

Deborah Griffiths

The survival of Dartmoor's archaeology.

The reason why Dartmoor is really so good for looking at archaeology is many fold; first of all the archaeological features are built out of granite, which is a really hard and enduring rock, it doesn't erode away, it doesn't decay and it's very very robust; the second is the lack of intensive use, particularly after the prehistoric period, so you don't get the archaeology smothered by later occupations and later features; and a third reason is that this is a grazed landscape so we have animals here eating the vegetation which allows the archaeology to stand out and be clearly seen, and Smallacombe Rocks is particularly good because we are in a fairly remote location and therefore the archaeological features won't have been recycled or robbed to build dry stone walls or to be used in some other way.