

Richley Reserve to Carnley Reserve Circuit



1 hr 15 mins

Moderate track

3

2.9 km Circuit

↑ 96m

A great family length walk that takes in both of the large reserves in the Blackbutt Park. This walk starts at Richley Reserve and travels to Carnley Reserve and the Wildlife Exhibits before returning a different way to Richley Reserve. Never far from facilities, this walk suits families or those who want to stay on the wider trails. An excellent walk.



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

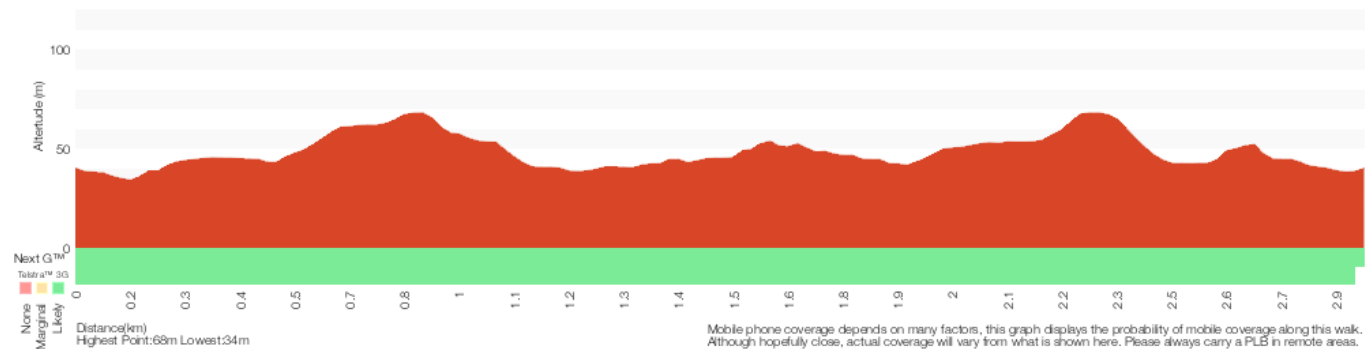
Grade

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	2.9 km Circuit
Time	1 hr 15 mins
Quality of track	Smooth and hardened path (1/6)
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)



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/rtrtc>

0 | Blackbutt Reserve

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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)

(200 m 4 mins) From the Richley Reserve (Car Park), this walk follows the car park gently downhill, while leaving the ponds directly behind you. This walk continues for about 150m, to find a three-way intersection, with a metal gate and 'Blackbutt Reserve - Freyberg St Entrance' sign (on the right). This walk turns right and continues gently uphill for about 45m, passing through the metal gate, until coming to a three-way intersection with a sealed trail and 'Tall Tree Walk (loop)' sign (on the left).

0.2 | Int of Richley Reserve & Tall Tree Walk (loop)

(660 m 13 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Wildlife Exhibit' sign and trail gently uphill, while keeping the valley on your left. This walk continues through forest for about 300m, until coming to a faint three-way intersection with a track on the left (houses visible on the left) at a right-hand turn in the trail.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently uphill, while leaving Dunkley Ave and the houses directly behind. This walk continues through attractive forest for about 400m until coming to a four-way intersection, with a 'Main Ridge Walk (loop) sign (on the right) and a timber seat.

0.85 | Int of Carnley & Tall Trees Trails

(270 m 7 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while moving directly away from the face of the 'Richley Car Park' sign and keeping the valley on the left. This walk continues, undulating for about 170m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a trail and metal ring fence (on the left).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the metal ring fence on your right. This walk continues for about 60m, until passing around a locked metal gate and coming to the end of the metal ring fence and the Carnley Avenue car park.

1.13 | Carnley Ave Car Park (Eastern end)

(140 m 2 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the road gently downhill through the car park, while leaving the metal ring fence and locked metal gate directly behind. This walk continues for about 60m, turning right (leaving Carnley Avenue on the left in the distance). Then this walk continues for about 40m, to come to a three-way intersection, with a footpath and 'Blackbutt Reserve - Carnley Ave Car Park' sign on the right. This walk then continues straight ahead for about 50m, crossing a bridge over Black Duck Creek and then continuing gently uphill for about 50m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a footpath and 'Blackbutt Reserve - Carnley Ave Entrance' sign (on the right).

1.26 | 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.

1.26 | Carnley Ave Car Park

(110 m 2 mins) Turn right: From the Carnley Ave Car Park (Off Carnley Ave, Kotara), this walk follows the footpath through the metal fenced gate way, while initially keeping the 'Blackbutt Reserve - Carnley Ave Reserve' sign on your left. This walk follows the footpath for about 90m (passing toilets, picnic tables and a children's playground on the left), until coming to a four-way intersection, with Black Duck Pond directly ahead and a replica pioneering cottage on the left.

Turn left: 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).

1.37 | Int of Boardwalk & Carnley Trail

(100 m 2 mins) 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).

1.47 | 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.](#)

1.47 | Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge Trail

(380 m 8 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.

1.85 | Int of Boardwalk & Carnley Trail

(20 m) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill and towards the Black Duck Pond, while initially keeping the large timber fenced gate on your left. This walk continues for about 20m until coming to a four-way intersection, with the replica pioneering cottage, Black Duck Pond and a 'Richley Reserve' sign (on the left).

1.87 | Carnley Avenue Reserve

(130 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed road, while initially keeping the Black Duck Pond on your left and the replica pioneering cottage directly behind you. This walk continues, passing the Black Duck Pond (on the left) and continues gently uphill for about 150m (passing a sheltered picnic area and children's playground on the right) until coming to a three-way intersection with a gravel trail (on the left), a metal ring fence (on the right) and a 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign.

2 | Int of Carnley Trail & Blueberry Ash Walk

(310 m 6 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign on your left and trail gently downhill. This walk continues through forest with a metal ring fence (on the left) for about 170m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a gently downhill trail (on the right) and the end of the metal ring fence.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the gently downhill trail and moves directly away from the metal ring fence, while initially keeping the trail and fence on your right. This walk continues, undulating for about 170m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Richley Car Park' sign.

2.3 | Int of Main Ridge & Tall Trees Walks

(190 m 4 mins) Continue straight: 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).

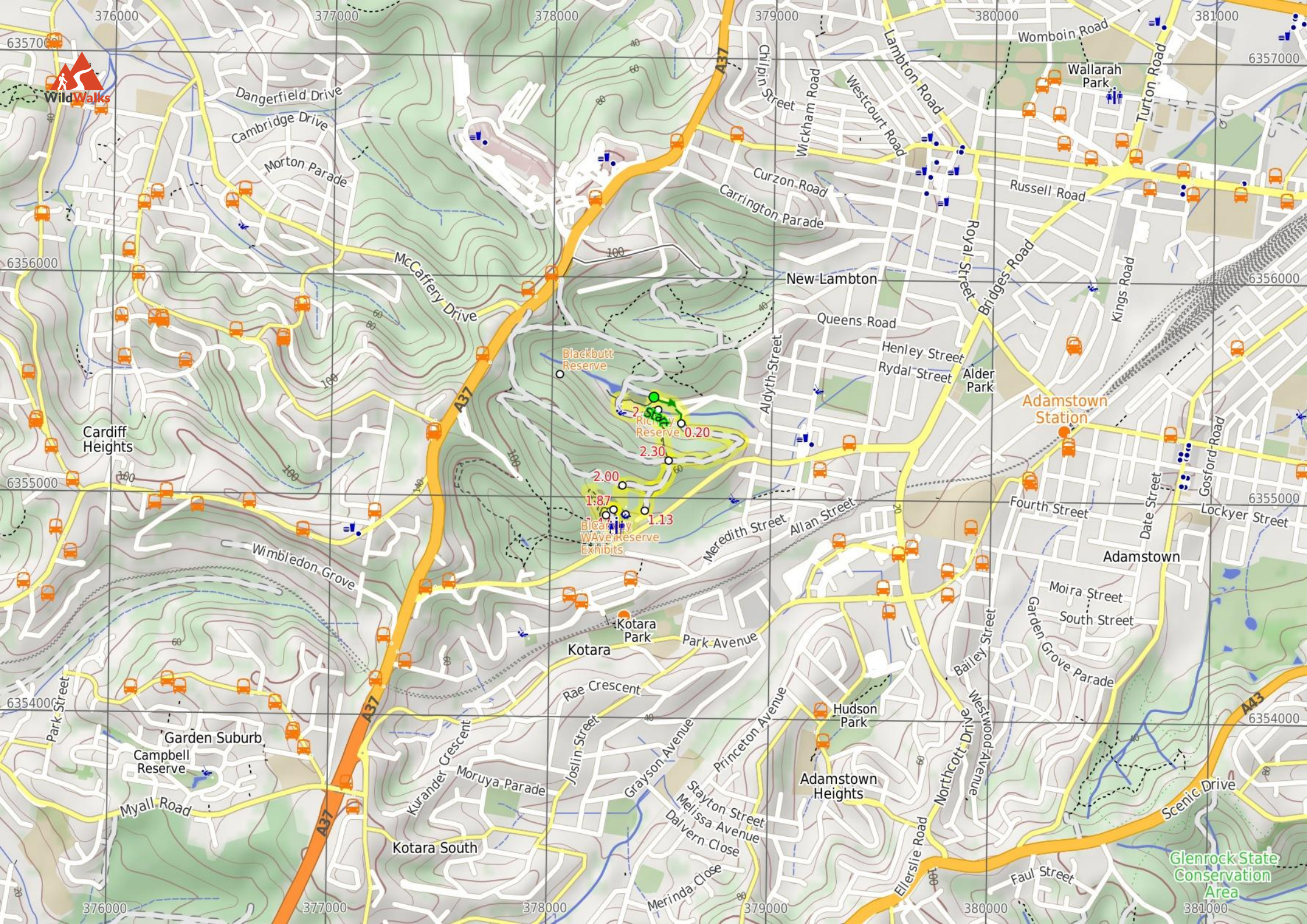
2.49 | Richley Reserve (Short Cut Intersection)

(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).

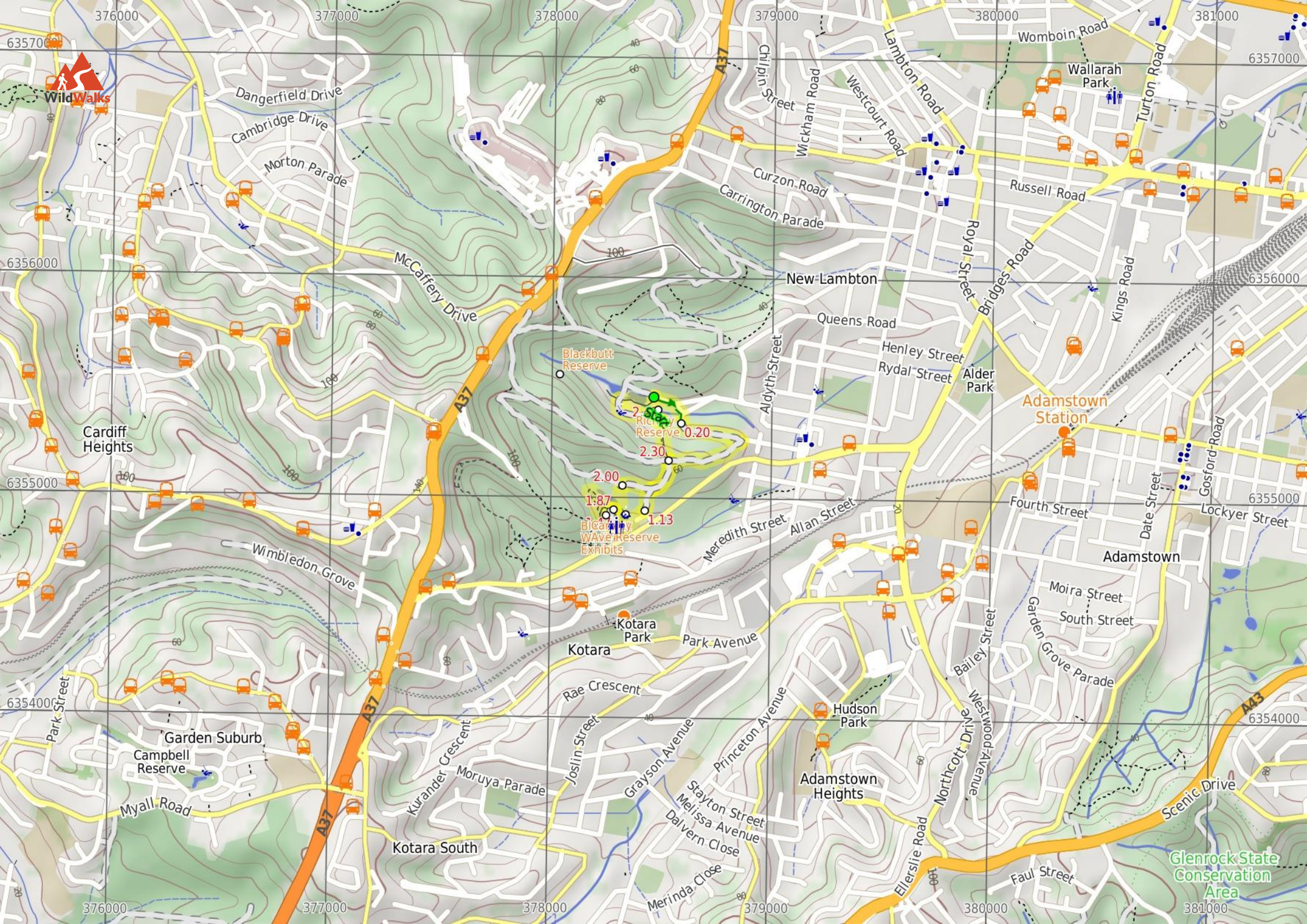




WildWalks

Blackbutt Reserve
Ridge Reserve 0.20
2.30
2.00
1.87
Biga WAVE Reserve Exhibits
1.13

Glenrock State Conservation Area



WildWalks

Blackbutt Reserve
Ridge Reserve 0.20
2.30
2.00
1.87
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1.13

Glenrock State Conservation Area

Summary navigation sheet for the Richley Reserve to Carnley Reserve Circuit



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)	5 -6	200 m 4 mins	From the Richley Reserve (Car Park), this walk follows the car park gently downhill, while leaving the ponds directly behind you.
0.20	Int of Richley Reserve & Tall Tree Walk (loop) -32.9335,151.7013 (GR Wallsend, 786553)	32 -3	660 m 13 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Wildlife Exhibit' sign and trail gently uphill, while keeping the valley on your left.
0.85	Int of Carnley & Tall Trees Trails -32.935,151.7007 (GR Wallsend, 785552)	0 -28	270 m 7 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while moving directly away from the face of the 'Richley Car Park' sign and keeping the valley on the left.
1.13	Carlney Ave Car Park (Eastern end) -32.9371,151.6996 (GR Wallsend, 784549)	2 -2	140 m 2 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the road gently downhill through the car park, while leaving the metal ring fence and locked metal gate directly behind.
1.26	Carlney Ave Car Park -32.9378,151.6984 (GR Wallsend, 783549)	4 0	110 m 2 mins	Turn right: From the Carnley Ave Car Park (Off Carnley Ave, Kotara), this walk follows the footpath through the metal fenced gate way, while initially keeping the 'Blackbutt Reserve - Carnley Ave Reserve' sign on yo...
1.37	Int of Boardwalk & Carnley Trail -32.9371,151.6979 (GR Wallsend, 783549)	2 -2	100 m 2 mins	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.
1.47	Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge Trail -32.9379,151.698 (GR Wallsend, 783548)	12 -13	380 m 8 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.
1.85	Int of Boardwalk & Carnley Trail -32.9371,151.6979 (GR Wallsend, 783549)	0 -2	20 m	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill and towards the Black Duck Pond, while initially keeping the large timber fenced gate on your left.
1.87	Carnley Avenue Reserve -32.937,151.698 (GR Wallsend, 783549)	9 -1	130 m 2 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed road, while initially keeping the Black Duck Pond on your left and the replica pioneering cottage directly behind you.
2.00	Int of Carnley Trail & Blueberry Ash Walk -32.936,151.6985 (GR Wallsend, 783551)	18 0	310 m 6 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign on your left and trail gently downhill.
2.30	Int of Main Ridge & Tall Trees Walks -32.935,151.7007 (GR Wallsend, 785552)	0 -25	190 m 4 mins	Continue straight: 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.
2.49	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.