

## 9. River Parrett Trail Update Report

*Lead Officer:* Andy Stevenson, Somerset County Council  
*Contact Details:* [astevenson@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:astevenson@somerset.gov.uk) 01823 358250.

### **Purpose of the report**

Andy Stevenson, Volunteer Co-ordinator for Rights of Way, Somerset County Council will attend the committee to provide a brief presentation and an opportunity for discussion on the River Parrett Trail – its aims, maintenance and promotion.

Background information is provided below, and a copy of the current promotional leaflet has been circulated with the agenda papers.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note and comment on the report and presentation.

### **Background**

There are over 6100 km of public rights of way in Somerset. They are comprised of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and a few byways open to all traffic. Several of these paths are promoted as part of popular regional or national trails, such as the Coleridge Way, River Parrett Trail, South West Coast Path and West Somerset Coast Path.

### **The River Parrett Trail**

There is a comprehensive set of maps and directions information at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/go/km/docs/CouncilDocuments/SCC/Documents/Environment/Rights%20of%20way/RiverParrettTrailMaps%26Directions.pdf>

*From the 'Visit Somerset' website:*

“The River Parrett Trail can be enjoyed as a 50 mile hike over 3 or 4 days or as a series of shorter walks. The path winds gently through rolling hills and meadows, crosses the peaceful Somerset levels and Moors, and allows opportunities to explore thriving market towns and villages.

Highlights include the famous Somerset Levels, where controlled winter flooding means that the area comes alive as a feeding ground for thousands of birds from as far a field as Greenland and Russia; said to be one of the best bird-watching locations in the world. Ham Hill, the largest Iron Age hill fort in Britain, offers fabulous views of Somerset and the levels.

Award winning tearooms and pubs provide refreshment along the route and there are numerous places to stay.”

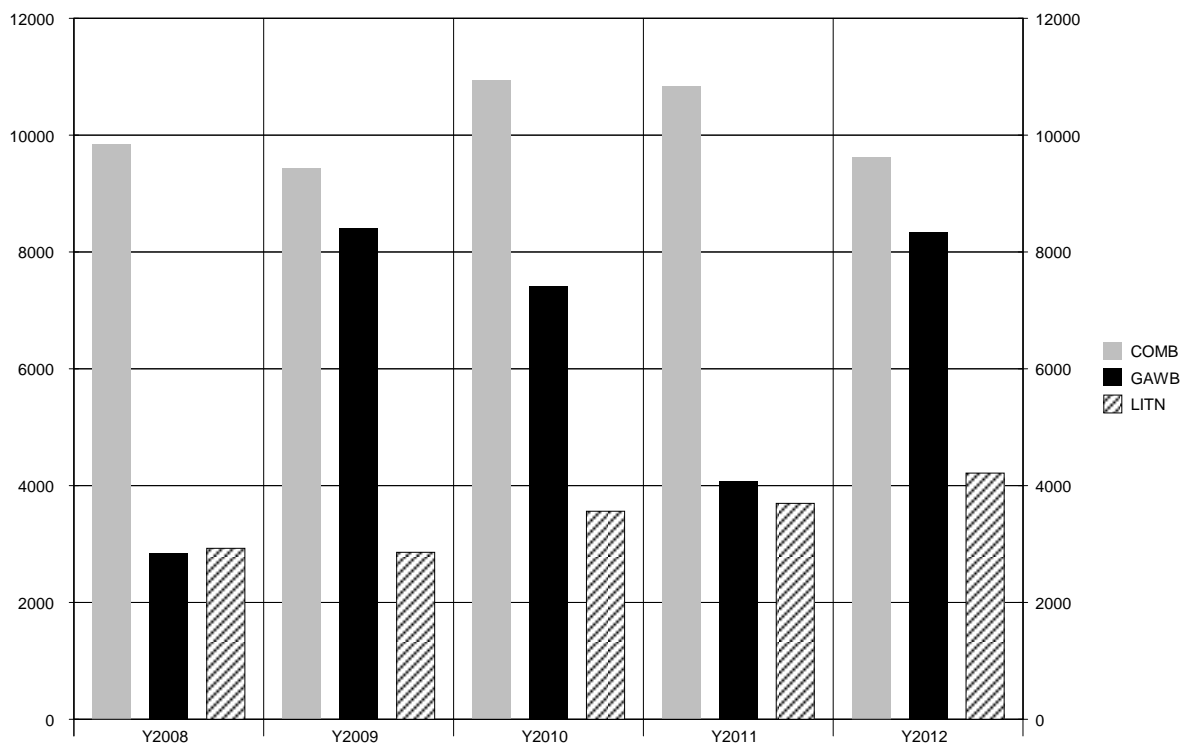
**Volunteering on the RPT and the Rights of Way network:**

- RPT Trail Watchers
- Parish Path Liaison Officers (PPLOs)
- Strimmer Project

**Promotion of RPT:**

- SCC website – maps, directions & text
- Leaflet distribution
- At Langport - interpretation / exhibition

**Visitor numbers recorded on the River Parrett Trail:**



COMB = Comwich GAWB = Gawbridge Mill LITN = Little Norton  
Visitor numbers recorded on the River Parrett Trail