

Arthur Courtier

Cutting 'ferns' (bracken) for animal bedding.

And of course we used to cut ferns on the moor in those day, we used to go up with the horses and wagons and load them up and bring them in and then load up our barns, or make a rick of it, and that we would bed for pigs mostly, but we did bed it for cattle as well.

So you cut it and then let it dry?

Dry, cut it with scythes, that's how it was cut, around about Widecombe Fair time, just around that time [first half of September] because I remember very well up cutting ferns and seeing them all off up to Widecombe Fair, the traffic and that.