

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 15th July 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>			
07/06/26	Upgate	NCC	Himalayan Balsam clearance
12/07/26	Upgate	NCC	Himalayan Balsam clearance
<i>Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)</i>			
##/08/26	tbc	NCC	tbc
##/08/26	Alderford	TCV	Cutting and mowing grassland
13/09/26	tbc	NEWS	tbc
##/09/26	tbc	NCC	tbc

2. Management Plans

No change.

3. HLS Agreements

No change

4. Upgate Common

Vegetation regrowth is good with the ponies being currently off-site, but the lack of rain means that the site is very dry and the ponds are also very low.

The last two tasks undertaken by NCC on 07/06/26 and 12/07/26 have involved completing the clearance of the large area of Himalayan Balsam within the alder woodland on the far side of the beck and in the adjacent ditch. Now appears to be clear but will need checking later in the summer to ensure it doesn't come back.

Next tasks likely to include bracken control and some pond maintenance. The grassland at the site entrance will also need cutting and clearing and a contractor has been contacted who is able to collect the cuttings at the same time as cutting.

The replacement bench has yet to be delivered and installed.

5. Alderford Common

I have cut the footpaths on a number of occasions to prevent them being blocked by bracken and they are currently all passable. The lack of rain has helped in hampering growth but the ponds are all very low.

The next tasks will probably include bracken control and the clearance of scrub from the tumulus site. In addition, TCV to be contacted to mow and rake the grassland at the end of August.

The replacement bench has yet to be delivered and installed.

Steve Williams – July 2026

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council