

Boyland Common Report
Shelfanger Parish Council Meeting Monday 12th Dec 2022

Within the next few weeks the Conservation group hope to tackle the ongoing problem of willow saplings growing in the ditches adjacent to the roads. This problem has to be addressed annually as the willow seedlings are quick to germinate, and grow very quickly.

We shall also be assessing what work can be done in coppicing the willow trees on the Common opposite the driveway to Poplar Farm, as well as cutting back some of the scrub growth there where it is beginning to overhang the footpath in that area.

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust had arranged a day of scything for last September, but this had to be postponed, and a new date will be set for 2023. It is intended that at least one member of the conservation group will attend on that day.

Stella Taylor, our local wildflower expert has agreed to lead a wildflower walk on the Common as used to happen in pre-Covid years. A date hasn't yet been set, but in all likelihood it will be in May or June 2023, and will be advertised locally. It will be interesting to see if the 2022 Summer drought has had any noticeable effect on the diversity of the flora. In the past many species associated with damp grassland have been recorded on the Common, as the clay soil retains moisture, but the lack of rainfall over last Summer may well have had an effect.

As the conservation group has no allocated funding, we are immensely grateful to local Farmers who are able and willing to help when help is needed. We really couldn't manage without them.

Pam Ross
Chairman of the 'Friends of Boyland Common'