Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 20th November 2024

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)

13/10/24 Alderford NCC Fencing repair completion/ scrub removal

17/11/24 Upgate NCC Scrub removal (under power lines and around ponds)

Tasks Planned *(exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)*

01/12/24 Upgate NEWS Scrub removal (fenced area)

15/12/24 Upgate NCC Scrub removal around ponds and in fenced area

05/01/25 Alderford NCC Scrub and grassland management

1. **Management Plans**

No change.

1. **HLS Agreements**

Nothing to report.

1. **Upgate Common**

Four NWT ponies were delivered to site on 25/10/24. Volunteer checkers in place to undertake daily checks.

The NCC volunteer group cut bracken from beneath the power lines and from some glades and removed some trees from around the ponds. Consideration still needs to be given to the ponds as they are getting overgrown. Probably need to use machinery on at least two of the ponds due to the scale of the task required. Options to be considered and agreed with Natural England - ongoing.

The next volunteer tasks (01/12/24 and 15/12/24) will include removal of birch scrub from within the fenced area and some more work around the ponds.

The contractor normally used for tree/scrub removal work has been contacted and has provisionally been booked in to attend site in February. Site meeting to be held with contractor in a few weeks' time to confirm work.

Repair/replacement of the information board – in hand.

1. **Alderford Common**

The NCC volunteer group completed repair of the fence line on 13/10/24 and also carried out some scrub clearance around one of the ponds.

NWT have been contacted and we are waiting to hear back about the possibility of getting some cows on site for 3-4 weeks over the winter.

Consideration still needs to be given to employing a suitable contractor to keep the paths clear of bracken during the spring and summer.

The next volunteer task (05/01/24) will involve scrub clearance and some grassland management.

Steve Williams – November 2024

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council