

Jane Marchand

The archaeological palimpsest.

Talking about this very large and impressive archaeological landscape, not only have we got these prehistoric remains here but if we actually stand and we look around we can see the old line of the Princetown railway running around King's Tor, if we follow that round we look across to the 19th century quarry workings over at Ingra Tor, we come right back round and we have the North Hessary transmitting aerial, which has been transmitting for about 50 years and is now very much a feature of Dartmoor's landscape, an awful lot of walkers use it to navigate and to set their compasses against. Then coming right back round we've actually got the last working quarry on Dartmoor, that's Merrivale Quarry, which only closed down about five years ago, and then coming back round we can see the River Walkham, and then looking down there we're actually looking towards Cornwall, so we've got this wonderful vista all the way round.

And many years of activity?

Absolutely, we can see how man has actually changed this landscape over 6,000 years and is continuing to do so.

You get a real sense here of the place being a really busy place.

Yes, I mean today its probably the quietest its ever been, all we have are people coming out with their cameras and their dogs, but in fact it used to be obviously a hive of activity, over a period of 4,000, 5,000 years.