

Maurice Retallick

Managing the common.

I'm Chairman of the local Commoners Association, which is Haytor Down and the adjoining common of Bagtor Down, and we, as a Commoners Association, we put a lot of management into the commons such as the regulation of the stocking, we get the stocking levels right, cattle, sheep and ponies, to allow the wildlife to breed and increase, the vegetation to be maintained and we manage also by burning certain areas, we burn patches on a rotational basis, of gorse, mostly gorse and some heather and some of the molinia grass, and we do some swiping where burning isn't appropriate, and also some bracken control, which gives the livestock the chance to get into some of the areas they wouldn't otherwise do so, and also the public to access wider parts of the common and not make the paths so small so that there's not then the erosion.