Bill Allen

The role of the National Park Authority Ranger.

What's your role as the ranger here on Haytor?

Well its very varied it has to be said, I mean I can plan my day and then something else crops up so there's quite a big reactionary element to the job. On a day to day basis my job is very much liaising with the public, assisting the public, having school groups out and that sort of thing and it's quite nice, rather than just sort of speaking to a school group in the classroom to actually get them out on the moor and actually speak to them, perhaps get them tree planting, digging out a leat or something, putting something back and enjoying doing some practical work and then perhaps taking them for a walk in the afternoon, so something like that, that's a really valuable part of the job, actually getting all age groups, right through from, well literally eight to eighty year olds sometimes; literally on one day I've had eight year olds in the morning and a group of ramblers or a older group in the afternoons, so they come out and enjoy it and I think if they feel a part of it and actually see that it doesn't just look after itself, there's a lot of management going on behind the scenes, formal and informal. Other parts, on a day to day basis, perhaps the Information Centre might get a call about an injured animal, perhaps it's been hit by a car sadly, so we might know, from the description, where that animal comes from, we would then liaise with the landowner and perhaps have a look ourselves to make sure it isn't just, you know it's just limping or asleep in the sun, which is often what happens, sometimes the foals are sound asleep in the sun and people think they've been hit, you know with good intention, but sometimes we do get calls like that, so that's another part of the job. We also occasionally get involved with searches and rescues or the police may contact us, you know, if there's a missing person or something like that we'll get involved, with our local knowledge, we'll get involved with those aspects.