



WILD LIFE

Rattery has a number of significantly important **wildlife assets** including a special area of conservation, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife sites, areas of Ancient Woodland and traditional orchards.

The parish is home to a wide range of plants, birds and mammals, including some rare species. Our hedgerows, woodlands and watercourses are important wildlife resources.

At the moment very little is formally organised either by the Parish Council or any other local community organisation to conserve and enhance wildlife in the parish.

Individual parishioners do take action in their gardens, fields and farms to support wildlife. We think that more people would take such action with a little encouragement and information.

There are various possible sources of advice and information that could easily be made available.

So we are asking you if you would support **organised activity** to conserve and enhance the biodiversity

in Rattery. and if you would welcome **advice and information** to enable you to manage land to conserve and enhance wildlife.

The existing significant wildlife sites, mainly woodland areas, are around the edge of the parish. If we were to establish **wildlife reserves** in the centre of the parish this imbalance would be redressed.

One very effective strategy would be to create a network of sites connected by corridors along watercourses and hedgerows.

If we were to create community woodlands or orchards (see below) they would be important parts of a network of wildlife sites.

Such a strategy would require strong support from the community, a long-term plan, the possible acquisition of land, the cooperation of landowners and a good deal of voluntary effort. So we need to assess the strength of support in the parish for such a project.



PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Compared with other parishes in Devon, Rattery scores relatively weakly in terms of **access to public open space**. The rural characteristic of the parish is deceptive. There is lots of open space but relatively little public open space.

On the northern fringes of the parish are a number of small traditional orchards but the number has declined steadily. The parish contains areas of woodland but public access is limited and the distribution of woodland is not even across the parish.

The current village green in Rattery Village (the pub car park and the bit of grass in front of the Parish Council noticeboard) is so small as to be effectively non-existent and no sizeable public open space exists anywhere in the parish.

The parish has no sports field apart from the small children's playground and field, leased from Dartington Estate, in the centre of Rattery village.

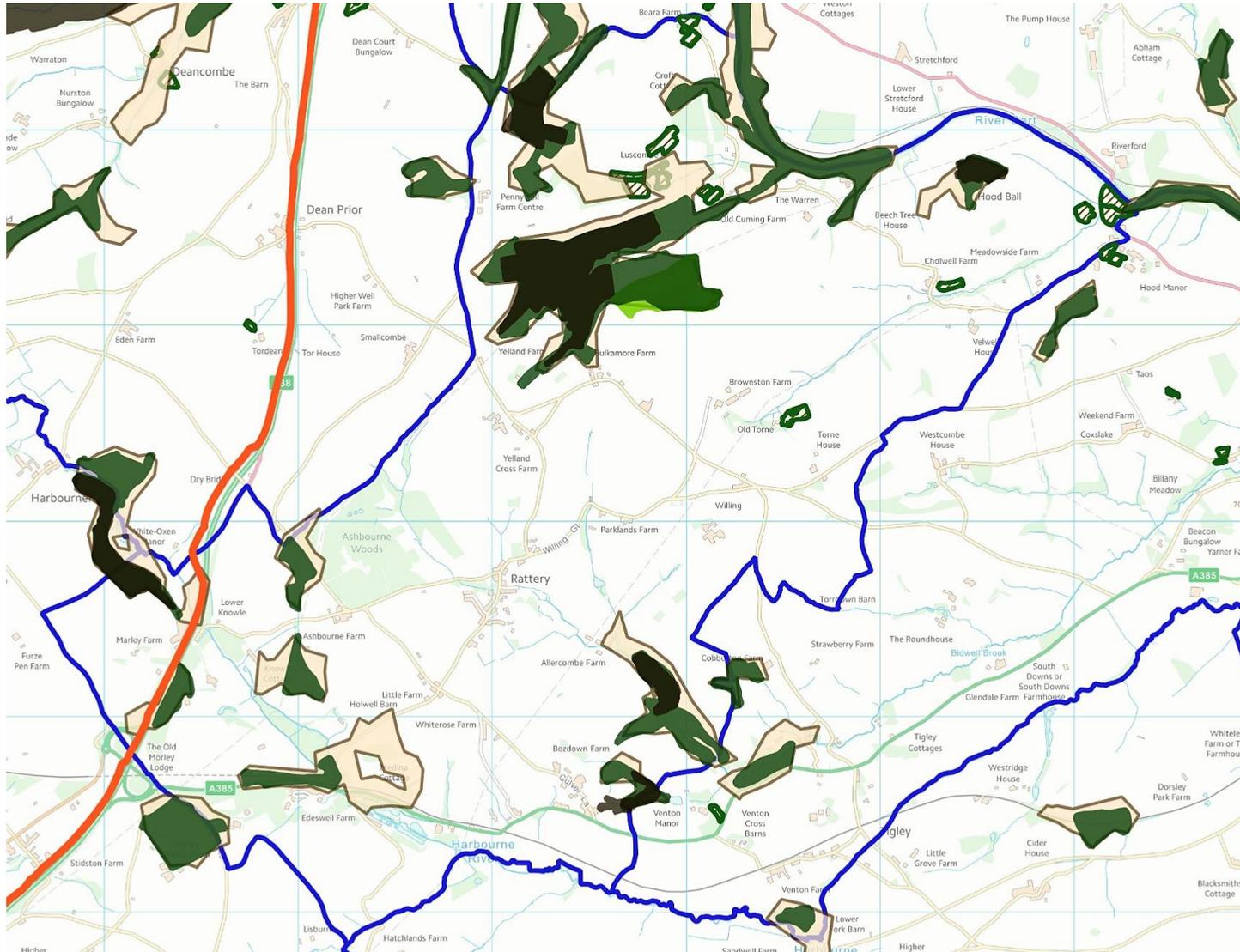
As a slightly related matter, the graveyard of St Mary's is approaching full capacity and the parish has no memorial garden.

In other local parishes **community orchards** provide space for recreation, community apple days/cider making and wildlife and **community woodlands** provide space for recreation and wildlife. Also some parish councils have created **parish graveyards and memorial gardens**. Other parishes have **parks** and **sports fields**.

At the moment there are no **allotments** available in the parish. The Parish Council could be asked to provide allotments but we simply do not know what the demand for them is.

So we want to find out if you think the Parish Council or a Community Trust should attempt to either lease or purchase land in the parish for various types of public open space. We are asking if anyone would rent an allotment, if some were available.

Of course, some of these community facilities would need regular maintenance by volunteers and would be impossible without that sort of commitment. So we need to know if there are enough people in the parish willing to help. We are asking every one if he/she would be interested in providing practical support and, if so, what help he/she might be able to give.



Legend	
Ancient Woodland	
Deciduous Woodland	
National Parks	
SSSIs	
Ecomet - Woodland	
Traditional Orchards	
Parishes	