

CLEE LIBERTY COMMONERS' ASSOCIATION

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP – BRACKEN CONTROL 2025

Four methods have been used this year, crushing, topping, Robo cutting and the Scrub buster.

- Bracken crusher – this has done most of the area with a few new areas opened on The Batches. The crusher is most effective in areas where there is considerable stone, as it does not receive as much damage.
- Tractor and Flail topper – Last year was the first year we opened up the area above The Batches, past John Birt's pen. This bracken was 4-5 feet high, with a deep thatch underneath. This year the bracken was half the height, with a lot less thatch. New areas were thin where controlled below Nordy Bank, by the locked gate and to the south side of Nordy Bank.
- Quad and Scrub buster/Robo cutter – both have opened new areas, with the Robo cutter clearing above Tuffley House and along the fence line on The Yeld.

Gorse management – Areas of gorse have been managed with the Robo cutter, quad bike with Scrub buster and tractor with Flail topper. This is to control invasive gorse which has gone woody and open, to restore or maintain priority habitats.

Rush management – Wandering paths have been cut in the rushes towards the top of the Common. This will help provide resting areas for breeding wading birds and prevent loss of botanically-rich grasses.

Fencing - Some work has been started, with a lot more to be done before the end of next year. There will be work going on over the winter period, cutting back hedges and trees and preparing the necessary access.

Slow the Flow – People from the project have walked the brook, on the boundary of the Common, towards Pole Gutter and work will take place soon, to put in several leaky dams. Volunteers are welcome, if they would like to assist, or just come and view.

Sheep have all been removed and we ask the public to let us know if they see any stray sheep on the Common.

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