Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 16th July 2025

1. **Volunteer Group Tasks**

Volunteer tasks undertaken by Norfolk Conservation Corps (NCC), Norwich Environmental Weekenders (NEWS) and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) unless otherwise stated.

Date Location Volunteer Group Task Completed

Tasks Completed (since last report)

22/06/25 Upgate NEWS Pulling of small birch and bracken control

13/07/25 Alderford NCC Bracken control and kissing gate/fence repair

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

31/08/25 tbc NEWS tbc

Aug/Sept tbc NCC tbc

Sept/Oct tbc TCV tbc

1. Management Plans

No change.

1. HLS Agreements

Nothing to report.

1. Upgate Common

NEWS volunteer group undertook a scrub clearance task on Deadman's Hill on 22/06/25 involving pulling small birch and cutting bracken.

Future tasks for the summer will focus on maintenance and bracken control and the cutting and raking of the grassland, with possible pond maintenance required at the ned of the summer.

The bench on the footpath along the beck could do with replacing as slats now rotting/missing. Ongoing.

New prohibition signs to be put up re motorised vehicles, camping, fires etc.

1. **Alderford Common**

The dry Spring/Summer has resulted in very low levels in all ponds with the pond in the fenced area almost completely dry now.

The kissing gate leading to Reepham Road was fixed and 3 fence posts replaced during a NCC volunteer task on 13/07/25. Bracken was also cleared from the grassland during the task.

Future tasks for the summer will focus on bracken control and the cutting and raking of the grassland.

The footpaths are mostly passable following cutting back of bracken on a number of occasions.

The two benches within the fenced area are starting to deteriorate and could do with replacing. Ongoing.

There is a large dead ash tree adjacent to the footpath leading down into the fenced area which may become unstable in the future and will probably need to be taken down for safety reasons. Contractor required as too big for the volunteer groups to address.

Steve Williams – July 2025

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council