

**Nick Atkinson**

**The National Park Authority's ownership of Haytor Down.**

*Why was it that the National Park Authority decided that they wanted to buy a section of the moor?*

Well there were three purposes; one to safeguard the public access and ensure it for all time, because at that stage there was no assured long term legal right of access to Haytor; secondly it was that, in terms of common land management, it would, as owner, ensure that the management safeguards were put in, that activities of commoners or from any other source didn't cause damage or harm; and thirdly was to demonstrate good management for elsewhere in the National Park, here was this National Park Authority, established in a more formal guise in 1974, wanting to work with commoners and other landowners and feeling that if we had a piece of Dartmoor where we were demonstrating good management, how a beneficent owner could work with commoners, then there was a measure of demonstration that would rub off elsewhere.