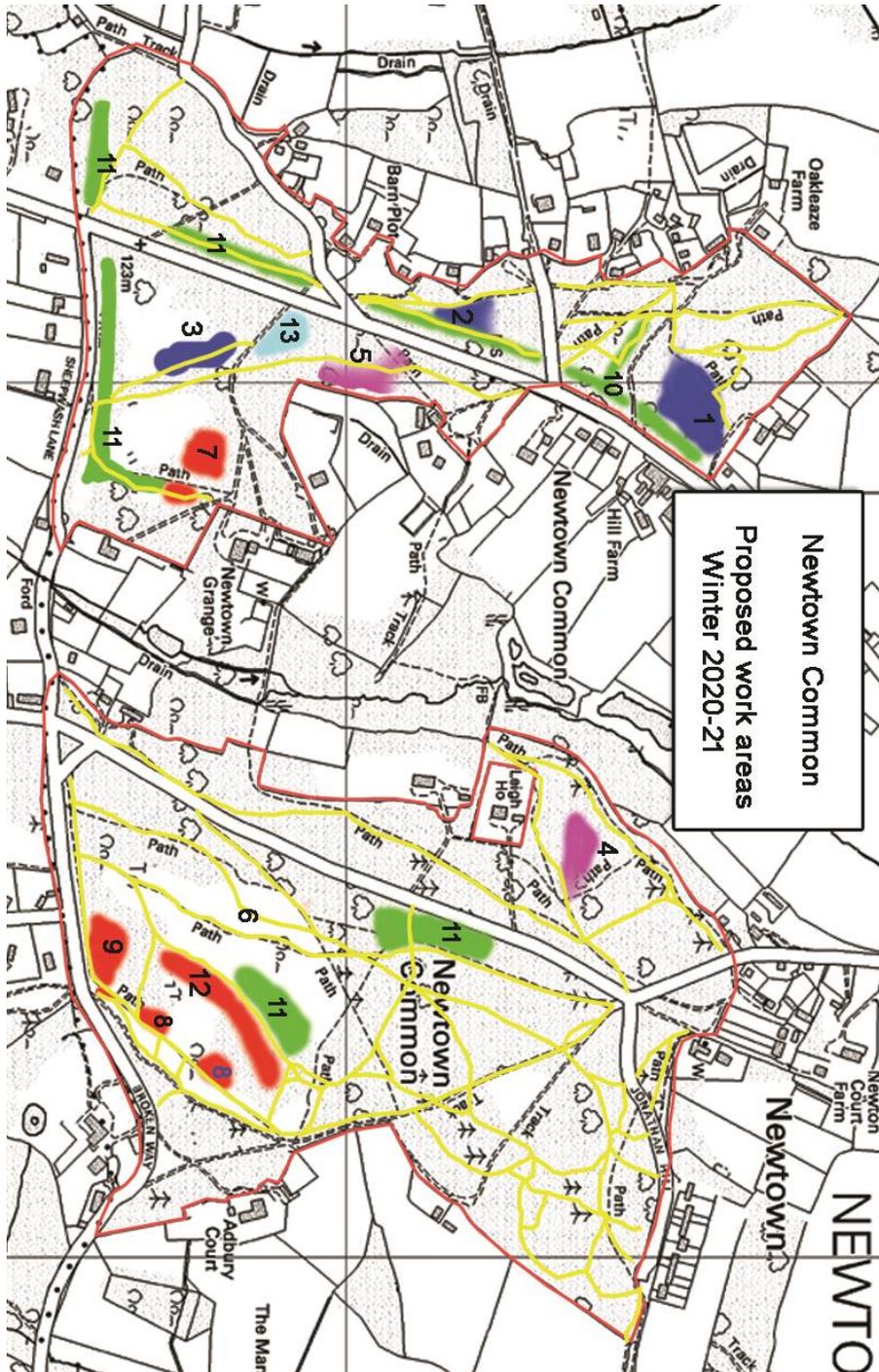


## Newtown Common Winter Work Programme 2020-21



*View south along the main path on the eastern part of Newtown Common – August 2020*

Newtown Common is owned by Hampshire County Council but managed and maintained by your Parish Council. Our goal is to both preserve the Common for future generations to enjoy, whilst encouraging the growth and health of its plants, trees and wildlife.

In these pages, please find an outline plan of work that will potentially be carried out over the winter by contractors and volunteers, including Green Gym, and by forestry students from Sparsholt College. If you have any questions, your Parish Council will be pleased to answer them.

We hope that you will join us on one or more of the two 'Village Work Parties' this winter. The first will be clearance of Holly on the north side of Newtown Grange driveway, starting at 10.00 on Sunday, 22 November. The second will be advertised on the Newtown Parish Council website in due course.

The focus for work to be carried out by the Sparsholt College forestry students this winter will be on general woodland management in areas on the western side of the Common, identified in blue on the map overleaf and within guidelines provided by the Parish Council. If you are interested in buying firewood resulting from this work, please contact the Parish Council Clerk.

Green Gym and other volunteers will continue to maintain the areas of open heath on the east side of the Common, in line with the Parish Council's Higher Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England.

Contractors will once again be used for specialist work - to cut Birch for besom-making, for flailing Gorse and dense scrub and for mowing electricity wayleaves and areas of open heathland.

Covid-19 has reduced the amount of work that the Green Gym volunteers have been able to do during the summer and may impact on what they and Sparsholt College are able to do during the winter months.

#### **Work areas for Sparsholt College students**

- 1 Continue work done in winter 2019-20 to thin some of the bigger Birch and coppice old Hazel so as to allow better growth of the remaining trees and to allow more light and air to reach to ground layer.
- 2 Continue to selectively fell Birch to release old 'open grown' specimen Oak trees.
- 3 Felling of 4 or 5 single trees from near the western footpath through the Sheepwash section of the Common to maintain continuity of open area.

Works 1-3 were agreed by the Common Management Committee at an on-site meeting in June 2020.

#### **Work areas for Green Gym**

- 4 Continue clearance of scattered scrub from edges of open area west of C45, near Jonathan Hill bus stop.
- 5 Clearance of Holly, mainly on the east side of footpath.
- 6 Continue selective removal of young (1-6 year old, 1"-2" diameter), mainly Birch, scrub from largely open areas of the eastern Common. Most of this will be done with loppers and bow-saws, with the occasional use of a chainsaw.

#### **Contractors' work**

- 7 A new area of Birch scrub is now suitable for cutting for besoms. It is intended that Bradley Nash, from Tadley, will crop this area as he has done on the eastern Common for the past few years, using a chainsaw to take out 1"-2" diameter stems.
- 8 Clearance by flailing of dense Gorse and creation of further 'windows' in eastern edge of the electricity wayleave.
- 9 Selective flailing of Gorse.
- 10 Flailing northern section of the electricity wayleave.
- 11 Mowing of selected areas on both sides of the Common, including some path-side mowing to maintain open paths and fire-breaks.
- 12 Flailing scrub on slope above path near the Jubilee bench.

#### **Work areas for Village Work Parties**

- 13 Clearance of Holly on the north side of Newtown Grange driveway, on Sunday, 22 November.

#### **Other volunteer work**

Removal of Scots Pine seedlings from areas of open heath.

Removal of Holly seedlings and treatment of cut stumps.

Other work that may become necessary due to weather or other circumstances.