

Proposed basic FOLK work party programme for April to September 2023

Status report 21/10/2023 – work completed shown by ~~strikethrough font~~; purple font shows notes or additional work undertaken

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 below shown in **red font** is that possibly suitable for work parties prior to the mid-July end of restricted cutting period. The priority for work items identified below are indicated in **green font**.

Work carried over from previous periods

- ~~Burn any remaining piles of gorse cuttings~~ **High**
- ~~Tidy up the hawthorn branches that were cut in the paragliders sub-area and left in an exposed position~~ **High**
- Tidy up the dead wood (failed coppicing) ~~around Five Ways~~ and the Hazel Coppice part way along the Gallops (TD & GH) **Medium** done by the Wardens
- Old Area 3: remove brash from fallen tree **Medium** Moved down the slope but not yet burnt

Routine work

- Annual cutting as required on:
 - ~~Old Area 16 above Bridge Car Park (including to the rear)~~ **High**
 - ~~Limekilns (including prep for pointing contractor)~~ **High**
 - ~~Barrow & Butterfly Motorway (increase width cut this year)~~ **High**
 - Sidings (plus Cotswold Way, other tracks and road edges in this area) **High**
 - Brownstone Quarry (including mowing grass and further tree/scrub removal) **High**
 - ~~Judy's Ride edges (including edges of bypass track direct to Brownstones Quarry)~~ **High**
- Removal of Ragwort **Medium** and Hemp Agrimony **High**
- Footpath clearance/maintenance as necessary (survey required to fully identify) **High**
 - ~~Cut back gorse encroaching onto Cotswold Way between Cowslip Meadow and Windass~~
- Cut back growth on and alongside Cotswold stone walls as necessary (clear track alongside to allow mower access) **High**
 - ~~Main wall at its East end requires work~~
- Cut back growth on the fence line in the South-West corner of the Common as necessary **Medium**
- Litter picking, particularly in areas used for social gatherings and barbecues **Medium**

Other work

- ~~As required by the Wardens: clear growth, demolish the old Cotswold stone wall, move new and old stone in preparation for reconstruction~~ **High**
- ~~Tidy up debris in holes alongside the wall under reconstruction~~, move stone debris from wall reconstruction into these holes and/or create piles to form habitats, e.g. for adders **High**
- Remove young hawthorn (and dig out cotoneaster) from lower levels of the Common **High**
- ~~Remove the fallen tree at Five Ways~~ **High**
- ~~Burn gorse cuttings to be produced by contractors in the Autumn~~ **High**
- ~~Clear the steps at the end of the Woodland walk (and check need for nearby revetting work)~~ **High** Wardens required to do revetting work
- 'Weeding'/clearing of understory when larch trees felled to improve potential for natural regeneration of trees (survey required first) **High**

- Clear young Blackthorn from Cowslip Meadow prior to seed harvesting by the Stroud Landscape Project. High
- Remove and burn the piles of ash brash near the limekilns Medium Some moved to reinforce mountain biking barriers
- Rotational cutting of gorse (fire breaks, Old Areas 28 and 32) Medium
- Cut back growth on the fence and alongside the track at top of Sandy Lane
- Removed young gorse and hawthorn from area above Gallops

Monitoring

- Survey and record locations of Cotoneaster requiring removal High
- Monitor areas where gorse cut previously for gorse regrowth and 'weed' spread (JH) High
- Survey bramble to identify potential problem areas and where winter cutting/removal may be required High
- Revisited gorse cutting/treating trial area to check for any regrowth (found to be minimal)

Prepared by Geoff Holt (with support/advice)

14th April 2023

21st October 2023 (final status report)