

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 28th September 2022

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>
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Tasks Completed (since last report)

11/09/22	Upgate	NCC	Raking grassland
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Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

23/10/22	tbc	NEWS	tbc
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2. Management Plans

No change.

3. HLS Agreements

No change. Overdue condition assessments to be undertaken by Natural England, probably next year.

4. Upgate Common

Unconditional Consent granted by Natural England for the boardwalk replacement footpath, works to be completed by 01/11/2022. Revised quotation received from the preferred contractor for the footpath works based on the amendments discussed during the site meeting on 15/06/22. Decision to be made on placing order at the PC meeting. Still waiting for costs for the works affecting the section of footpath north of the Beck which is part of an official footpath and would hopefully therefore attract funding from the County Council.

Michael Bye kindly cut the grassland at Upgate on 09/09/22 (£50 donation to charity requested in lieu of expenses) prior to a task by NCC on 11/09/22 when the grass cuttings were raked and removed. Some of the reed around the Horseshoe Pond was also cut and removed.

The ponies are in good health but will possibly be moved to another site following the next vet/farrier visit (due in October) to give the site a rest from grazing over the winter months.

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

Next volunteer tasks likely to involve further pond clearance, mowing and raking in the glades and under the power lines and then removal of birch regrowth in the fenced area.

5. Alderford Common

The car park suffered from fly tipping which had to be removed at a cost to the PC.

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.

Notice of a dangerous tree affecting the highway was received from the County Council. This relates to a multi-stemmed Ash suffering from Ash dieback located adjacent to the Reepham Road just to the east of the car park entrance. This will need removing prior to 19/01/2023 and will involve a temporary road closure prior to the works. The Clerk has obtained quotes for removal (to be discussed at the PC meeting).

The southern section of the fence enclosing the fenced area has fallen down in a number of places and still needs replacing during the Autumn, prior to any future grazing. Contractors still to be approached for quotations with a view to fixing this and the damaged kissing gate at the south eastern corner.

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.

Steve Williams – September 2022

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council