

Alison Kohler

Managing the area for visitors.

People have been coming to Postbridge since Victorian times in the old charabancs and they will continue to come. But people come for a whole array of reasons, you know, picnicking and walking and cycling and some of them just to tour around and sit and enjoy the peace and quiet. We try and manage the area so that everybody can get what they want out of it, the nice thing about this area is that we have got that juxtaposition of Bellever woodland, which has got some really good hard tracks, its quite sheltered and it can absorb quite a lot of people, whereas the high moorland area is susceptible to erosion and during the winter months there can be quite a lot of damage if we get lots of people walking on paths when they're wet or if we get big events using a particular path when the ground conditions are adverse. So we try and actually provide information for people and encourage them to use the woodlands when the ground conditions are wet and encourage them out on the moorland when the weather is more appropriate for that. Obviously car parking, information boards, information leaflets are all ways that we can actually manage the number and the way that people use the site, so we wouldn't intend to increase the size of the car park at Postbridge, for example, because we feel that the number of people we've got there is manageable, if we doubled it in size we'd probably find we had problems with erosion on the paths that run out of Postbridge onto the high moor, whereas at Bellever the size of the car parking has been increased over the last five to ten years and the site continues to absorb those people, in fact you can see the car park full and wander off into the forest and not see a soul.