



Original thinking... applied



Bracken Control Case Studies

Cutting: ATV Drawn Equipment



This is a summary of the information that has been kindly provided by people with current experience of controlling bracken using hand pulling and whipping in different parts of the UK. It provides some real-world experience to supplement the preliminary guidance about each control method.

The detail is limited by the amount of information available. More case study information is welcomed to allow us to add to the guidance. Please email details to: **Bracken@naturalengland.org.uk**

Comments

- There is a range of self-powered cutting equipment designed for towing behind All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) or Quad Bikes.
- No specific contemporary case study information has been provided in time to include in this summary, therefore, information from anyone with experience of using this equipment is welcomed and can be emailed to: Bracken@naturalengland.org.uk.
- An experimental trail (see below) indicates that cutting twice a year is an effective means of bracken control.

Experimental trial: Peak District, Derbyshire

- The aim was to restore *Calluna* moorland. As part of the trial a Logic flail mower towed by an ATV was used to cut the bracken either once (June) or twice (June and August).
 - Cutting once had variable impact on bracken cover after 5 years whereas cutting twice reduced bracken cover by ~ c90%.
 - Data source: Le Duc MG, Pakeman RJ, Marrs, RH (2007) A restoration experiment on moorland infested by *Pteridium aquilinum*; Plant species responses. *Agri, Eco & Env.*, 119, 53-59 w.
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