

**Norman Baldock**

**The wildlife found in valley mires.**

*And what other special habitats do we have in this area of Haytor Down?*

Where we're standing here on Saddle Tor, on either side of us there are valley mire systems which are particularly important for a wide range of wildlife, probably most importantly they've got marsh fritillary colonies on both sides here which is a species which is now thought to be globally threatened and Dartmoor and Devon as a county is particularly important for the species. The waders that are still breeding here include snipe in reasonable numbers but also a few pairs of curlew and lapwing. As you come off the edge of Haytor Down there's quite a lot of areas with bracken in and these are particularly important because pearl-bordered fritillaries and a few high brown fritillaries still survive in these areas, where you've got a good supply of violets growing underneath the bracken and again the management with ponies and cattle grazing in those areas are key to maintaining that habitat.