

# Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **1. Volunteer Group Tasks**

Volunteer tasks undertaken by Norfolk Conservation Corps (NCC) and Norwich Environmental Weekenders (NEWS) unless otherwise stated.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Volunteer Group</u></b>	<b><u>Task Completed</u></b>
<b>Tasks Completed (since last report)</b>			
30/01/22	Alderford	NEWS	Clearance of blackthorn scrub from grassland
27/02/22	Ugate	NCC	Clearance of fallen trees from beneath power lines and scrub removal from Deadman's Hill
<b>Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)</b>			
27/03/22	tbc	NCC	tbc
May/June	tbc	NEWS	tbc

## **2. Management Plans**

No change.

## **3. HLS Agreements**

No change.

## **4. Ugate Common**

A decision still needs to be made regarding the future boardwalk replacement/ alternative solution/ re-routing of path to drier ground etc). Included elsewhere on agenda for meeting on 16/03/2022. The Wynch's Way information board that fell down due to rotten supporting posts still needs to be repaired and re-erected.

Surprisingly little damage from recent storms, although a few trees down in the woodland. A couple of fallen trees were addressed by parishioners. In addition, some clearance of fallen trees also carried out during a NCC volunteer task on 27/02/22 from the wet area under the power lines adjacent the Beck and overhanging the fence line on the eastern boundary. Scrub removal and treatment also carried out on Deadman's Hill by the volunteer group.

Next tasks to be confirmed depending upon weather and availability of volunteer groups, although limitations on what can be addressed over the next few months to avoid disturbance of breeding birds.

## **5. Alderford Common**

Task undertaken on 30/01/22 with NEWS volunteer group involving removal of blackthorn scrub from the grassland and cutting back scrub/trees from the access track to improve access for NWT.

Second attempt made by NWT to bring cows onto the site on 02/02/22 using a tractor, which was successful. Four British White cows were brought on for three weeks. One of the cows temporarily escaped over the fence along the southern boundary following a storm but was herded back in and the southern fence was secured with tape by NWT. In addition, the damaged kissing gate in the southeastern corner fell down and so I secured it with some additional posts with the help of Dave Weaver (cost of posts and nails £28.68). The cows did a great job grazing down vegetation and breaking up the ground but did cause some damage to some of the wooden steps, which will need fixing. The cows were removed on 22/02/22 having eaten the majority of available vegetation. Thanks to Sheila Foster-Hancock for her help in checking the cows on a daily basis. Invoice received from NWT for £348 to cover their costs for grazing.

The southern section of the fenced area that is overgrown and has fallen down in a number of places will need replacing during the Summer/Autumn, prior to any future grazing. Contractors to be approached for quotations with a view to fixing this and the damaged kissing gate at the southeastern corner.

I removed a tree that had fallen down across footpath FP10, near the Reepham Road, along with some small trees that had fallen onto the fence following the storms.

Contact made with Norfolk County Council to inform of fallen footpath sign and to confirm that the reinstated footpath FP10 will be on their cutting schedule for 2022.

Next tasks to be confirmed depending upon weather and availability of volunteer groups, although limitations on what can be addressed over the next few months to avoid disturbance of breeding birds.

**Steve Williams – March 2022**

**Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council**