

Kevin Page

400 million years of history within the view.

Well the view from Haytor is superb, you can see about 400 million years of the history of south west England from here, starting down in the south with the Devonian rocks, named after the county of Devon, the only comparable area in the world with a whole period of time named after it. You can also see red rocks down towards Teignmouth and Torbay and these red rocks, you see as the red soils, are actually the desert deposits, the deserts in which the granite was first exposed as it was un-roofed by the intense weathering and the conditions at the time. You can also see the wide Bovey Basin and that was a lake, 14 million years ago that was a lake and rivers were draining the uplands of Dartmoor depositing the clay in the lake down there and those were the important ball clay deposits, and it must have been a really nice place at the time, Dartmoor was actually clothed in giant redwood forests at the time and you can find fossil remains of them in the Bovey basin. Further round going [to the] north of us towards Exeter one can see an incredible flat surface on the top of the Haldon Hills and that's actually a marine surface, that was a marine surface round about 100 million years ago when the sea was last relatively high, cutting across the landscape. So really quite a beautiful view and with a lot of stories to tell.