

## Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 18th January 2023

### 1. Volunteer Group Tasks

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

otherwise stated.

Date Location Volunteer Group Task Completed

Tasks Completed (since last report)

11/12/22 Alderford NCC Scrub clearance on grassland in fenced area

08/01/23 Upgate NCC & NEWS Scrub clearance on lowland heath in fenced area.

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

tbc

### 2. Management Plans

No change.

### 3. HLS Agreements

5 year extensions to both existing HLS agreements offered by the Rural Payments Agency until 31/05/2028 which maintains

current funding and negates the need to apply under the new ELM scheme which is still being trialled and will be subject to

further amendments. Consent required from Natural England which has been applied for and granted.

HLS funding of £5,023.95 received relating to 2022.

### 4. Upgate Common

The boardwalk replacement footpath appears to be performing well and has been well received by users.

A joint task was held with the NEWS and NCC volunteer groups on 08/01/2023 involving pulling and cutting/treating of birch

scrub on the lowland heath and transition zones within the fenced area.

Contractor George Taylor is due to attend site towards the end of January to continue and hopefully complete scrub

clearance in these areas. (estimated cost £900).

The ponies remain in good health but the anticipated NWT vet/farrier visit is still yet to be completed and the ponies remain

on site.

Proposal to place tree truck sections along the southern edge of the access track to prevent parking on the SSSI section of

the grassland and encourage parking on the northern side of the track was discussed at the last PC meeting but has yet to be

implemented.

Next volunteer tasks to be confirmed.

#### 5. Alderford Common

A task was held with the NCC volunteer group on 11/12/2022 involving the removal of blackthorn and other scrub from the

grassland within the fenced area.

The supports to the information board in the car park have rotted and it has fallen over. A new support will be required if

the board is to be re-erected. Ongoing.

The southern section of the fence enclosing the fenced area still needs replacing in addition to the damaged kissing gate at

the southeastern corner prior to any future grazing. Ongoing.

Next volunteer tasks to be confirmed.

Steve Williams – January 2023

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council