

## LINEAR AND LOCAL FEATURES (applies to all parts of Commons)

### Specimen Trees and Groups (urban edge, recreation areas and roads crossing Commons)

- (a) undertake an annual tree inspection of all mature trees lining the highways across the commons;
- (b) implement new planting to create specimen trees in all age classes, focusing on native species.

### Hedges (NW of cemetery, S of Mill Common near Limers Hill, SW edge of Clarke's Meadow).

Objective is dense hedgerows of mixed species, with thorn predominating, and incidental standard trees where appropriate. Maintenance will comprise :

- (a) remove tree species from under overhead line NW of cemetery and plant elsewhere;
- (b) undertake annual trimming on newly planted hedges initially (not with a flail cutter) to ensure gapping up is effective and new hedges form a dense barrier;
- (c) thereafter, hedges will be laid on a 10-15 year cycle;
- (d) ground flora beneath and by the hedge is important for wildlife and will not be regularly cut back, unless woody sucker growth needs to be controlled.

### Wetlands (River Torridge, Common Lake Stream and ponds +that in Reeds Field)

Aim is a range from wet meadow to inundation communities, with marginal and emergent vegetation.

- (a) undertake feasibility study into removing over-mature poplar N of the sewage works and the creation of a wetland area;
- (b) hand dig trial depressions in swampy ground on E side of Reeds Field to create new wetland;
- (c) cut back or coppice riparian woody vegetation shading ponds and streams (e.g. Common Lake).

### Fishery (North Bank of River Torridge)

- (a) inspect recently installed steps and handrails and ensure they remain fit for purpose;
- (b) clear access routes to river's edge of woody/herbaceous vegetation to allow unimpeded access;
- (c) regularly monitor water quality, report findings and alert regulator to any pollution incidents;
- (d) remove all litter, including plastics that may be deposited by floodwater, during regular inspections.

### Paths and Hard Surfaces.

- (a) keep public footpaths open at all times as a first priority with a minimum of 1.5m width and 2.5m height clearance by cutting back vegetation as necessary;
- (b) ensure the same standards on main informal routes that provide important links in the public rights of way network as a second priority;
- (c) apply these standards on other informal routes as a third priority;
- (d) inspect all hard surface paths on at least an annual basis, prepare and implement a schedule for repairs;
- (e) cut the grass margins to hard surfaced paths and the full width of grass paths so access is not impeded;
- (f) cut away the turf growing over the edges of tarmac paths on at least an annual basis;
- (g) liaise with County Highways concerning flooding of Station Path and Rolle Road (under Tarka Trail bridge) that appears to result from inadequacies in drainage from A386 Station Hill and Limers Hill;
- (h) liaise with Devon PROW unit to reinstate public footpath on Marchwood Hill by New Road (A386).

**Site Furniture** (seats, litter bins, vehicle deterrents, signs). All items should be as sustainable as possible with certain long term supply and replaced as the agreed designs when required. The operations are :

- (a) keep signs upright, firm in the ground and easily readable;
- (b) repair any damage to fencing or gates as soon as it is noticed or reported;
- (c) repair any damage to seats, benches and vehicle barriers where possible or else replace;
- (d) ensure all litter bins are cleared regularly and preclude dispersal during strong winds.

Liaison with local council officers to ensure their signage is kept to the minimum and cleaned regularly; dog bins should be cleared regularly to prevent unpleasant smells and lids must be secure and effective.

### WOODLAND SITE SPECIFIC ACTIONS.

#### W9 Barmaids Wood East

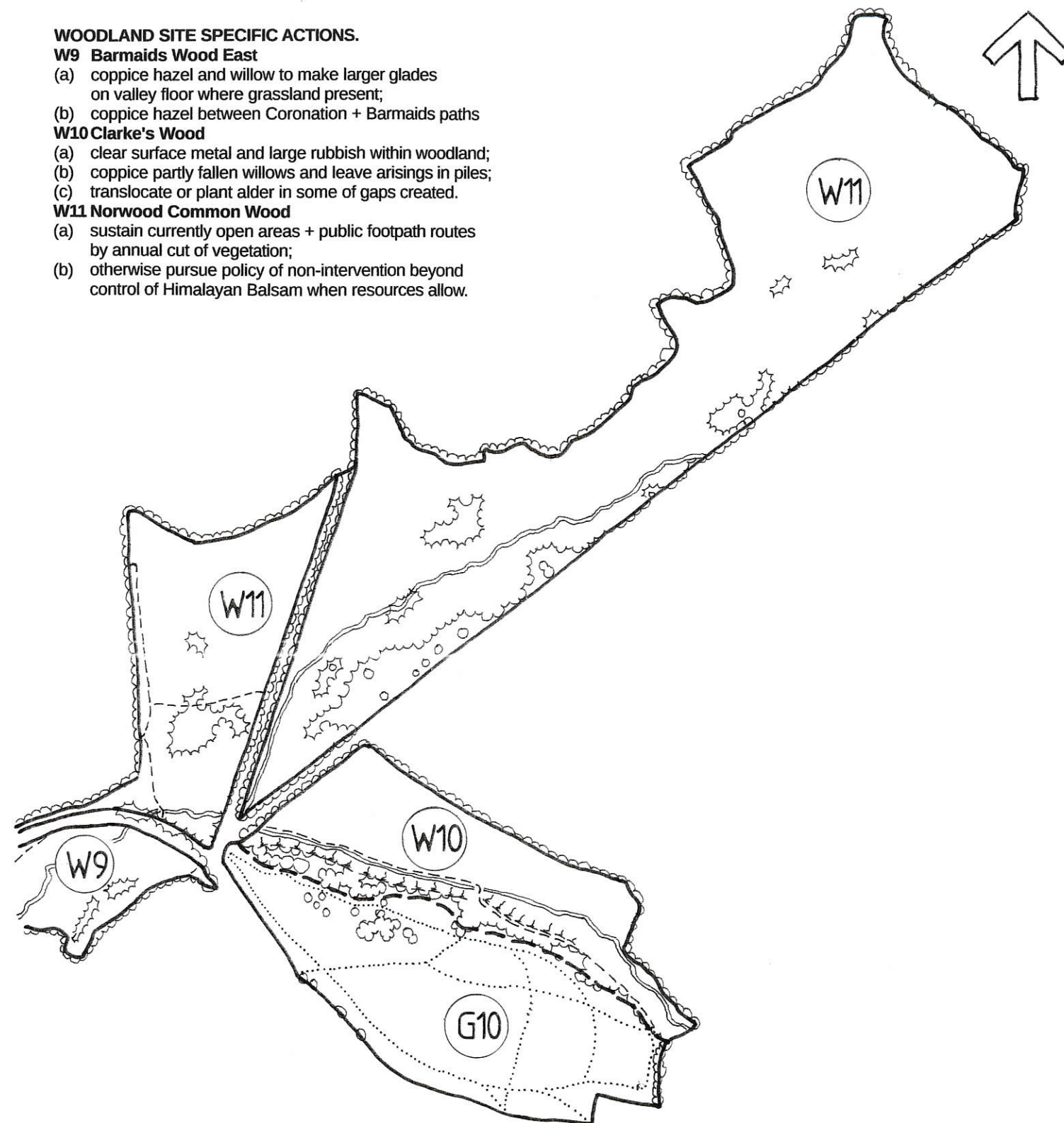
- (a) coppice hazel and willow to make larger glades on valley floor where grassland present;
- (b) coppice hazel between Coronation + Barmaids paths

#### W10 Clarke's Wood

- (a) clear surface metal and large rubbish within woodland;
- (b) coppice partly fallen willows and leave arisings in piles;
- (c) translocate or plant alder in some of gaps created.

#### W11 Norwood Common Wood

- (a) sustain currently open areas + public footpath routes by annual cut of vegetation;
- (b) otherwise pursue policy of non-intervention beyond control of Himalayan Balsam when resources allow.



### GRASSLAND & SCRUB SITE SPECIFIC ACTIONS.

#### G10 Clarke's Meadow

- (a) continue to leave band of variable width on N. side uncut;
- (b) leave 3m strip uncut on road margin to west and south;
- (c) re-plant road margin to west and south as predominantly thorn hedgerow over period of plan (one third per year);
- (d) undertake single late hay cut over main area in autumn.

Project : MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-2024

Title : **MANAGEMENT DETAILS 3**

Scale : 1:5,000 Date : 28.01.19 Plan No. TC/M4

