

Deborah Griffiths

Management of the land and archaeology in the valley.

This is an amazingly tranquil scene now and it's been a very popular place for recreation ever since the cessation of the quarrying, but that recreational activity brought with it one or two problems, there were large fires, trees were being damaged and there was anarchic parking all over the area. But all those people with an interest in the land eventually got together and over time they've worked through all the problems here and now this is a place that everybody can enjoy in peace and quiet. People often think that a seemingly open wild area like this doesn't actually need any positive management, that it just is, but that's far from the case and one example of positive action was the creation of the car park at the top end of the site, so now all that unruly parking no longer happens and people can enjoy the area without bumping into vehicles all the time.

And the archaeological features also have required some management in the past, in the 1980s quite a lot of masonry consolidation was done at the two wheelpits and various other ruined buildings, and vegetation clearance took place particularly on the reservoirs which served the wheel pits, and that sort of vegetation management needs to be ongoing nowadays.