



Hurdle maker at work, 1904

An Expert Hurdle Maker at Crockerton

Some woodmen being at the Bath Arms, Crockerton, on Wednesday evening, and their conversation turning on the subject of hurdle making, one of them, Henry Edwards, of the same place, made a bet that he would make a hurdle out of four "rods" which he would get from Cricket's Wood, the others maintaining that he could not do so, even if he took two hours in which to do the work, as the "rods" would take so much time in splitting. Edwards made the hurdle, however, within an hour, and had a "rod" to spare, thus winning the bet.

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OPC Note

The hurdle maker works in winter and spring, often using "rods" from coppiced hazel trees. Smaller rods with pointed ends form the uprights, using a frame to hold them in place, and then the rods are split and woven horizontally until the framework is completely filled in. As the hurdle maker reaches the end, he will twist the rod, which opens the fibres and gives it a rope-like structure, so that he can continue weaving after going round the end upright rod.