



Historical heritage and ecological considerations

Water and Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) programme
Cleaning up rivers polluted by abandoned mines



The preferred site for the treatment ponds falls outside of the surrounding heritage and ecological designations. However, the work to capture the mine water from the Barney Craig adit and transfer it by pipeline to the treatment ponds are inside or adjacent to some important heritage and ecological features.

The WAMM project team is currently working with Historic England, Northumberland County Council and Natural England to ensure that these important heritage and ecological features are not adversely affected by the proposed works. This will form a key part of the planning application.

Important heritage features

- The Carrshield mine and associated ore processing site, including the camping barn and the car parking area, is a Scheduled Monument.
- The bridge over the River West Allen on the access track to Smallburns Farm.
- The limekiln on the west side of the access track.
- The Barney Craig adit portal and underground tunnels beneath the car parking area.

Important ecological features

- The proposed location for the treatment ponds is not protected for ecology. However, the pipeline route is partially within the:
 - North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA).
 - Allendale Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Ninebanks River Shingles SSSI, River West Allen At Blackett Bridge SSSI and the Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC lie downstream of the site but are not expected to be affected by the treatment scheme.

Photograph of Carrshield camping barn.
(Image credit MRA, 2022).