Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 17th September 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)			
31/08/25	*Alderford*	*NEWS*	*Cutting and raking of grassland and scrub control*
14/09/25	*Alderford*	*NCC*	*Cutting and raking of grassland and scrub control*
Tasks Planned *(exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)*			
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*
22/10/25	*Upgate*	*TCV*	*Scrub control*
28/10/25	*Upgate*	*TCV*	*Scrub control*
Oct/Nov	*Upgate*	*NEWS*	*tbc*
Nov	*Alderford*	*NCC*	*tbc*

2. Management Plans No change.

3. HLS Agreements

Rates for some of the items within the HLS agreements have been increased from 2025 which should result in a small uplift to the money received to pay for management activities going forward.

4. Upgate Common

Future tasks planned include cutting and raking under the power lines and around ponds and scrub management within the fenced area. TCV have been booked in for two days to complete some of this work and a contractor will be approached to complete works depending upon progress.

The NWT ponies are still off-site but hopefully will be returned in the next month or so. NWT to confirm.

A contractor has been found who can cut and collect the grassland area at the site entrance and will complete this in October.

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

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

5. Alderford Common

Areas of the grassland within the fenced area have been cut and raked during tasks on the 31/08 and 14/09 by NEWS and NCC volunteers. The NCC group also cut the area around the car park to improve visibility.

TCV have also been booked in for two days in September to complete areas of the grassland that still need attention.

One of the benches within the fenced area is starting to deteriorate and could do with replacing. Ongoing. The other bench will not need replacing for a few years.

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 need to be taken down for safety reasons. The Clerk has arranged for this to be completed - update.

The results from the national eDNA survey for Great Crested Newts have been received and all ponds at Alderford have tested positive again for the presence of GCN.

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