

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 17th May 2023

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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)

26/03/23 Alderford NCC Scrub removal from grassland

16/04/23 Alderford NEWS Fence repairs

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

tbc

Management Plans

No change.

2. HLS Agreements

Claim forms for 2023 for both agreements completed and returned on 18/04/23.

3. Upgate Common

Proposal to place tree trunk sections along the southern edge of the access track to prevent parking on the sensitive SSSI section of the grassland and encourage parking on the northern side of the track has been implemented. Need to monitor effectiveness and gauge reaction. Some negative comments received to date. Could consider adding signage to make things clearer?

Decision to be made on replacement of the information board. Ongoing.

Next volunteer tasks to be confirmed but likely in July or later. Probably involve bracken control.

4. Alderford Common

A new support for the information board in the car park is still required if the board is to be re-erected. Ongoing.

A camper van has been overnighting in the car park a couple of times. The sign advising of prohibited activities on the common needs to be re-erected.

A task was undertaken on 26/03/23 by a NCC volunteer group removing scrub from the grassland within the fenced area.

Another task was undertaken on 16/04/23 by a NEWS volunteer group who carried out repairs on the southern section of the fenced area involving replacing damaged fence posts and re-securing the wire fencing. (Materials cost £164.63 + VAT)

The damaged kissing gate at the south eastern corner is functional but still needs to be replaced which will need to be undertaken by a contractor. Ongoing.

Increased activity by off-road BMX cyclists noted in the old pit area adjacent to the Reephams Road/Station Road/Broad Lane junction ongoing. Needs monitoring and possible action if damage being caused or parking becomes an issue.

Next volunteer tasks scheduled to be confirmed but likely in July or later.

Steve Williams – May 2023

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council