

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 20th May 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>
<i>Tasks Completed (since last report)</i>			
22/03/26	Upgate	NCC	Scrub clearance
05/04/26	Upgate	NCC	Scrub and fallen tree clearance
03/05/26	Alderford	NCC	Maintenance of footpaths and signage
10/05/26	Upgate	NEWS	Pulling birch, bracken and Himalayan Balsam
<i>Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)</i>			
07/06/26	Upgate	NCC	Himalayan Balsam clearance
##/07/26	Alderford	NCC	Bracken control
##/08/26	tbc	NEWS	tbc

2. Management Plans

No change.

3. HLS Agreements

2026 claim forms have been submitted.

4. Upgate Common

The ponies were taken off site at the end of April for their biannual vet and farrier check. The site will be given a rest from grazing over the summer with ponies hopefully returning in the autumn.

Scrub clearance was undertaken by NCC on 22/03/26 and they returned on 05/04/26 to cut up and remove various fallen trees along the beck footpath.

More scrub clearance was undertaken by NEWS on the 10/05/26. Bracken was also cut back and work started on clearing a large area of Himalayan Balsam from within the alder woodland on the far side of the beck.

NCC will be returning on 07/06/26 to try to complete clearance of the Himalayan Balsam with other tasks over the summer likely to be bracken clearance.

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.

5. Alderford Common

A task was undertaken by NCC on 03/05/26 involving maintenance of footpaths and car park and the erection of signs at entrances to the common.

Future tasks to include bracken clearance.

The annual eDNA survey for Great Crested Newt was carried out on the ponds.

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.

Steve Williams – May 2026

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council