Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 19th November 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)

21/09/25 Upgate NCC Cutting and raking power rides and around ponds
06/10/25 Alderford TCV Cutting and raking of grassland/scrub control
09/10/25 Alderford TCV Cutting and raking of grassland/scrub control
19/10/25 Upgate NCC Pond maintenance
22/10/25 Upgate TCV Scrub control
28/10/25 Upgate TCV Scrub control
16/11/25 Upgate NEWS Scrub control

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

30/11/25 Alderford NCC tbc
18/01/26 Upgate NCC tbc

Management Plans

No change.

HLS Agreements

No change.

1. Upgate Common

The ponies have returned. NWT returned 3 Dartmoor ponies to site on the 29/10/25 and these will remain for approximately 6 months before removal for a break over the summer. A number of parishioners have again kindly agreed to carry out daily checks.

Tasks have been carried out by NCC, NEWS and TCV (detailed above) including cutting and raking of grassland and bracken, pond maintenance and scrub control. (TCV cost £680)

A meeting was held with a recommended conservation contractor who will be cutting the grassland at Upgate (w/c 17/11/25) with a machine that will also collect cuttings for disposal off the grassland area (cost £300). This negates the need for the backbreaking task for volunteers of having to rake off cuttings.

A replacement bench for the deteriorating one adjacent to one of the ponds along the Beck has been ordered but this will not likely be delivered and installed until the new year.

New prohibition signs erected, but others still need to be put up.

Future tasks for the winter will mainly involve scrub management. Depending upon volunteer group progress, a contractor may need to be brought in to help.

1. **Alderford Common**

TCV attended site for two days and completed the majority of grassland cutting and raking. (cost £680) . A future task is booked in for 30/11/25 with NCC to complete clearance and to undertake scrub control.

A replacement bench has been ordered for the one that has deteriorated within the fenced area but this will not likely be delivered and installed until the new year.

The large dead ash tree adjacent to the footpath leading down into the fenced area was felled by a contractor (cost £300) and much of the trunk and larger branches have now been cut up and taken.

Future tasks for the winter will mainly involve scrub management.

New prohibition signs still need to be put up.

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