

Lightspout Waterfall

A gentle ascent beside a hill stream to a picturesque waterfall.

Distance: 2.5 km/1 1/2 miles

Duration: 1-1 1/2 hours

Difficulty: Easy-Medium

Waymark colour: Red

- Look Out For:**
- Brown trout in the stream
 - Noisy Stonechats
 - Soaring Buzzards and Red Kites overhead

- 1** From the Chalet Pavilion, walk up to the car park at the top of Carding Mill Valley. Notice the almost upright strata of hard grey rock here, in the streambed and protruding from the hillside turf. This rock, originally horizontal sedimentary shales and mudstone, is almost 600million years old.
- 2** Continue up the valley on the stony track on the left side of the stream. Lemon scented fern grows along here and in the stream is watermint and yellow monkey flower

- 3** When the valley divides after 500 metres take the left-handed fork up crude, "pitched" stone steps into Lightspout Hollow. This narrow V-shaped valley's slopes are covered in bracken, heather, and bilberry. A few hawthorn and mountain ash trees have survived grazing by the sheep.

- 4** Rising above the stream, the rocky path snakes uphill around interlocking spurs before opening out after 500 metres At the foot of the Lightspout Waterfall.

After prolonged rain, or after a few days of frost, this 4 metre cascade is spectacular. To Victorian visitors it was a "miniature Niagra"

It was here that the Reverend Carr, in a blizzard in 1865, became lost and nearly plunged to his death.

