

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 19th January 2022

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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)

28/11/21 Alderford NCC Clearance of scrub from around ponds

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

30/01/22 tbc NEWS tbc

Awaiting further dates from volunteer groups

2. Management Plans

No change.

3. HLS Agreements

Extension to existing agreements in place until 31/05/2023 based on continuation of existing management.

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 19/01/2022.

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

Contractor George Taylor undertook 5 days of scrub clearance across the valley fen area during December/early January. Cost £700.

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

5. Alderford Common

Task undertaken on 28/11/21 with NCC volunteer group involving scrub, bracken and bramble removal around two of the ponds along with some clearance of excessive weed growth and reed mace from within.

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 this and a damaged kissing gate at the southeastern corner. 10 no. fence posts around other sections were replaced on the 31/12/2021 by me with help from Dave Weaver. Cost of fence posts £47.52.

The new footpath sign halfway down the access track was vandalised and knocked over and needs re-erecting. Norfolk County Council to be informed.

NWT brought 4 cows to site on 10/01/2022 but trailer got stuck a short way down the access track and in the end had to be winched back out by a contractor. Cattle then unfortunately had to be taken elsewhere for the time being as access was not possible. Awaiting further discussions with NWT as to when another attempt can be made.

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

Steve Williams – January 2022

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council