

Andy Crabb

Maintaining the granite tramway.

It's a scheduled ancient monument and therefore its protected by law, and the National Park Authority own the land so we have a duty to protect the site and repair it when its being eroded or damaged; but also we have to present it to the public, because a lot of people are getting interested in industrial archaeology and archaeology as a whole, so want to see these sites and walk along them and appreciate them. Now this is a victim of its own success really, it's a very well established popular walking route with local people and over the years with lots of horse riders and walkers and mountain bikers are using this trail they've eroded out material and we've had to replace that.

So what kind of work have you done over the years?

Along the cutting here, obviously the cutting itself and the gorse has grown up, funnelling people, concentrating people along a narrow path and that led to erosion forming and water getting in there, running water is a real menace, that washes out all the grown and compacted material and obviously if that carried on it could loosen the granite setts and we could start losing the integrity of the monument, so we've come up here, our works team and private contractors, with great loads of grown just to infill that erosion, and it may look like they just placed it down and tampered it all down, but it's quite a skilful job because the surfaces are all angled to direct the water away from the vulnerable setts.