

Proposed basic FOLK work party programme for April to September 2019

Note that, according to Natural England rules, scrub clearance and grass cutting should be curtailed between 1st March and 15th July (and tree removal between 1st March and 31st August). These restrictions do not apply to footpath maintenance or restoration work which can be done with caution.

Work carried over from previous periods

- Burn cuttings from previous work parties
 - Small pile just along Woodland Walk from limekilns
 - Ash and dogwood cuttings pile in Area 16
 - Ash cuttings in Salterley Quarry
 - Ash cuttings alongside Hartley Lane near Salterley Quarry entrance
- Consider installing 'street signs' on historic quarrying inclines by the limekilns and possibly the sidings on top of the hill – Wayne/Geoff to develop proposals
- Continue trial chemical spraying of stands of Rosebay Willowherb and, if identified, other similar 'weed' stands
- Continue trial chemical spraying of ground-hugging ivy alongside Woodland Walk

Routine work

- Annual cutting of
 - Area 16
 - Limekilns
 - Barrow & Butterfly Motorway
 - Sidings
- Raking up grass cuttings in Area 4/5/10 after mowing by contractor (or FOLK) if not baled
- Ragwort (incl. Hopkins Fields) and Hemp Agrimony removal
- Erect temporary paddock in Daisybank Field when requested by Norths
- Footpath and car park clearance/maintenance as required, potentially including:
 - Repair to steps on steep path beside new builds on Daisy Bank Road
 - Reprofiting of steps along Woodland Walk
 - Cutting back growth alongside Gallops from new Cotswold stone wall to Minotaur barn
 - Cutting drainage channels into the Standard Gauge Incline

New work

- Removing by rotational cutting the stand of gorse impacted by malicious fire at the top of Windass and burn all cuttings
- Clearance of area behind Brownstone car park in preparation for its extension
- Rotational cutting of gorse after mid-July, e.g. Area 32 next to Cowslip Meadow
- Further clearance of saplings/trees/growth in Brownstone Quarry and creation of adder hibernacula

Inspection of Previous Works (to check and report on impact, recovery, need for more work)

- Grassland restoration areas previously cut in Areas 3 & 25
- Where gorse previously cut and chemically treated in Area 28 & 19
- Where gorse rotationally cut in Area 28
- Where ground-hugging ivy and Rosebay Willowherb were chemically treated alongside Woodland Walk (ivy) and Brownstone Quarry & Area 2 (Rosebay Willowherb)

Management Plans & QGIS

- Further development of site management plans and preparation of area specific practical forward work plans utilising the results of the drone photographic survey and QGIS software
 - Progress gorse management planning and grassland quality identification
- Possible further QGIS mapping work
 - Recording grassland areas and their species richness
 - Recording scrub (other than gorse) locations
 - Recording woodland areas and tree types
 - Recording location of important species
 - Recording location of unwanted species
 - Recording common names used for locations and tracks

Geoff Holt
5th April 2018