

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 21st January 2026

1. Volunteer Group Tasks

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Volunteer Group</u>	<u>Task Completed</u>
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Tasks Completed (since last report)

30/11/25	Alderford	NCC	Scrub clearance
18/01/26	Upgate	NCC	Scrub clearance

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

01/03/26	Upgate	NCC	tbc
08/03/26	Upgate	NEWS	tbc
22/03/26	Alderford	NCC	tbc

2. Management Plans

No change.

3. HLS Agreements

Increases to payments across the various options included in the two HLS agreements has resulted in a significant increase in funding applied to 2025 and going forward. Annual payment across both agreements has increased from £5,023.95 to £9,401.24.

4. Upgate Common

All is well with the 3 ponies.

Water levels in the ponds are increasing but are still not back up to usual levels for this time of year.

A task was completed by NCC on 18/01/26 involving pulling, cutting and treating of scrub on Deadman's Hill and transition and the clearance of a fallen cedar on the edge of the woodland.

The mechanical cutting and collection of the grassland was unable to be completed due to heavy rainfall and waterlogging on the ground. Cutting will be planned for an earlier date in 2026 to ensure that it can successfully be completed.

A replacement bench for the deteriorating one adjacent to one of the ponds along the Beck has been ordered but it has yet to be delivered and installed.

Some further scrub management and addressing some fallen trees is planned prior to a break from tasks during the spring/summer nesting season.

5. Alderford Common

Water levels in the ponds are increasing but are still not back up to usual levels for this time of year.

A task was completed by NCC on 30/11/25 to complete the grassland cutting and raking within the fenced area along with some scrub management.

A replacement bench for the one that has deteriorated within the fenced area has been ordered but it has yet to be delivered and installed.

Some further scrub management and addressing some fallen trees is planned prior to a break from tasks during the spring/summer nesting season.

New prohibition signs still need to be put up.

Steve Williams – January 2026

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council