Hillfort Tasks

January

Chain saw stumps in leat - *stumps should be cut level with land surface on an archaeological feature and vegetation regrowth prevented*

Prune apple and pear trees and check tree guards for tightness

Continue clearance of pond 1 and dead hedge? along the public footpath - *to prevent encroachment of scrub on archaeological feature and prevent the spread of weeds, shrubs and saplings. Remove cuttings or brush from the feature.* (Danny's suggestion is that we clear halfway up the banks here to create a vista through the trees which will be aesthetically pleasing)

Consider incorporating small outer pond into site by moving dead hedging outwards - *to define site edge in accordance with HER map*

Clear pond 3 – *to make feature more visible, prevent encroachment of scrub on archaeological feature and prevent the spread of weeds, shrubs and saplings. Remove cuttings or brush from the feature*

Coppice in woodland of zone 10 to create glades (HLS suggestion) – *to create light onto the woodland floor*

Cut scrub on southern scheduled area – *to define extent of scheduled area*

Check if hedging at side of meadow needs cutting back - *to prevent encroachment onto meadow*

Check if hedging at old field boundary needs cutting back – *to maintain access*

Countryside guardians to check on stability of trees on site – *for safety and to prevent damage from windthrow*

February

Incorporate small outer pond into site by moving dead hedging outwards if not already done- *to define site edge in accordance with HER map*

Brush cut Island, rake and remove cuttings to burn site - *to prevent encroachment of scrub on archaeological feature and prevent the spread of weeds, shrubs and saplings. Remove cuttings or brush from the feature*

Clear moats of fallen debris – *to prevent encroachment of scrub on archaeological feature and prevent the spread of weeds, shrubs and saplings. Remove cuttings or brush from the feature*

Continue to clear and dead hedge at top of pond 1 by public footpath – *ditto above*

Continue removal of cut scrub to the burn site – *to make archaeological features more visible*

Clear outer northern ditch and bramble hedge – *to enhance view of ditch and the view out to the trees beyond*

March

When dogwood and ash on meadow has started to grow, brush cut and paint stems with weed killer – *to weaken plants and achieve less than 5% invasive trees, shrubs and bramble*
*Undesirable species such as creeping thistle, spear thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, common ragwort, common nettle to cover less than 5% of the area

Dig creeping thistle - *so that undesirable species* cover less than 5% of meadow*

Cut any bramble in courtyard - *part of the control of courser plants*

Mow and rake old orchard (east) cuttings removed to burn site – *to control courser plants such as bramble, hogweed, nettles, creeping thistle- pernicious weeds should be less than 10%*

April

Brush cut and rake edge of Courtyard and top of ramparts – *outer edges of courtyard may be cut more frequently to reduce encroaching bramble and courser vegetation*

Brush-cut nettles from top of ponds, leat and outer ditch of northern viewpoint and remove to burn site – *to discourage their growth and allow other herbs to grow*

Dig creeping thistle and common ragwort – *control undesirable species**

Cut dogwood and ash on meadow and paint with weed killer if not already done - *to weaken plants and achieve less than 5% invasive trees, shrubs and bramble*

Cut bramble in courtyard – *part of the control of courser plants*

Clear round trees in Old orchard (east) – *to reduce uptake of moisture by competing vegetation*

Cut back hogweed in Old orchard (east) – *to discourage courser vegetation; pernicious weeds should be less than 10%*

Update Vision document

Weekly butterfly survey

May

Brush cut southern boundary of scheduled site – *to define extent of scheduled area*

Dig creeping thistle and common ragwort - *so that undesirable species* cover less than 5% of meadow*

Cut any hogweed in orchard – *pernicious weeds should be less than 10%*

Cut back hemlock

Check if public footpath needs to be cleared

End of May/June take fixed point photos

June

Pull common ragwort - *so that undesirable species* cover less than 5% of meadow*

Clear nettles from viewpoints, moats, ponds and leat again if required and remove to burn site – *to discourage their growth and allow less course plants to grow*

22 June – wild flower survey on meadow – *to provide evidence for CWS status application*

Clear any hemlock on rampart
*Undesirable species such as creeping thistle, spear thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, common ragwort, common nettle to cover less than 5% of the area

Cut hogweed and/or bramble in Old orchard (east) - *pernicious weeds should be less than 10%*

Clear round fruit trees - *to reduce uptake of moisture by competing vegetation*

Pull creeping thistle as it flowers to help weaken the plants – *suggested by Wildlife Trust*

Prune cherry plums in Old Orchard (south) – (plum trees should be pruned June-August) - *to encourage regeneration of trees and diversify age range and height*

Weekly butterfly survey

July

Summer prune apples and pears where growth needs to be discouraged. Summer pruning best done mid to late summer.

13 July – wild flower survey on ramparts

Mow or brush cut public footpath – ideally with ride on mower

Pull common ragwort - *so that undesirable species* cover less than 5% of meadow*

Mow Old orchard (east) after 15 July, rake and remove cuttings to burn site – *HLS requires traditional orchards that are not grazed to be mown at least once a year after 15 July and cuttings removed.*

Brush cut southern boundary – *to define extent of scheduling*

August

Rake Old Orchard (east) – remove clippings to burn site – *to discourage course plants such as bramble, hogweed, nettles and thistles*

Clear round fruit trees in Old Orchard (east) - *to reduce uptake of moisture by competing vegetation*

Pull common ragwort – *so that undesirable species* cover less than 5% of meadow*

Brush cut Island and remove cuttings to burn site – *to prevent encroachment of scrub on archaeological feature and prevent the spread of weeds, shrubs and saplings. Remove cuttings or brush from the feature*

Brush cut sides of leat and moats – *ditto above*

Nettle control of northern viewpoint and outer northern ditch

September

Cut and collect on Meadow – cuttings to be removed off site – *To reduce nutrients and encourage wild flowers*

Brush cut and rake ramparts – cuttings to go to burn site *ditto above*

Brush cut and rake courtyard – cuttings to go to burn site – *ditto above*

*Undesirable species such as creeping thistle, spear thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, common ragwort, common nettle to cover less than 5% of the area

October

Burn grass cuttings and scrub cuttings

Incorporate small outer pond into site by moving dead hedging outwards if not already done- *to define site edge in accordance with HER map*

Clear pond 3 – *to make feature more visible, prevent encroachment of scrub on archaeological feature and prevent the spread of weeds, shrubs and saplings. Remove cuttings or brush from the feature*

Trim path in zone 13 (by old field boundary) if required – *to maintain vehicular access*

Create site line across island by removing dead hedging to burn site – *to aid interpretation of archaeological feature*

November

Clear leat and remove cuttings to burn site - *to prevent encroachment of scrub on archaeological feature and prevent the spread of weeds, shrubs and saplings. Remove cuttings or brush from the feature*

Burn any remaining cuttings

Cut scrub on southern scheduled area – *to define extent of scheduled area*

December

Burn any remaining cuttings or brush

Clear any debris from ponds, moats and leat and remove to burn site - *to prevent encroachment of scrub on archaeological feature and prevent the spread of weeds, shrubs and saplings. Remove cuttings or brush from the feature*

Take fixed point photos

Check if hedging at side of meadow needs cutting back - *to prevent encroachment onto meadow*

Check if hedging at old field boundary needs cutting back – *to maintain access*

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