Proposed basic FOLK work party programme for October 2019 to March 2020

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.

References below to 'Old Areas' relate to those shown in the Broad Habitats figure on page 36 of the 2003 Management Plan. References to 'QGIS Grids' and 'QGIS Gorse Areas' relate to the mapping model created from the 2018 drone survey data.

Work carried over from previous periods

- Annual cutting of barrow, butterfly motorway and sidings (done 10/10/2019)
- Annual cutting of limekilns
- Cutting and raking up grass cuttings in Old Areas 4/5/10/11 (QGIS grid B12 and B16) (partially done 15/10/2019)
- Further clearance of saplings/trees/growth in Brownstone Quarry
- Consider installing 'street signs' on historic quarrying inclines by the limekilns and possibly the sidings on the top of the Hill – Wayne/Geoff to develop proposals
- Cut back new growth on track from Minotaur Barn to allow easier vehicular access
- Clear saplings and growth at lower levels of slope above Woodland Walk and below Devil's Chimney
- Open up butterfly flight path through hawthorn copse above Gallops and local to previous 'cattle exclosure' area – will require chainsaw work (QGIS Grid R10)

Routine work

- Gorse rotational cutting:
  - In Old Area 32 adjacent to the Cowslip field (QGIS Gorse Area 42)
- Gorse cutting and chemical treatment:
  - The regrowth in the clearings above the Gallops in Old Area 25/30 (QGIS Gorse Area 53)
  - Continue the clearance of fire breaks in Old Area 28 (to the East of the top of Windass and above the Cotswold Way) (QGIS Gorse Area 38/39)
  - Continue removing gorse blocking views in Old Area 28 (to the East of the top of Windass and below the Cotswold Way) (QGIS Gorse Area 46/50)
- Footpath and car park clearance/maintenance:
  - Clear woody growth around edges of the base of Salterley Quarry
- Ash clearance
  - No new cutting to be undertaken while extent and implications of ash dieback is assessed
  - Remove any dead wood as necessary

New work

- Removal of hawthorn saplings in North-West bottom corner of Charlton Kings Common (QGIS grid J6)
- Removal of hawthorn saplings above and to East of Daisy Bank Road pull-in (QGIS Grid L8)
- Removal of encroaching bramble above Shackleton (QGIS Grid N8)
- Removal of hawthorn and other saplings in Cowslip Meadow
- Cut back growth obscuring the Cotswold stone walls
  - Main wall at the Cowslip Meadow end
  - Alongside Hopkins Field (done 28/07/2019)
  - Across from the barrow (done 15/10/2019)
  - New wall above Salterley Quarry (done by Cotswold Wardens 8/10/2019)
- Thin out the bramble growing in the clearing Old Area 16a (QGIS Grid G7)

- Cut back woody growth and long grass in the clearing towards the top of the path up from the Woodland Walk (QGIS Grid 15B)

Management Plans
- Preparation of a specification for a contractor to develop an up-to-date site management plan (depends on success of bid for National Grid grant)
- Further development of the QGIS model of the site

Possible Work for other Volunteer Groups
- Install steps up from Salterley Quarry to the Cotswold Way
- Clearance of growth on the ramparts and the area adjacent to the gap

Possible Work for Contractors
- Perform a trial of mechanical gorse cutting, including herbicide treatment (QGIS Gorse Areas 10/11/12, Grid O8 suggested)
- Extend Brownstone car park and fill holes in car park and adjacent road/track
- Open up the gap in the ramparts to allow access for larger equipment, e.g. the baler
- Clearing a butterfly flight path through the wooded area between Cowslip Meadow and the South-Eastern extremity of Charlton Kings Common (Area 33) (QGIS Grid T13)

Geoff Holt
24th October 2019