

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 15th September 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)			
25/07/21	Alderford	NCC	Bracken topping and clearance
08/08/21	Upgate	NEWS	Pulling Himalayan Balsam and clearance in glades
22/08/21	Upgate	NCC	Raking grassland

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

Oct/Nov waiting for confirmation of dates

2. Management Plans

No further action.

3. HLS Agreements

Nothing to report

4. Upgate Common

NEWS attended site on 08/08/21 and Himalayan Balsam was pulled in the morning from various locations around the common with some cutting and raking carried out within some of the glades in the afternoon. Himalayan Balsam has also been pulled as it emerges on subsequent weekends.

Michael Bye kindly cut the grassland on 16/08/21 (£40 expenses paid to contribute to fuel, punctures etc) and then the cut grass was raked up by an NCC volunteer group on 22/08/21. Michael and other parishioners should also be thanked for cutting various footpaths, clearing drainage cuts etc.

A decision still needs to be made regarding the future boardwalk replacement/ alternative solution/ re-routing of path to drier ground etc).

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

Next tasks likely to include pond maintenance and removal of birch regrowth from the fen/heath and transition within the fenced area. Task details to be confirmed depending upon weather and availability of volunteer groups. Contractor to be approached as in previous years to carry out some of this work.

5. Alderford Common

NCC volunteer group attended site on 25/07/21 and undertook bracken topping and clearance from within the fenced area.

A Norfolk County Council contractor attended on 27/08/21 and reinstated footpath FP10 and erected new marker posts/signs. FP10 is now in the correct place and should now be maintained by the County Council a couple of times a year, although additional clearance will undoubtedly be required by the PC.

The southern section of the fenced area that is overgrown and has fallen down in a number of places still needs attention. Contractors to be approached for quotations with a view to fixing.

Meeting held with NWT Grazing Manager on 10/09/21 to discuss grazing Alderford with cattle again over the winter. Positive signs that this will be possible but waiting for confirmation and dates.

Himalayan Balsam pulled from the northwestern corner of the common adjacent to the pond and bridge.

Next tasks likely to include pond maintenance and scrub management - Task details to be confirmed depending upon weather and availability of volunteer groups.

Steve Williams – September 2021

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council