



at work in the **country**

Just south of Burford, in a secluded Cotswold valley, lies the sleepy village of Eastleach. Sheep and lambs graze the organically-managed farmland around the village, and the crystal clear river Leach meanders by, home to heron and kingfishers and hunting ground for a pair of barn-owls. These glorious valleys are popular with walkers, who can rest their weary feet at Eastleach's excellent pub, the Victoria, and enjoy a well-earned pint and a delicious lunch.



At one address in the village, this peaceful idyll masks a hive of activity. Upland Escapes is a tour operator specialising in independent walking holidays in beautiful rural areas of Europe. The company's founders live in Eastleach and in Fulbrook, and formerly held management positions at the prestigious Burford-based tour operator Abercrombie & Kent, until the company's move away from the area. Their motivation and enthusiasm for seeking out some of the best, most unspoilt walking in Europe is driven by their love of their own home landscape.

Behind everything Upland Escapes does are principles of sustainable tourism, benefiting local economies. Both abroad and at home the company is determined to support local businesses, and the majority of their needs here are met by small enterprises in Burford, Carterton and Witney. The company does all it can to protect the local natural environment, using recycled paper for all brochures and documentation. They work closely with the Carbon Neutral Company to offset any carbon emissions caused by their holidays and their own travel.

All this they have applied to the creation of independent walking holidays in beautiful, undiscovered upland regions of France, Italy, Slovenia and Gran Canaria. In each case, a single-centre base in a traditional village provides the perfect home from which to explore the stunning surroundings on foot. If you are interested in learning more, or would like to request a brochure, you can contact Upland Escapes on 01367 851 111 or on www.uplandescapes.com. Alternatively, if you find yourself in Eastleach on a sunny afternoon, you may wish to stroll from the pub down the daffodil-strewn bank to No 42, and pick up a brochure from their garden gate!

See the **Burford Life** map for location