

Bill Allen

Controlling the increase of bracken on the Down.

One of the things we've noticed is the increase in bracken over the years, I mean there's always been bracken on moorland, but some areas have become almost impenetrable due to that, areas such as Pinchaford Ball up behind the lower car park there. And apart from the benefits to the butterflies there isn't a lot of benefit, you know, in terms of getting people through, walking through there, or a wildlife benefit because you just get that matted sea of dead bracken and not much else grows under it. So one of the jobs the commoners have done, which has been very successful is to actually cut some paths up through the bracken, they've actually cut and sprayed and its had several benefits, people can now walk up through there which then keeps those paths open just by trampling the bracken, so its improved the access, it's also good from the livestock point of view because the animals will then migrate back up through there and find little pockets of grazing and make use of that, and also the commoners can then ride out on horse or quad down through to check out the stock as well, so its been a very beneficial job they've done there.