

## **Sue Goodfellow**

### **Riverbank erosion and repair.**

Well I can remember, probably 20, 25 years ago when the river bank here was like a beach and every winter when the river rose all that sediment would be washed down the river and it would go onto some of the spawning beds and it would get deposited further down and you'd got a lot of erosion, the clapper bridge itself was being eroded under its foundations and the work that we, as the National Park Authority, have done since then I think has actually had quite a dramatic effect on that in the sense of improving it. So we've hardened the riverbank, we've put in quite a lot of boulders, we've actually put in granite paths to prevent erosion, we've done quite a lot of reseeded and I think the area now actually looks a lot better than it did 20, 25 years ago, although it probably actually has far more visitors, and the river itself is a lot healthier than it was in those days, so, I mean I hope when people look at it they will think it still looks natural and they won't actually notice what we've done, and that's always a challenge for us because we want the places that people go to to remain nice place that people enjoy going to, but we want them to look natural, we don't want them to look suburban, we don't want them to look like the places that they've actually come from because people have come to the countryside.