

Proposed basic FOLK work party programme for October 2021 to March 2022

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.

The priority for work items identified below are indicated in **green font**. Notes on progress are shown in **red font**.

Work carried over from Oct '20 to Mar '21 period

- Removal of small/scattered gorse on open area on top of hill where previously cleared with paragliders (Old Area 19/23; QGIS Gorse Areas 32/33/35) **Medium**
- Remove young hawthorn, and gorse regrowth, now growing in area above Gallops where gorse removed in Winter 2019/20, but leaving some for perching **Medium**
- Clear bramble patches and remove hawthorn stumps above Shackleton **Medium**
- Clear woody growth around edges of the base of Salterley Quarry **High**
- Old Area 3: Brushcut coarse/long grass again, cut and treat gorse/shrub growth/regrowth, remove cotoneaster and old man's beard, clear dead fallen whitebeam tree **High**
- Mowing and further clearance of saplings/trees/growth in Brownstone Quarry (JH to advise) **High**

Work carried over from Apr to Sept '21 period

- Annual cutting of Butterfly Motorway and remainder of Sidings **High**
- Cut back growth obscuring the new Cotswold stone wall above Hartley Lane and local to the Stalwarts memorial **High**

Routine work

- Gorse rotational cutting
 - Continue in Old Area 28/QGIS Gorse Area 37 **High**
 - Old Area 32/QGIS Gorse Areas 41&42 **Low**
- Gorse cutting and chemical treatment
 - Alongside Windass track **High**
 - Alongside diagonal path from Shackleton to Windass **High**
 - Alongside Cotswold Way where views are being blocked, incl. Western end of Common (QGIS Gorse Areas 27/28) **High**

New work suggestions

- Cutting and clearing excess growth in Area 16a clearing **High**
- Reduce and treat scrub in Old Area 31, particularly triangle above Sandy Lane track and grassy area on the other side of the main track above this (Serena to advise) **Medium**
- Woodland Walk diagonal path up to the top
 - Clear scrub in the clearings to the sides **High**
 - Expose the rock faces to the side **Medium**

Other

- Support to National Grid Project
 - Burning gorse cut by Contractors **High**
 - Development of management plan **High**
- Completion of scrub QGIS records **High**
- Survey and record locations of Cotoneaster requiring removal **High**

Work by other voluntary bodies, e.g. Cotswold Wardens

- Clear trees and scrub below Devil' Chimney and down to Woodland Walk
- Clear scrub/growth on the ramparts and by the widened entrance through the South-West corner of the ramparts
- Improve access off the top of the Hill onto the Woodland Walk by installing steps

Work by Contractors

- Improve access along heavily scoured and slippery end of the formal bridleway at the limekilns

Prepared by Geoff Holt (with support/advice)

6th October 2021

Notes:

- When removing gorse, increasing edge habitat still containing 'grasses' is more beneficial than exposing bare ground
- Small oak saplings should be removed where encountered