Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 19th March 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)

07/01/25 Upgate TCV Clearing vegetation from Bottomless Pond
16/01/25 Upgate TCV Completion of vegetation removal from Bottomless Pond
03/02/25 Alderford TCV Scrub clearance (southern edge and grassland fringe)
09/02/25 Alderford NCC Scrub management (hidden valley and grassland edge)
11/02.25 Alderford TCV Scrub clearance (southern edge)
04/03/25 Alderford TCV Brash clearance and habitat piles
09/03/25 Alderford NCC Completion of brush clearance

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

23/03/25 Upgate NEWS Scrub management (Deadman's Hill)
May 25 Upgate NCC tbc
22/06/25 Alderford NEWS tbc

1. **Management Plans**

No change.

1. **HLS Agreements**

2025 claim forms received for completion and return by 15th May 2025.

1. **Upgate Common**

The four NWT ponies are doing well. No issues to report.
TCV undertook clearance of vegetation from Bottomless Pond with hand tools on 07/01/25 and 16/01/25. Cost of £680.
Contractor George Taylor undertook clearance of scrub from within fenced area on 19, 20 & 21/02/25. Cost of £930.
NEWS volunteer group will complete the final scrub clearance task before pausing for the nesting season on 23/05/25.
Tasks over the spring and summer will focus on maintenance and bracken control.
Repair/replacement of the information board completed. Cost of £150 – Agenda item.
The bench on the footpath along the beck could do with replacing as slats now rotting/missing. To be discussed.

1. **Alderford Common**

Meeting held on site with Natural England on 21/01/25 to discuss previous years habitat and bird survey and several specific tasks were identified that would be beneficial.
The tasks identified by NE involving scrub and grassland management were then undertaken on the 03, 09 & 11/02/25 and 04 & 09/03/25 by TCV and NCC. TCV cost of £680 including an extra free day.
Scrub management tasks will now be paused for the nesting season with the tasks until September focussing on maintenance and bracken control.
Cutting of footpaths and keeping them clear of bracken through the spring and summer still needs to be sorted with the contractor (Nurture Landscapes) who previously undertook these works -Agenda item.
The two benches within the fenced area are starting to deteriorate and could do with replacing. To be discussed.

Steve Williams – March 2025 Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council