

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 18th November 2021

1. Volunteer Group Tasks

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Volunteer Group</u>	<u>Task Completed</u>
Tasks Completed (since last report)			
24/10/21	Uppgate	NEWS	Clearance of birch, alder and bramble from area of wet flush

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

28/11/21	Alderford	NCC	tbc
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Awaiting further dates from volunteer groups

2. Management Plans

No change.

3. HLS Agreements

Extension to existing agreements offered for a further year from 01/06/2022 to 31/05/2023 based on continuation of existing management.

Offer for AG00282365 Swannington Uppgate Common received on 13/10/2021. Acceptance required by 10/11/2021

Offer for AG00268044 Alderford Common received on 11/10/2021. Acceptance required by 08/11/2021

Offers for extensions accepted by return of required forms (posted 21/10/2021) following unanimous confirmation by email from councillors that they agreed to extensions due to requirement to accept offers prior to next meeting.

It is possible that a further 1 year extension may be offered until 31/05/2024, but additional extensions are unlikely as the new ELM scheme should be up and running, which will require a new application process.

4. Uppgate 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 18/11/2021.

The Wynch's Way information board that fell down due to rotten supporting posts still needs to be repaired and re-erected.

NEWS volunteer group attended site on 24/10/2021 and helped cut, treat and remove birch, alder and bramble regrowth from the wet flush area in the west of the fenced area.

Meeting held with contractor George Taylor to agree further scrub removal across the valley fen area to be completed in November/December 2021. Anticipated cost £900.

Next tasks to be confirmed depending upon weather and availability of volunteer groups.

5. Alderford Common

The southern section of the fenced area that is overgrown and has fallen down in a number of places still needs attention. A few scattered posts elsewhere have rotted at the base and need replacing. Fence audit to be completed and contractors to be approached for quotations with a view to fixing.

No further progress regarding NWT grazing cattle in the fenced area over winter, but waiting for confirmation/further discussions depending on availability.

Task with NCC volunteer group planned for 28/11/2021 but task detail to be confirmed depending upon weather and availability/number of volunteers.

Steve Williams – November 2021

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council