

Holly Pollarding

Holly pollarding on the Forest provides an excellent, nutritious and much liked food source at this time of year. A large clump of holly trees have been cut, leaving some trunks standing approx 4 feet high, from which the new shoots of holly will sprout. The ponies (and deer) feed on the cut stuff, eating the prickly leaves, the twigs and stems and gnawing the bark on the bigger boughs and logs. The ponies very rapidly find the area of the cut holly because they learn to be attracted to the sound of the chainsaws and will travel some distance - very useful to an owner when they go out to check round their stock - they are much easier to find!



Ponies will eat some holly when it is still growing - but this is more usually limited to the new, tender growing leaf tips - or the 'blind' holly that has much less prickly leaves and longer 'straggly' stems (not found much on the forest within pony reach height - they eat it all!). Once the holly has been cut, even the much more prickly stuff, the ponies seem to find it easier to deal with.



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