Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 15th January 2025

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)			
01/12/24	Upgate	NEWS	Scrub removal around ponds and in fenced area
15/12/24	Upgate	NCC	Scrub removal in fenced area
05/01/25	Alderford	NCC	CANCELLED
Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)			
09/02/25	Alderford	NCC	Scrub management
09/03/25	Upgate	NCC	Scrub management
23/03/25	Upgate	NEWS	Scrub management

2. Management Plans

No change.

3. HLS Agreements

Payments received from Rural Payments Agency for HLS agreements relating to 2024 (Alderford - £2,075.50 and Upgate -£2,948.45).

4. Upgate Common

The four NWT ponies have settled in well. No issues to report.

The NEWS volunteer group task on 01/12/25 involved additional scrub removal around the ponds and within the fenced area.

The NCC volunteer group continued scrub removal from within the fenced area on 15/12/24.

Meeting held with a potential new resource (TCV) on 04/12/24 to look at potential tasks at both Alderford and Upgate.

Initial trial days agreed for Upgate on 07/01/25 and 16/01/25 to undertake clearance of vegetation from Bottomless Pond

using hand tools instead of getting heavy machinery in. Cost of £340/task day.

The contractor George Taylor is booked in to attend site in February to carry out scrub removal in the fenced area.

Volunteer groups will complete any scrub clearance not carried out by the contractor in Feb/March 2025.

Repair/replacement of the information board – in hand.

5. Alderford Common

The NCC volunteer group task for the 05/01/25 had to be cancelled due to illness and forecast heavy rain. Task has been rearranged for 09/02/25 to include grassland and scrub management.

No news regarding the possibility of NWT grazing the site with cows over the winter. Still hope to get some grazing completed in 2025.

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

Steve Williams – January 2025

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council