

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 16th November 2022

Page 1 of 1

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)

23/10/22 Upgate NEWS Clearance in glades and some pond clearance

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

11/12/22 Alderford NCC tbc

2. Management Plans

No change.

3. HLS Agreements

No change.

4. Upgate Common

The boardwalk replacement footpath was completed in October with the contractor doing an excellent job. Much positive feedback received from users of the path. Of the original quoted cost of £7,375.20 (£6,146 excl VAT) for the entire route, the County Council have agreed to fund the PROW section north of the Beck at the cost of £2,333 excl VAT, therefore reducing the burden on the Parish Council. They have inspected the works and are happy for us to submit an invoice for the agreed amount.

The NEWS volunteer group were on site on the 23/10/22 and mowing and raking of the glades and beneath the power lines was undertaken along with some scrub removal and clearance around the Bottomless and Horseshoe Ponds.

Meeting held with contractor George Taylor regarding clearance of birch from the lowland heath within the fenced area, to be completed in January (estimated cost £900).

The ponies remain in good health but the anticipated vet/farrier visit due in October has yet to be completed and the ponies remain on site.

Discussion still to be had regarding the parking situation on the common at Upgate.

Next volunteer tasks likely to involve further pond clearance and additional removal of birch regrowth in the fenced area (February task).

5. Alderford Common

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. Replacement being looked into.

The multi-stemmed Ash suffering from Ash dieback located adjacent to the Reepham Road just to the east of the car park entrance that was subject to a Dangerous Tree Notice from the County Council has been removed by contractor Broadland Tree Services (cost £1,176).

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 involve some clearance in and around the ponds and removal of blackthorn from the grassland, depending upon weather and availability of volunteer groups (December task).

Steve Williams – November 2022

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council