

Norman Baldock

Western Heath.

Standing here just on the edge of Saddleter, and as you look around you can see the fantastic colours of gold and purple which is the western heath land which is surrounding us here. This is made up primarily of the western gorse, which is the beautiful gold's you can see here, and in amongst that there's the bell heather, which is the bright purple, and a bit later on in the year you get the ling heather which is a rather a darker, deeper purple that you get later on. When we get into the winter months you'll see quite a lot of the purple moor grass within this and looking more obvious as it gets a sort of straw colour and the wind often catches it and blows it around in this area. This habitat is one of the quite common ones on Dartmoor which you can find on the edge of the moorland but internationally it's a rare habitate which is restricted just to the north western corner of Europe on the Atlantic fringes.