

## **Willem Montagne**

### **Haytor Down as an educational resource.**

*Why is Haytor Down so particularly special and useful for you as an educational tool?*

Well to me its very accessible, its one of the more accessible bits of Dartmoor, particularly for groups, for school groups, and if you think that most of Devon's school children probably go to school in Torbay, go to school in Exeter, that if you're coming from that side of Devon then Haytor Down becomes by far the most accessible bit of Dartmoor, and not only is it the most accessible but it's actually a wonderful fragment of high moorland, it's detached from the rest of the big open spaces on Dartmoor but it's a nice fragment of Dartmoor which contains spectacular tors, spectacular granite tors and granite features and in fact it contains all the typical archaeological, wildlife features that you're likely to find in the rest of Dartmoor, so it's like a small microcosm. And I like the walk, particularly, from Haytor, going past Haytor and ending up at Houndtor, it must be one of the easiest walks in some ways, particularly easy in the sense that you can see the important features of Dartmoor on that walk. There are the three chapters, what I call the chapters of Dartmoor archaeology; there's the industrial, which of course you can see very clearly when you go to the granite quarry, the Haytor granite quarry; there's the prehistoric - which actually the best prehistoric features are probably found around Smallacombe Rocks where we are here; and then as you go over the Becka Brook and across to the other side of the valley you come across Dartmoor's premier medieval site, the deserted village at Houndtor. So the three main archaeological stories can be well understood if you do this walk.