

Willem Montagne

Children's response to Dartmoor.

What are young peoples response to Dartmoor, when you bring them up here, what's the overriding response that you get from these youngsters?

Well I like to tease out of the youngsters what makes Dartmoor so different from where they come from, where they live, you know, often it's the urban rural contrast that strikes them, but very frequently it's that it's actually the countryside is very different, it looks very different and it has a very different history, and it doesn't take much to tease it out of them, but they then understand it's the granite, it's the geology, it's the rock that gives Dartmoor its particularly character, and I don't just mean in the natural features, spectacular as they are, but also in the settlements, in the walls, in the boundaries, in the archaeological remains, the man made bits are also given a particular character through that granite and I would say it's that contrast that impresses the children. My real joy is to, if you come on a visit to Dartmoor I'd really like you to get to enjoy your visit, if you enjoy your visit I hope it makes you more interested in the area, if you're interested in the area I hope you get to understand more about it, and of course if visitors, be they whatever age, have been drawn along that line they'll end up being as concerned about Dartmoor and wanting to conserve it as we are, and that's really the whole line I would like to pull all visitors through, no matter what age, where they come from or whatever, its to get them to become, basically, allies of the National Park Authority, in wanting to conserve and sustain the Dartmoor landscape.