

## Feature

# Going where others fear to tread

With many shoots and gamekeepers opting for side-by-side off-road vehicles, the NGO's committee has asked Sophia Gallia to look at what's available.

OFF-ROADING IS A FACT OF LIFE FOR KEEPERS, who need rugged stability and agility but also comfort for long stints of driving, and often a decent amount of carrying space. Most side-by-side UTVs are equipped with a tray back for carrying gamekeeping paraphernalia without needing a trailer. Designed for off-road use, many can cope with tricky terrain, and some are fully road legal. Easy to hop in and out of, they are ideal for work such as feed rounds and trap checking that gamekeepers know so well.

On many shoots, it's important that vehicles run on diesel. Cub Cadet's Big Country, Kawasaki's Mule, Kubota RTV900, JCB Groundhog, John Deere Gator, Club Car Carryall and AUSA Task M50D all fit this bill (the last two also have petrol models).

If you need to carry passengers, for example for transport on shoot days, then the Carryall or Mule have a model that can seat four. The Mule's extra seat can be put down, giving extra load capacity in the cargo bed. The Polaris Ranger's front bench seat holds three and the 'Crew' model can take six.

If load-carrying is what's important, then the Groundhog, the RTV900 and Task have the biggest capacity, being able to take 500kg in the cargo bed. This feature varies widely and others also have a generous load capacity; the Gator, Mule and Ranger can all take over 450kg in the tray. Some of the trays are quite high for heaving kit into, so it's worth checking this if your back is bad. Towing capacity also varies, with the Ranger able to haul a 907kg trailer with brakes, and the Task and Big Country able to tow



Club Car  
Carryall  
295

750kg. There are tyre choices available for most models and, if you're using them heavily off-road, it's worth checking the ply-rating as punctures can be frequent.

For some, the stability of six wheels is preferable to four, even if it means a slower, less agile vehicle. In which case the Gator TH6x4 may be for you, but it's not designed for tough off-roading. The Groundhog also comes in a six-wheel version, as does the Ranger. The ROPS frame, which comes as standard on all the four-wheelers, is not standard on some six-wheel models – possibly a hint that six-wheelers are more stable!

For extreme off-road use, such as in the uplands, there's always the 8x8 Argo ([www.crayford.co.uk](http://www.crayford.co.uk)) or the caterpillar-wheeled Softrack ([www.loglogic.co.uk](http://www.loglogic.co.uk)), which are in a category of their own. But that's for another article.

Here is a brief description of each of the 4x4 side-by-side UTVs. Much more information is available on the manufacturers' websites and through dealers.

### KAWASAKI MULE

The 4010 23hp model is diesel with selectable four-wheel drive. It comes with bench seats for either two or four

('trans' model) and is green. It has power steering, a roll frame, seat belts and a 24.2 litre fuel tank. There is a lighter, more compact, petrol 13hp Mule (model 610), which is also has selectable 4-wheel drive and is dark red.

### CLUB CAR CARRYALL

The Carryall 295 has an automatic four-wheel drive system which kicks in when you need it. You can choose whether you want bench or bucket seats, and either two or four of them (SE model). There is a 20hp diesel engine or a 23hp petrol one to choose from. If you need to use a range of tools on the front, then go for the 'IntelliTach' model.

### JOHN DEERE GATOR

The new XUV850 4x4 diesel is the one that John Deere recommends for keepers. It has a higher off-road performance than its six-wheeled cousin (the TH6x4), which is more suited to situations where a light footprint is necessary. The XUV850 is true four-wheel drive, automatically sensing when the rear wheels slip and engaging both front wheels to maximise traction. It comes in John Deere's green/yellow livery.

### KUBOTA RTV900

The camo ('Recreational') version of this is a proven workhorse on many shoots. It has good ground-clearance and copes with tough terrain. It has a 21.6hp diesel engine, hydraulic bed lift, rugged frame, and four-wheel drive (with 2WD selection).

### JCB GROUNDHOG

The four-wheel version is one of the more

Kawasaki  
Mule



John Deere  
Gator  
XUV850



Kubota  
RTV900

powerful UTVs in our line-up at 26hp. It has a 39-litre diesel fuel tank, selectable 4WD, a maximum travelling speed of 31mph and 9" ground clearance. The less powerful six-wheeler (20.5hp) is also diesel, with a 20-litre fuel tank, 18mph maximum speed and 8" ground clearance. Both sport the JCB yellow livery, although your own colour choice is available as an optional extra. For the patriots among you, they're made in Britain!



JCB Groundhog

Cub Cadet  
Big Country

#### CUB CADET BIG COUNTRY (E P BARRUS LTD)

The camo version of this 20hp diesel-powered machine is a popular choice for shoots. You can switch between two-and four-wheel drive while on the move and it claims to give a smooth ride over rough terrain at speeds of up to 25mph. It also has a generous 10½" ground clearance.

#### ARCTIC CAT PROWLER 650XT

This 39hp petrol UTV has an electric

4WD shift, a foot of ground clearance and a 31-litre fuel tank. For those wanting a natural colour, green is the obvious choice (alternatively lime or red).

#### AUSA TASK

The Spanish-made diesel M50D AUSA is good on rough terrain, agile and able to go at 37mph. Its load and towing capacity is good, and its simple design means it should have low maintenance. AUSA

Arctic Cat  
Prowler

## At a glance

	Arctic Cat	Cub Cadet	JCB	Kubota	John Deere
<b>MODEL SPECIFIED</b>	Prowler 650XT	Big Country UTV4x4DC	Groundhog 4x4	RTV900 Recreational	Gator XUV850
<b>FUEL TYPE</b>	Petrol	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel
<b>ENGINE SIZE (CC)</b>	641	720	1028	898	854
<b>HORSEPOWER</b>	39	20	26	21.6	24.9
<b>4WD</b>	Electric shift	Selectable	Yes	4WD with 2WD selection	True
<b>CARGO BED CAP'Y (KG)</b>	272	409	500	500	454
<b>TOWING CAPACITY (KG)</b>	680	750	500	590	590
<b>GR'D CLEARANCE (MM)</b>	305	228	228	195	153
<b>FUEL TANK (LITRES)</b>	31	26.4	39	28	20
<b>MAX SPEED (MPH)</b>	Legal limit 60	25	31	25	30
<b>STANDARD COLOURS</b>	Green, red or lime	Camo	Orange <sup>†</sup>	Camo	Green
<b>OTHER MODELS AVAILABLE</b>	Off-road only version.	Colours: green or yellow	Groundhog 6x4	General purpose, Worksite, Streetlegal special	TX 6x4 and others
<b>OPTIONAL EXTRAS INCLUDE*</b> <small>(* not a full list, so please check with dealer)</small>	Various cab options, camo colour, winch, gun holder.	Electric bed lift, winch, cargo bed attachments, bed liner.	Hydraulic bed lift, ball hitch, various attachments, <sup>†</sup> your colour choice.	Hydraulic upgrade kit, front accessory box, bed liner, HD springs.	Power bed lift, bedliner, brush/fender guards, winch, tyre options.
<b>LIST PRICE (EX VAT)</b>	£8,990	£9,549	£10,770	£9,450	£10,820
<b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b>	<a href="http://www.arcticcat.eu">www.arcticcat.eu</a> 01702 603364	<a href="http://www.barrus.co.uk">www.barrus.co.uk</a> 01869 363636	<a href="http://www.jcb.com">www.jcb.com</a> 01538 758000	<a href="http://www.kubota.co.uk">www.kubota.co.uk</a> 01844 214500	<a href="http://www.johndeere.co.uk">www.johndeere.co.uk</a> 01949 860491



Ausa Task



Polaris Ranger



Yamaha Rhino

doesn't have a UK office, so contact local dealerships (eg. Bredy) for more info.

#### POLARIS RANGER

The HD model has the highest towing capacity and speed among its competitors. It holds three on its bench seat, with the option of a six-seater in the 'Crew' version. However, the 700 series of Rangers are only available in petrol.



Kymco UXV

#### YAMAHA RHINO

This compact, light 48hp petrol UTV can get to most places an ATV can go and its top speed is 39mph. The cargo tray is the smallest at 181kg capacity.

#### KYMCO UXV

Another compact, light, petrol UTV, this has a high performance but low price tag. It comes with/without a speed restrictor.

Club Car	Kawasaki	Polaris	Yamaha	Ausa	Kymco
Carryall	Mule 4010	Ranger HD (700 series)	Rhino 700	Task M50D	UXV 500 RL
Diesel or Petrol	Diesel	Petrol	Petrol	Diesel	Petrol
719 (diesel) 675 (petrol)	953	683	686	1028	498
20 (diesel) 23 (petrol)	23	40	Not quoted but around 48	26.5	20
Automatic	Selectable	On demand	On command	Selectable	Selectable
362	499	454	181	500	200
500	545	907	550	750	467
188	175	300	280	210	not quoted
24.6	24.2	34	30	30	32
25	25	50	39	37	45
Green	Woodsman green	Grey	Camo, green, red, blue	Green or orange	Green
SE (four-seater)	4010 Trans (four-seater); 610 (smaller)	700 series: XP; Crew (six-seater); 6x6	n/a	M50 (petrol)	With/without hp/speed restrictor
476kg extra load capacity, electric bed lift, winch, sprayer, trailer.	Electric bed lift, cab kit, trailer hitch, bed liner, winch.	Various cabs, winch, wheel/tyre options, lockable cargo box.	Windscreen, bonnet rack, lockable bed cover, winch.	Semi-closed cab, tow point, rear hard top, winch, electric lift.	Windscreen, hard roof, soft back behind headrest.
£7,995	£8,999	£10,999	£7,899	£9,547	£6,608
www.clubcar.com 01780 782621	www.kawasaki.co.uk 01628 856600	www.polaris-britain.com 01675 437240	www.yamaha-motor.co.uk 01932 358000	www.ausa.com Bredy 01305 267151	www.kymco.co.uk 01743 761107