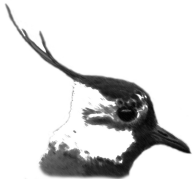
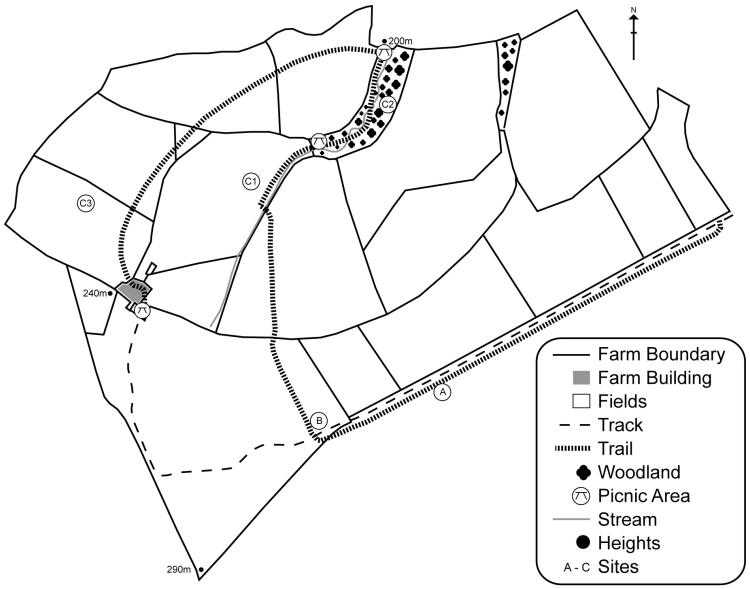


Farm Walk—Carrs Farm



Not to scale

Farm facts

- Carrs Farm is 2km southwest of Wolsingham, Co. Durham
- The farm is north-facing around Ashes Beck
- It is an organic farm and is 50 hectares in size
- The farm is mainly managed for wildlife.
- A neighbouring farmer rents the land to graze sheep and cattle
- Carrs Farm has been farmed for at least 500 years
- The fields are either used for grazing (pasture) or growing hay for winter animal food.
- The farm has some of the best upland hay meadows in England

Key words

Hectare: A unit for measuring the area of land. A hectare is 100 metres by 100 metres
Organic farming: Farming without the use of manufactured chemicals
Pasture: Fields close to the farm that are used for grazing
Hay meadow: Fields close to the farm that are used for grazing and for growing grass for hay
Spot height: Points on an OS map that have been measured to be exactly that height (in metres) above sea level.
Beck: A beck is another name for a stream
asl: Above sea level
Land use: How the land is used. For example for transport, farming or houses

A. Introductory activities

1. Follow the route on the map and see if you can tell where you will be walking in the landscape.

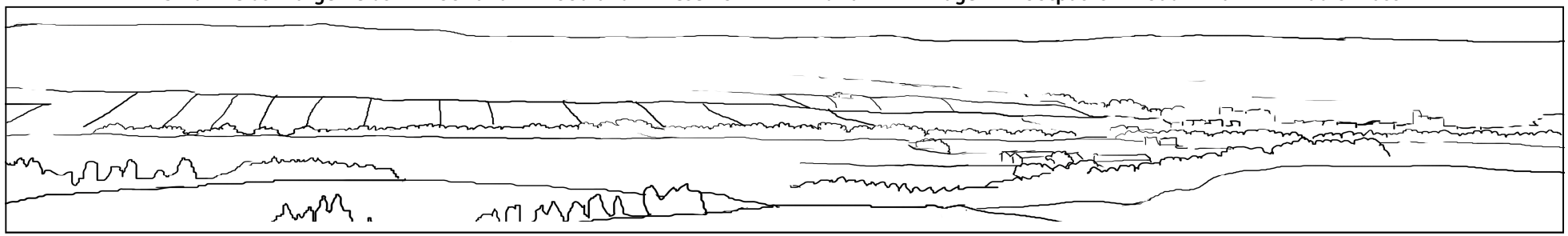
2. Use the spot heights on the map above to give the highest point on the farm _____(m asl), the lowest point on the farm _____ (m asl), and the range in height _____(m)

3. Look across the valley. How does the land use change as you move from the valley floor to the hilltops?

B. Land use in the countryside

The outline sketch below is of the view to the north. People us the land for lots of different things. Can you complete the sketch and add the following labels:

Small fields Large fields Moorland Woodland Reservoir Wind farm Village Footpaths Road Farm Radio mast



If you have a camera, also take a photograph of the view so you can improve your sketch back at school.

C. Changing seasons on the farm

Carrs Farm is farming this land to produce food (lamb and beef) and to encourage wildlife. Different activities take place on the farm at different times of the year. At sites C1 – C3 on your map, decide whether you are in a pasture, hay meadow or wood. Use your farm dials to work out what is going on at each site at the time of year you are visiting. What has just happened here and what will happen in the coming months. Complete the table below:

What is happening on the farm?			
Land use	**The season of your visit:_____ What is happening?**	**What has just happened?**	**What will happen in the next few months?**
Pasture *Farming*			
Wildlife			
Hay meadow *Farming*			
Wildlife			
Woodland *Farming*			
Wildlife			

D. Meet the farmer

You will get the chance to meet the farmer later. Jot down the questions you would like to ask her.