

Volunteer Support Volunteers can gain in awareness of issues and play a valuable role in undertaking path condition surveys, in patrols or as 'lengthsmen' for checking paths, (including clearance of drains and loose stones) and other light work such as minor landscaping and seeding after a contract, scattering excessive cairns; also in educating the passing public. UPT will provide guidelines and guidance, and facilitate training where required, for setting up and running volunteer groups for path repair work and inspecting path work. It will also organise joint site visits to share good practice. UPT will provide a starting point and information on other volunteer groups to individuals, groups such as climbing and walking clubs and companies. UPT will also encourage users to gift aid and give legacies to support path works.



Website One of BUFT's early initiatives was to develop an Upland Path Information Network, primarily providing details of practitioners, specialist skills and technique development. It was realised that this would be best developed as a component of a website. UPT will take the early developments of this forward to create and maintain a new website. This will first and foremost provide an information database to disseminate aspects of good practice, and a networking forum for both path workers and users. Initially it will entail extensive research and collation of information on techniques, standards, guidance, publications, latest developments, training, skills, contractors, consultants, etc. It is envisaged that the website will be of invaluable use to a wide range of politicians, funders, managing authorities, conservation organisations, land managers, as well as practitioners, volunteer groups, and users.

Training It was evident at the September 2005 conference that there is still a serious shortfall in specific training provision, particularly for path and access managers. There was strong support for UPT to research needs and opportunities and facilitate training whether by setting up and running courses, calling in experts in particular fields, or by working with training organisations and bodies to run 'UPT endorsed' courses. UPT would seek sponsorship to run its path work training courses. These would include: -

- Strategic and integrated path management
- Funding opportunities
- Path work survey, specification and supervision
- Path maintenance, repair and erosion control techniques
- Environmental and landscape restoration
- Involving and training volunteer groups

In addition UPT will facilitate one-day workshops and associated site visits, as well as a biennial conference, building on the success of previous events.

Contacting UPT For more details about UPT and becoming involved please contact Charles Gameson charlesgameson@aol.com 161 Enville Road, Kinver, South Staffordshire, DY7 6BN or leave a message with the BMC (British Mountaineering Council) 0870 010 4878 and an UPT representative will return your call.

Donating to UPT Donations to Upland Path Trust c/o the BMC, 177-179 Burton Road, Manchester M20 2BB.



OUTLINES FOR PRIORITY PROJECTS



Upland Path Trust (UPT) is the working name of BUFT (British Upland Footpath Trust) a registered charity in England and Wales reg no 1040104



UPT is the new working name for BUFT (British Upland Footpath Trust). The Key object of UPT is to prevent and reduce visually intrusive erosion scars through improving the quality of path management, path work and path maintenance in the uplands. This is achieved by raising the profile of upland path management and promoting exchange of information. UPT is a charitable trust, with trustees from the British Mountaineering Council, the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, the Ramblers Association and the Outdoor Industries Association. As a non-membership based charity it has no income source and no regular financial support.

BUFT was established in 1994 and has to date published "Mending Our Ways – the quality approach to managing upland paths", run three major conferences and two Path Award Schemes, and developed a network of all involved with upland path work. "Mending Our Ways" is widely known as the best independent guidance for organisations and local authorities when planning how to best manage and repair upland path erosion and the surrounding environment.

At its latest conference in September 2005 BUFT secured support to work under the new name of UPT so it could include multi user routes and paths similar in nature e.g. coastal, and to potentially spread its remit to other countries.

Listed on the following pages are details of the projects (including the employment of a project officer) for which we are seeking grants/sponsorship.

Project Officer UPT is seeking funding/sponsorship for a Project Officer to develop a business plan and put into place a range of projects (outlined below) that were largely suggested and supported at the conference held at Bangor University in September 2005.

UPT is a charity that works to influence, and has gained respect from land managers and path practitioners. The Project Officer will facilitate and maintain a network for exchange of ideas, knowledge, skills and training. Quite often path workers feel isolated and need to share their problems and experiences with each other.

Although UPT is currently an organisation linking five 'nations' (England, Eire, Northern Ireland Scotland and Wales) a dedicated Project Officer will realise its potential to become a global authority on quality path management and erosion control.

Essentially UPT represents recreational users who should be enabled to experience their chosen upland areas without causing environmental damage, and by using paths that are not themselves a scar on the landscape. The Project Officer will play a strong role in raising user awareness and facilitating voluntary contribution, both practical and financial.



Guidance and Standards

The 'Upland Path Erosion Guiding Principles', which are enshrined in the BUFT constitution and were endorsed by Government in 1995, are over ten years old and generally considered to require updating. Similarly the few published path work guidance manuals and books require updating and consolidating with common standards. UPT is committed to reviewing and updating the 'Guiding Principles', seeking their further endorsement and ensuring that they become prescriptive for path funding applications. UPT will also compile and publish a sequel to 'Mending our Ways', with a stronger focus on:

- 1) educating and influencing the political will,
- 2) sound and sustainable practice
- 3) funding essential and routine maintenance as a priority over capital and fire-fighting major works.

UPT could also facilitate and approve the production of up to date path management guidance and standards, incorporate the 'light touch' philosophy and build on existing provision.

Path Work Accreditation BUFT achieved a highly regarded independent role in appraising and reporting on the quality of path work projects through its Award Schemes and a Monitoring Report. UPT intends to develop this role into a project that will provide a structured, independent approach to appraising both new build works and path maintenance. Where the endorsed Guiding Principles are met and the highest standards are achieved, accreditation will be applied and publicised.

UPT will prepare and publicise regular reports of all appraisals, encourage the use of approved path management techniques, and provide support and advice where appropriate. This project will entail the training of a team of volunteer 'assessors', which will additionally help to raise public awareness and involvement.

Path Maintenance A primary aim for BUFT has been to see the movement of Government and other funding away from capital projects, such as major engineering and rebuilding of paths, into more sustainable pre-emptive maintenance and minimal intervention or low impact management. But it is still generally impossible to get funding to simply maintain a path/path network. This can leave the path to deteriorate with a costly rebuild necessary in relatively short time. UPT will continue working to influence the essential change required. UPT also proposes to develop and run a scheme for companies to adopt a path and sponsor maintenance, whether by local contractors, a volunteer group, or its own staff.

