious path up to the cross.
- Follow the path down on the estuary side down to the old church. Follow the route in a southerly direction tracking the side of the dunes.
- The Coastal path signs now direct you on a delightful path south.
- At a finger post past the caravan park turn right across the golf course and follow the path right to the main road. Follow the track to the left of the main road and head through Birling.
- Re-join the path back into Warkworth heading past Warkworth House Hotel and Bertrams to the market place.



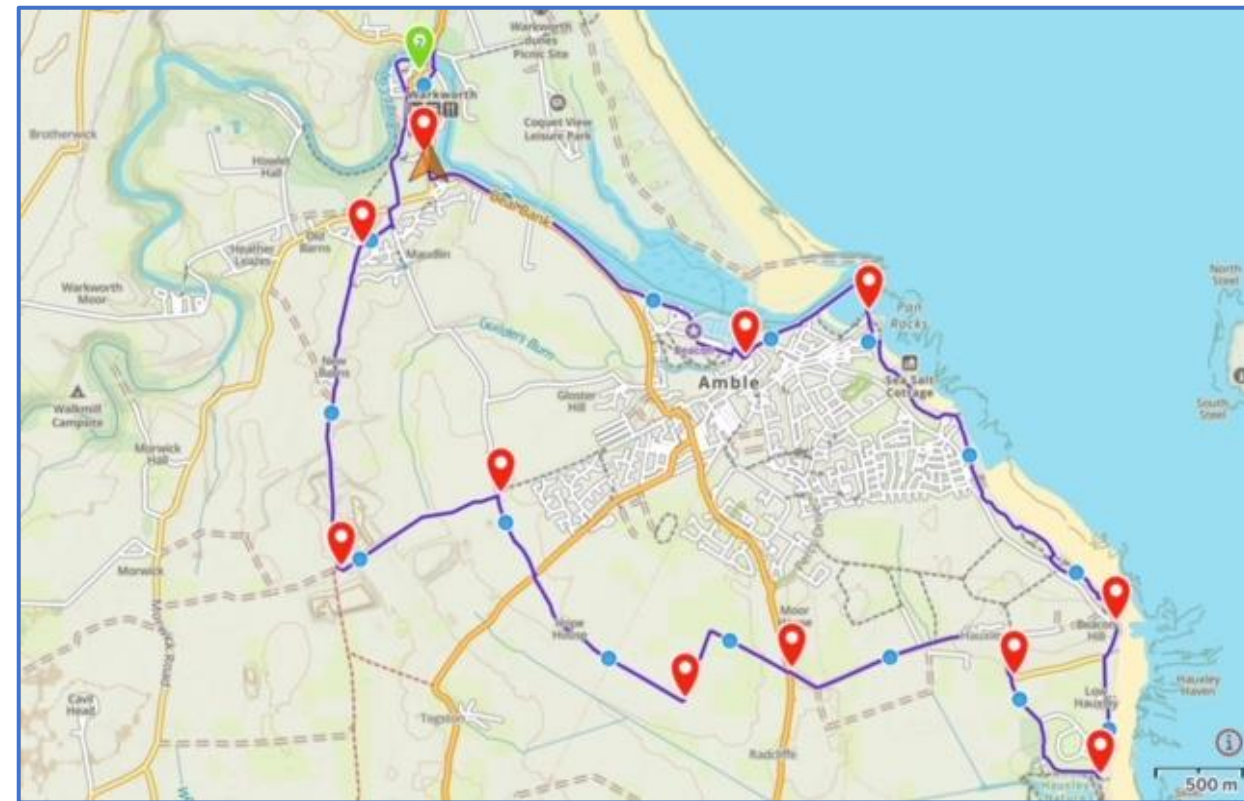
The Amble Bord Waalk one

Start & finish : Warkworth centre
Distance : 16.7km
Ascent : 130m
Approx time : 4.0 - 5.5 hours
Grade : Moderate
Facilities on route : Hauxley & Amble
Terrain : Paths, dunes &/or beach

Overview : Gentle walk to Hauxley Nature reserve. Route then follows the coast northwards and the excellent Amble Sculpture Trail to the pier and village. The route then follows the River Coquet back to Warkworth and it's castle. Download the Bord Waalk app for additional excellent information on the sculptures.

Directions :

- Leave the cross and head up the hill past the right hand side of the Castle. Continue straight on past the Cricket Club. Cross the main road and follow Warkworth Avenue (signposted for St Oswald's Way).
- Turn left and follow the track through New Barns farm up to the finger post by the green barred gate.
- Turn left (east) following the clear path between fields.
- Turn right at the road (past the housing estate) crossing a main road and walk straight across and through Hope House Farm. Follow the track for around 1KM and follow the bend to the left and then right.



Directions (continued) :

- Cross the main road (**with care**) and follow the quiet road to Hauxley.
- Just past Hauxley turn right to the signposted nature reserve. Just before the car park turn left down a path by the tern sculpture. Turn left again at the tree sculpture and follow the coastal path north.
- Turn right just past Low Hauxley and follow a signposted route to Amble through the dunes giving magnificent views of Coquet Island. If the tide is out you might want to use the beach.
- Follow the coastal path through to Amble.
- Continue along the coast just pass the Puffin sculpture and on to Amble pier and then the retail pods.
- Turn right by the main car park, past the boat yards, for more sculptures. Track the Coquet and the coastal path to the Sun Inn in Warkworth. Just pass the Sun Inn is a track (Ember Lane) that separates the burgage plots. Follow this to again cross the road, old bridge, tower and back to the starting point.

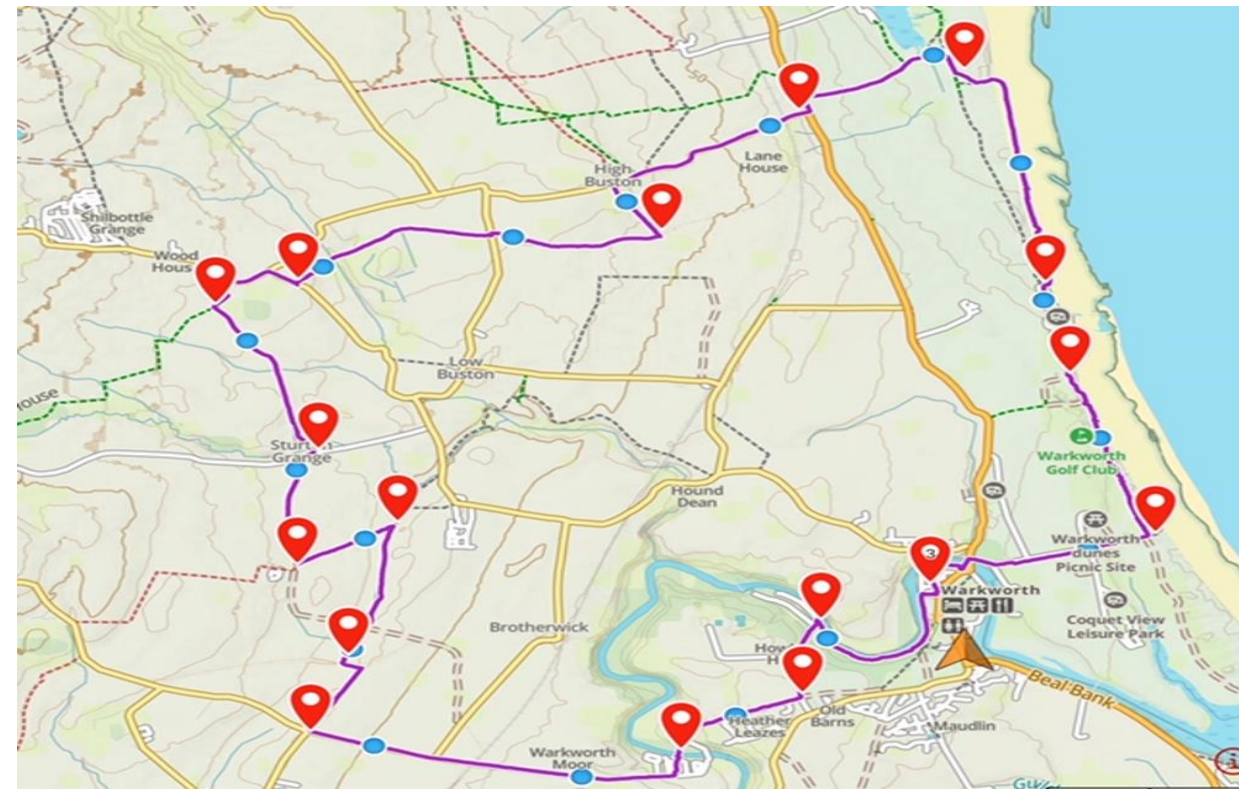
The Countryside, Coal & Coast one

Start & finish : Warkworth centre
Distance : 18.0km
Ascent : 150m
Approx time : 4.5 - 6.0 hours
Grade : Moderate
Facilities on route : None
Terrain : Paths, fields & coast

Overview : Following the river out of Warkworth the route tracks old farms and historic settlements. The route joins the coast heading south either inland with panoramic views or with a favourable tide there is a 4km beach walk.

Directions :

- Leave the cross facing towards the castle. Immediately turn right into Hotspur Court. This brings you to the River Coquet where you turn left to the Hermitage.
- Follow the tarmac road uphill (ignore the water works turn) , turning right at Watershaugh road. Where this road bends left take the footpath that is straight on across Black Bridge and through the caravan park.
- Turn right and follow the very quiet straight road (easterly) for around 2km.
- Opposite the first left hand turning is a footpath sign. Follow the footpath with a slight left hand turn after 400M. Continue in a northerly direction through several fields to a slightly obscured bridge.



Directions (continued) :

- Cross the field in a ESE direction, then turning right to Sturton Grange. Pick up the farm track to the right of the hamlet and follow the signpost up a hill through fields at the final set of houses. Continue across a brook and to the RHS of the field until you meet a major path. Turn right here and shortly you will meet a road. Follow the road turning right around a sharp bend until you meet a signed footpath that used to be the location of the colliery railway.
- Follow this obvious path for 2km in an easterly direction.
- Turn left at the signpost for High Buston. Turn right at the hamlet and follow the quiet road down to the main road.
- Cross the main road to the track (**take care**), take a slight left and then immediately right onto an old track and then follow this down to the coast.
- Either follow the Inland Coastal Path back to Warkworth or if the tides are low (Typically 2.5 hours either side of high tide) walk along the beach and re-join the coastal path into Warkworth.

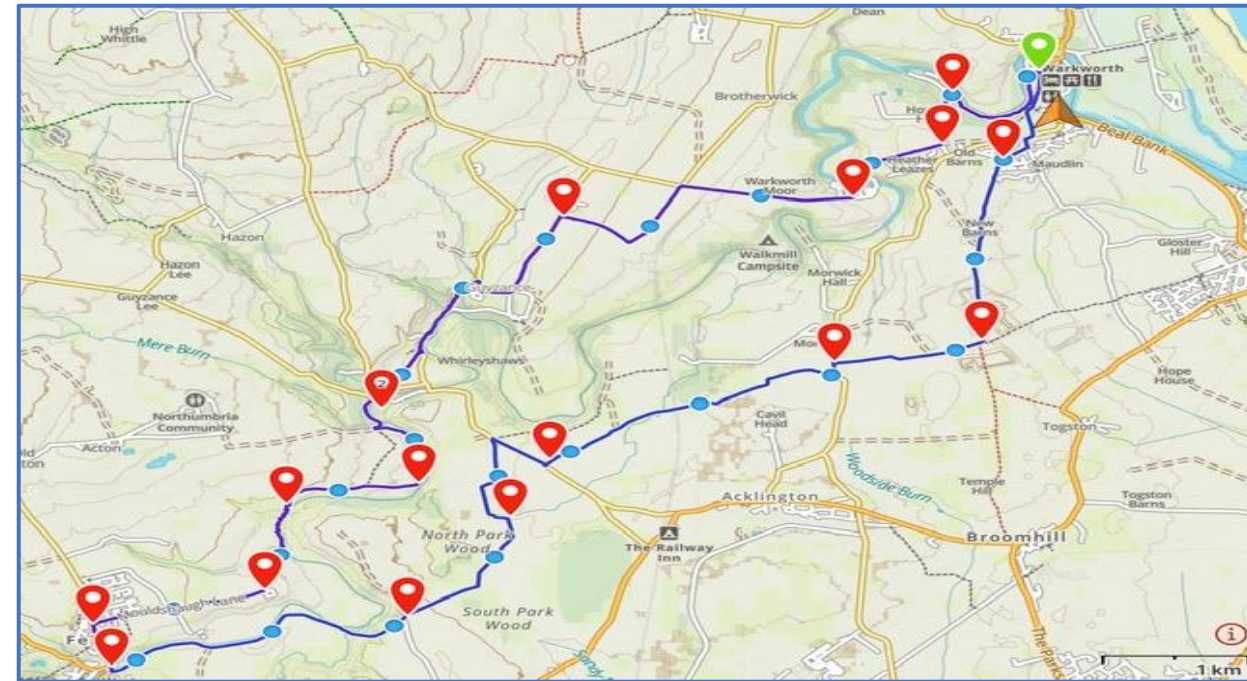
The St Oswald's one

Start & finish : Warkworth centre
Distance : 23.4km
Ascent : 200m
Approx time : 6.0 – 8.0 hours
Grade : Strenuous
Facilities on route : Felton
Terrain : Paths & fields

Overview : Route follows St Oswald's Way through to Felton and tracks the River Coquet closely on its return to Warkworth. A great day's walking away from the crowds

Directions :

- Leave the cross and head up the hill past the RHS of the Castle. Continue straight on past the Cricket Club. Cross the main road and follow Warkworth Avenue (signposted for St Oswald's Way).
- Turn left on to a quiet farm track and follow for 1.5km, turning right at a finger post by a green barred gate. Continue for about 1.1km until a main road.
- Turn left along the main road for 100m and then right down the un-signposted grassy track (Rake Lane). Continue for 3.2km and cross the road (or if wet turn right and then left). Follow the farm tracks south to a field and then pass a farm on the RHS.
- As the tarmac road turns left follow an obvious signposted track to Felton (2km)



Directions (continued) :

- Head uphill in Felton and just pass the house numbered 90 turn right.
- Follow the track and then the road for 1.1KM.
- Just before the farm is a finger post showing River Coquet ½ mile. Cross the field to the left of the oak tree, then cross the bridge and into woodland adjacent to the River Coquet.
- Follow the woodland uphill to fields and keep just to the left of the woods for around 1.0km. Follow the River Coquet leading to a finger post and then the impressive waterfall at Guyzance and memorial.
- Follow the road for 30m and then the public footpath across the field, heading for the far woodland.
- At the road turn left to Guyzance and then right at the top of the hill. Follow the quiet road to just before a farm and follow the path to the right that is located by a 'caravan club certified location' plate.
- Follow the hedge then cross a stile, then follow the RHS of the field and then turning left to find another stile at the bottom of the field. Follow the path through the woods and then turn left following the footpath sign to a road.
- Turn right at the road following it for around 1.0km, turning left through the caravan site, crossing black bridge onto Watershaugh Road. Follow this uphill.
- At the end of Watershaugh Road turn left and continue down the steep hill to re-join the Coquet. Turn right and follow Mill Walk back into Warkworth,
- Note there are two GPX files for this route !