

Upland Path Erosion Guiding Principles
Lake District Upland Access Management Group
British Upland Footpath Trust, UK
1995

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British Upland Footpath Trust
<http://freespace.virgin.net/andy.carling/buft.html#info>

The following principles have been formulated by the Lake District Upland Access Management Group, adapted from the British Mountaineering Council policy statement on the repair and management of upland paths. They have been accepted and adopted by the House of Commons Environment Select Committee (in 1995) as the best practice guidelines to establish a nationwide approach for the repair and maintenance of upland footpaths.

The repair and maintenance of paths in open country are subject to the following considerations that:

- Repairs are necessary to prevent or ameliorate visual intrusion and environmental damage.
- Works should be of a high standard of design and implementation using indigenous materials, sympathetic in colour and texture to the immediate surrounding area. Uniformity of construction should be avoided e.g. steps
- Techniques used should protect existing vegetation and, normally, only locally occurring plant species should be used in restoration. Non local species will be accepted only where necessary as a nurse crop and where natural succession will rapidly result in their disappearance.
- The more remote the path, the more stringently the criteria for path repairs should be applied. This will be a matter of judgement but in general, the more remote or wild the location the less acceptable an obviously engineered path will be.
- Repaired paths should be suitable to the routes use and constructed on a scale appropriate for the intended use as a footpath, bridleway or byway.
- Before any repair work is agreed the question should be asked 'is there a better solution?'
- The use of waymarks, cairns or other intrusive features, other than those traditionally established on summits and path junctions will be discouraged.

- A sustained commitment of resources to path management will be sought, so that small scale continuous maintenance can replace infrequent major repairs as the normal method of path management.

Related publications of the British Upland Footpath Trust:

Repairing Upland Path Erosion (1996) by Jim Loxham and Peter Davies.

Available from

The National Trust Estates Office, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester,
Glos GL7 1RQ. Price £18 + P&P

The following are available from the BUFT Offices:

Upland Path Award Report 1996. Price £10

Upland Path Award Report 1997. Price £12

'Reaching For New Heights' Conference Report (1998) Price £7.50

'Mending Our Ways'; the quality approach to managing upland paths (1998)
Price £5

Notes to readers

For more information go to:

Susanna Perkins

Secretary

British Upland Footpath Trust

PO Box 96

Manchester M20 2FU.

Tel: 0161 445 4747

Fax: 0161 445 4500

Email: accesssp@thebmc.co.uk