

Commons Coordinator Report

Andrew Colchester

January 2016

In December 2015 Thrandeston Parish Council carried out ditching work between the railway bridges in Thrandeston to alleviate the problem of flooding on the road near the small bridge. Network Rail were contacted and confirmed that they were happy for us to carry out the ditching work as long as we did not need access to their land. Culverts under the railway embankment and under the road still remain heavily silted and our

Chairman is in contact with the relevant parties to arrange for the culverts to be cleared. Suffolk County Council has assured us that the culverts under the road will be cleared by the end of January 2016. In the meantime the ditching work carried out by the Parish Council has allowed water on the road to drain away and prevent flooding. The culverts under the road are presently running at approximately 20% capacity so will still require clearing. At the same time as the ditching work some of the black thorn adjacent to the road on the east side of the railway embankment (OS number 2080 on the attached map) was cleared.

This will improve visibility and prevent overhanging branches encroaching onto the road and allow grass to establish along the roadside.

Since the work to create the scrape on the marsh has been completed I have been monitoring the area regularly. The scrape is at its maximum water level and the adjacent land is also ankle deep with water. On my early morning inspections I have regularly observed numbers of wildfowl and snipe in the area of the scape. David Whiting from Natural England has visited the site and has been impressed by the quality of the work that was carried out by the contractor with the minimum of disturbance to the ground



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