

Alison Kohler

Managing the large number of visitors to the area.

Management of Haytor has really been taking place since the mid 1970s when the three car parking areas were developed; there's the top car park which you can see clearly from here and actually that makes the tor quite accessible for most people because it takes out most of the climb, and you will get fairly elderly and some people with disabilities getting up to the bottom of the tor itself and they get this fantastic view; the middle car park is actually a grass parking area, we open that up in the summer months and it just gives people the ability to drive onto the common with their car and just have a picnic next to their car if they want to, or play games or whatever, and then the bottom car park is where we have our toilet facilities and the Information Centre. At busy times you can find all of the car parks on Haytor totally full and this can be a busy summer Sunday, but it can also be a very busy winter Sunday when the sun's bright but it's very cold. So we do need to have ways of actually controlling car parking because the site itself couldn't actually cope with many more visitors, so you might have noticed that on the road going up from the bottom car park right up to the top car park there are roadside banks, these actually look like they've always been there but in fact most of them were put in back in the early 1970s when we built the car parks, to stop people pulling off informally all the way along the road, and they have done a tremendous job, I think the only time when we do get problems is when it snows.