

An introduction to vegetation cutting approaches across peatland habitats

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Why cut?

To generate a useful product



To maintain a particular successional stage





To prevent dominance of competitive species - restoration



To prevent dominance of competitive species – maintenance/restoration



Cutting firebreaks



Are there any negative impacts of cutting?

- Major immediate effect on vegetation structure and complexity
 - fauna
 - scale-dependent
- Effects on substrate
 - Compaction
 - Rutting
 - Consequent hydrological effects
- Prevents/slows natural successional processes
- Carbon accumulation?

Conclusions

- Has given rise to highly valued habitats
- Can be an alternative to grazing or other vegetation management method
- Full impacts not understood
- Expensive
- Generates large amounts of material
- Less demand for traditional products
- Opportunities for new uses/products for cut material