

## Proposed basic FOLK work party programme for April to September 2020

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

### Work carried over from previous periods

- 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
- Burn hawthorn and gorse cuttings above Gallops and alongside Cowslip meadow resulting from butterfly flight-path clearance

### 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 if not baled
- Ragwort (incl. Hopkins Fields) and Hemp Agrimony removal
- Erect temporary paddock in Daisybank Field if requested by Norths
- Footpath and car park clearance/maintenance as required, potentially including:
  - Cutting back growth alongside Gallops from new Cotswold stone wall to Minotaur barn. Notifying owners of adjoining properties?
  - Cut down any remaining overhanging/overhead branches along the Gallops to ease access for horse riders
  - Repair steps by stiles from the Cirencester Road into Hopkins Fields
- Cut back growth obscuring the Cotswold stone walls, particularly
  - Main wall, particularly at the Cowslip Meadow end
  - Alongside Hopkins Field
  - Old wall between Hartley Lane and the ramparts
- Chemical spraying of stands of Rosebay Willowherb, Golden Rod, Michaelmas Daisy (at footpath entrance to Brownstone Quarry) and ground-hugging Ivy

### New work

- Mowing of Brownstone Quarry
- Checking and replacing coping stones on main Cotswold stone wall
- Cut areas where heavy growth of Tor Grass where considered appropriate and can be classified as restoration work

### 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

- 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, including
  - Scrub mapping
  - Grass quality mapping
  - Vernacular names

**Possible Work for other Volunteer Groups (could FOLK do any of this?)**

- Install steps up from Salterley Quarry to the Cotswold Way
- Install steps up from Bridge Car Park to bench on top of Area 16
- Clearance of growth on the ramparts and the area adjacent to the gap

**Possible Work for Contractors**

- Mowing (and baling if possible) grass in Areas 3 to 11 as defined as Year 1 in John Harvey's cutting plan
- Open up the gap in the ramparts to allow access for larger equipment, e.g. the baler
- Work to improve drainage in Bridge Car Park

Geoff Holt  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2020