Report to	Mousehold Heath Conservators	Item
	18 January 2013	
Report of	Head of local neighbourhood services	7
Subject	Mousehold management plan 2013-2018 and work	•

## **Purpose**

To seek approval for the changes required to refresh the Mousehold management Plan for the period 2013-18 and endorse the work programme for 2013-14

#### Recommendation

To approve the proposed changes to the Mousehold management plan

To approve and request officers implement the work programme for 2013-14. Any changes to costs will be reported to the Conservators for approval or if between formal meetings Conservators are asked to delegate this decision to the head of local neighbourhood services in conjunction with the Chair

## **Corporate and service priorities**

programme 2013-14

The report helps to meet the corporate priority city of character and culture and the service plan priority to refresh the Mousehold Management plan

### **Financial implications**

The works that arise from the plan which will form the annual work programme wil be met from approved budgets which will be set on an annual basis.

Ward/s: All wards

## **Contact officers**

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Lenny Stamp, Neighbourhood Manager	01603 213281
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## **Background documents**

None

## Report

- 1. In June 2008, The Mousehold Conservators endorsed the Mousehold Management Plan 2008-2013.
- 2. The purpose of the plan is to guide the work and actions of the Conservators using a range of environmental, cultural and historical information and data which collectively identify the importance of Mousehold as an open space within the City.
- 3. The plan sets out a number of management objectives and proposed actions through two broad management objectives which are to:
  - Ensure that the area is managed as effectively as possible to maintain and enhance its wildlife and historic value
  - Promote and enhance people's access to, and enjoyment of, the site
- 4. The plan also identified a set of management objectives which were:
  - (a) Maintain, enhance and increase areas of heather and lowland heath vegetation
  - (b) Join existing areas of heathland vegetation
  - (c) Control encroachment by trees on open heathland areas
  - (d) Control bracken on open heath areas
  - (e) Maintain and enhance acid grassland areas
  - (f) Maintain and enhance areas of woodland selected for retention
  - (g) Maintain footpaths for public access
  - (h) Safeguard and improve management of the St. William's Chapel site
  - (i) Provide interpretation on history and natural history of site
  - (j) Increase public understanding of issues relating to conservation of lowland heaths
  - (k) Encourage sympathetic use of the site by the public through informal recreation and education
  - (I) Discourage misuse and antisocial behaviour by users, especially the setting fire of vegetation
- 5. These were used to frame a set of management themes which have been used to prepare an annual work programme. These are:
  - (a) Habitat management;
  - (b) Management of the historic environment;
  - (c) Visitor management;

- (d) Visitor infrastructure.
- 6. The plan identified a 10 year work programme and a report to the Conservators in October 2012, suggested that the plan be reviewed at after the five year period, as best practice suggests, as circumstances and opportunities can change.
- 7. This report summarised progress in the implementation of the plan against the main objectives, reasons for any change and recommendations for years six to ten (2013 14 to 2017-18).
- 8. As the management plan influences the content of the annual work programme, the lay out of the work plan has also been included in this review.
- 9. However, it is important to note that this review is a refresh and does not attempt to re-write the plan at this time. This will be undertaken at the end of year nine.
- 10. The proposed changes are attached at appendix 1 to the report and they broadly cover:
  - (a) Updating wording where objectives have been achieved and monitoring is required;
  - (b) Details about requirements of environmental grant schemes;
  - (c) Continued developed of some themes e.g. cycling; interpretation.
- 11. Following consideration and endorsement by the Conservators, the plan will be revised and uploaded onto the Council's website. Key partners will be notified of the changes and will be referred to the website as there are no plans to print copies of the revised plan.

### **Annual work programme**

- 12. As in previous years, the Conservators are asked to comment on and endorse the annual work programme at the same meeting that the budget and precept is agreed.
- 13. The format of this plan has evolved since it was first introduced and the draft plan for 2013-14 continues this trend with a number of changes which set out to make the plan more informative and each action including budgetary implications.
- 14. The draft plan is et out in appendix 2 to the report.
- 15. It is intended that with the approval of the plan and the budget, the latter of which is set out in a separate report, the Mousehold Wardens can progress the implementation of the work programme with monitoring being undertaken through the management sub group.
- 16. Budget approval will be sought for any item where costs exceed the agreed budget allocation.
- 17. At the October meeting, Conservators discussed a number of areas where they were interested in seeing a greater focus these were as follows with how they might be progressed:

#### Point 1

Establish a reasonable target for the percentage of the heath to be recovered as heathland

Proposal – Investigate as part of the higher level stewardship scheme requirements

#### Point 2

Establish whether the current level of volunteers could be sustained and identifying mechanisms to increase it

Proposal – comment added into management plan revision and will form part of the work programme

#### Point 3

Consideration of the use of herbicides to clear shrub on the heath

Proposal – management plan has been amended to include managed use in certain areas

#### Point 4

Publicise the heath through the website (computers and portable devices) and leaflets and bring together the various data on ecology, geo-physical, biodiversity, history etc. Proposal – covered by existing management plan wording; use the management plan to develop specific activity

#### Point 5

External funding - continue to explore opportunities for additional funding from external sources

Proposal – covered by section 6.1 of the management plan and will be explored as part of the annual programme of works

18. It is proposed that these points are considered in more detail through the management sub group.

# Mousehold Heath Management Plan proposed amendments 2013-18

Item no.	Page	Section	Proposed change	Reason
1	1	Cover	Date change to 2013-18	Date should refer to 2nd five year period
2	13	4.3	Main management objectives - add an additional bullet point	The need to reflect increased volunteer involvement
			Continue to develop volunteer and resident involvement in the management of the heath	
3	14	4.4	Under, Proposed management: a summary, include statement below	Development of HLS agreement
			By 2017 cover of dwarf shrubs of ling (Calluna vulgaris) and bell heather (Erica cinerea) are expected to cover between 30% and 90% in open heathland areas with a wide range of age classes of dwarf shrubs present by year 10. These areas should include between 10% and 20% cover of pioneer stage growth, 10% and 30% of mature stage grwoth, 10% and 30% cover of degenerate stage growth and more than 10% cover of dead dwarf shrub.	
4	14	4.5	Under Habitat management - lowland heath, include statement below	Development of HLS agreement
			To meet objectives set within the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement, indicators of success are dependent on the managed use of herbicides to control scrub encroachment on open heathland areas and the Cavalry Track.	
5	14	4.8	Under, <b>Habitat Management - vinegar pond,</b> Change heading to read as below.	Installation of new wildlife pond
6			Habitat management - Vinegar pond and wildlife pond	

	14	4.8	Under, <b>Habitat management - Vinegar Pond,</b> amend first and second bullet point's	A new liner has been installed and the introduction of sweet grass has been eradicated
			- Monitor the effectiveness of the new pond liner - Monitor the effectivess of removal of sweet reed grass and take appropriate action if it recolonises	
7	15	4.1	Visitor management - access, education and interpretation. Amend bullet point 1 and add a second bullet point	
			Promote responsible access and use of the heath     Continue to develop volunteer involvement and consider how current involvement can be sustained	
8	27	11.0 (iv)	Under (iv) Geological trail delete - Investigate potential for a Mousehold Heath Geological Trail in partnership with Norfolk geodiversity Partnership, and replace with statement below.	A new Earth Heritage Trail has now been installed.
			An earth heritage trail has been installed in partnership with Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership and Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership. An on request a leaflet is available for information and guidance around the trail along with a downloadable version from Norwich City Council web site www.norwich.gov.uk	
9	27	11.0 (vi)	Under (vi) Cycling amend statement	Cycle stands have now been installed at various locations across site.

			Maintain existing authorised cycle access to the site and promote access to the site by bicycle as an alternative to car use. Consider provision of small cycle stands for visitors at further locations	
10	27	11.0 (ix)	Amend and re-number (ix) Gurney Road statement	Traffic calming measures have been completed under the connect two project
			(xii) Traffic calming measures have been completed under the connect two project and the benefits they bring will be monitored.	
11	All	All	Updating of organisations names	Names of some organisations have changed

Туре		Location Name	ltem	Action	Management Plan Map 5 Aerial Map Location	Management plan Obj.	Estimated cost £	Lead	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
There are two ponds on site that are fed by s introductions should they occur.	urface wa	ter run off these play host to	breeding frogs and newts	throughout Winter, Spring and summer	and provide good	habitats for aqua	atic invertebr	ates and pla	nt life. Objecti	ves are to re	tain water leve	els throughou	t the year an	d avoid intro	luction of uns	uitable plant	and animal s	ecies, remov	re any unauth	norised
Habitat Management - Water	1	Vinegar Pond	Pond	Monitor condition	E4	4.8	200	D/MW	D/MW	D/MW	D/MW							,		D/MW
Mousehold Heath covers 184 acres of which	less than			Monitor condition econdary woodland with small areas of	E6 open grassland, o	4.8 pen spaces and	200 sports pitche	MW s. Objectives	s are to main	tain, enhance	and increase	biodiversity	of areas of h	eather and lov	wland heath v	D/MW egetation, joi	D/MW ning up of exi	sting areas c	of heathland in	n line with
the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme	with the a	im of extending open Heathla	and areas to 30% or more.																	
Habitat Management - Heath	1	Heathland areas	Gorse management	Cut/collect gorse areas on rotation Conservation contractor	TBA	4.5	2,000	MW/C								MW/C	MW/C	MW/C	MW/C	
	1	Heathland areas	Scrub clearance	Heathland restoration and cut scrub Community Green Gym	E13-14/F13- 14/G13-14/H14	4.5	2,000	MW/C								GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	
	1	Heathland areas	Humus stripping	Remove topsoil from selected areas to encourage heathland regeneration Contractor	TBA	4.5	1,000	MW/C								MW/C	MW/C	MW/C	MW/C	
	1	St. James' Hill	Scrub clearance	Cut back scrub	E13-14/F13-14/ G12-14/H13-14	4.5	0	MW								TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	
	1	All Heathland areas	Control scrub regrowth	Control regrowth from previously cut scrub TCV work parties	D3-4/E3-5/F3- 5/G3-5&7/H4- 5&7/I4-5/J6-7/K6- 7/L6	4.5	4,500	MW							TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	
	1	Heathland areas	Bracken control	Cut/bruise bracken in open areas TCV work parties	G4-5/H5/I5	4.5	0	MW			TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW							
	2	Playing field adj pitch & putt	GNDP project	Monitor/manage heathland project area	K6/L6/M6	4.5	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW							
Grasses and wild flower species favouring a remover encroaching scrub and trees.	cid soil co	onditions are an integral comp	onent of heathland vegeta	ation providing a diverse habitat for a mu	ltitude of insects,	these areas will	be rapidly lo	st without ap	opropriate ma	nagement. O	ojectives are t	o cut vegetati	on once per	year and rem	ove arisings	ensuring nutr	ent levels are	kept to a mir	nimum, period	dically
Habitat Management - Acid Grassland and Wild Flower Meadow	1	The Desert	Wild Flower management	Cut areas & remove arisings (Cons.Cut 5) Contractor	C5-6/D5-6	4.6	0	MW/C						С						
	1	The Anthills	Grassland management	Cut areas & remove arisings (Cons.Cut 5) TCV GG MW	G8/H8	4.6	0	MW/TCV						TCV/GG MW						
	1	The Anthills	Grassland management	Control any encroaching scrub TCV GG MW	G8/H8	4.6	0	MW/TCV										TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	
	2	St James' Hill/Cav Track area	Scrub management	Control, or coppice areas on rotation	E14/F12-14/G14	4.6	0	MW							TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW			
Mousehold Heath now mainly consists of de and fallen dead wood.	nse wood	land with little understory or g	ground flora. To increase a	and improve its ecological value, objective	es are to create a	network of rides	and glades	by widening	existing track	s and pathwa	ys, works inc	lude thinning	, coppicing a	and pollarding	allowing in r	nore light for	ground flora	o flourish wh	ille retaining	standing
Habitat Management - Woodland	2	All areas	Coppicing, pollarding	Expand woodland ride and glades using		4.7 9.2	0	MW								TCV/GG	TCV/GG	TCV/GG	TCV/GG	
•	2	Gilman Rd	Path/cycleway	work parties and contractors  Complete tree work (if not done 2010/11)	A5-F8	4.7	0	ARB/MW								MW/C MW	MW/C MW	MW/C MW	MW/C MW	
	1	All areas	Programmed works	Carry out safety related tree works		47	2.215	ARR/MW							C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	
	1	All areas	Emergency works	Carry out safety related tree works		4.7	0	ARB/MW							C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	
	2	All areas	Woodland Grant Scheme	Investigate viability for Mousehold		4.7	0	MW	MW	MW	MW				C/MITT	C/IIIV	C/MIN	C/IIIIV	C/MIV	
Ensure that the importance of Mousehold He	ath as a h	istoric landscape is protected	d. Objectives are to retain a	and conserve key landscape elements so	uch as open heath	land, hills and he	] ollows, archa	eological an	d historical fe	atures along	with historica	l buildings, n	nemorials an	d protected s	cheduled anc	ent monumer	its.		1	
Historic Building and Landscape	1	St. William's Chapel Site	Maintain site		J4/K4	4.9	0	MW							TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	1
Management	1	St. William's Chapel Site	Interpretation sign	plan TCV GG work parties Design & install	.14/K4	4.9	2,000	MW					MW	MW						
	3	Tram Track	Historic routes	Open up	16/J5-6/K5	4.9	0	MW						I	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	
	2	The Pavillion	Maintenance and	Monitor lease agreement and repair	G7	10.1iii		MW/A&CM												
	1	Fountain Ground Bandstand	Improvements Repair and Maintenance	proposals, Firebreak maintenance Monitor condition	H8	10.1 iv		MW												
	1	Mottram Memorial	Repair and Maintenance	Monitor condition	F14	10.1 v		MW												
	1	World War II commemorative plaque	,	Monitor condition	F9	10.1v		MW											<u> </u>	
Promote the use of Mousehold Heath throug	n publicity	y, iocai press, guided walks a	na otner public events inc	luding schools and local community gro	ups.															
Visitor Management	2	Whole site	School visits	Organised visits & activities		4.10	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW			MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	Off site	School talks	Talks & activities to schools		4.10	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW			MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	Whole site	Public events	Organise & run year round programme		4.10	0	MW	D	D	D	D	D MW	D	D	D MW	D MW	D	D	D
	1	Whole site	Site management notices	Produce site info notices prior to works commencing			U	MW					MVV		MW	MW	MW	ļ	<u> </u>	
	3	Orienteering Trail route Selected areas	Orienteering Trail Geological interpretation	Maintain and repair as required  Maintain ad repair as required TCV GG	MW	4.10 4.10	0	MW NGP/MW	MW TCV/GG MW	MW TCV/GG MW	MW TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW/	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MV
	l '		Earth Heritage Trail	work parties	10100				I CV/GG WW	I C V/GG IVIVV	TOV/GG MW	I C #/GG IVIVV	. CV/GG WWW	I CV/GG IVIVV	I CV/GG IVIVV	I CV/GG MW	1 C 4/GG IVIV	104/00 MW	I CV/GG NIVV	. CV/GG IVIV
	2	Whole site	Easy access	Continue to review easy access provision	Various	4.10	0	MW			MW	MW						,		

	1	Off site	Web Site and leaflets	Update leaflets and city council M'hold		4.10	0	MW	MW	MW	MW									
	2	Whole site	Cuided welks programme	web pages	Various	4.10	900	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	Whole site	Guided walks programme	Deliver annual programme of guided walks/activities	various	4.10	900	IVIVV	MVV	MIVV		MIVV	MIVV		IVIVV	INIV	MVV	MVV		IVIVV
	1	Whole site	Litter	Litter pick, monitor contractor	Various	4.10	0	MW	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С
	1	Whole site	Fly-tipping	Remove fly-tipping as it occurs	Various	4.10	0	MW	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С
Ensure that main pathway networks a	are maintained a	and repaired for public health a	and safety and emergency	vehicle access including disable access	routes, trails, cou	urses, signs, furi	nishings, in	terpretation pa	nels, on site	car parks, toi	let and sports	facilities.								
Visitor Infrastructure	2	All Paths	Paths	Cut back either side as necessary	1	4.11	0	MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW		1	1		г	1
	2	All Paths	Paths	Level/fill as necessary		4.11	0	MW		-	MW	MW	MW						1	
	1	St. James' Hill	Easy access track	Cut back encroaching scrub TCV GG		4.11	0	MW			1					MW	MW		<del> </del>	<del>                                     </del>
			,	work parties																
	2	Cavalry Track	Path	Trim back as necessary	F13/G12-13	4.11	0	MW				MW			MW					
	1	Fountain Ground	Bandstand/Changing Rms	Electrical safety testing	F9	4.11	0	MW			MW									
	2	Pavilion area	Visitor point	Examine feasibility/progress	G8	4.11	0	MW											MW	MW
	2	Pavilion area	Pavilion access track	Maintain to safe standard	G8	4.11	0	MW											MW	MW
	1	Britannia Rd car park	Car park	Essential maintenance as required	G12-13/H13	4.11	1,000	MW	С	С	С								MW	MW
	1	Pitch & Putt car park	Car park	Essential maintenance as required	J5	4.11	1,000	MW	С	С	С								MW	MW
	1	Pavilion/Gilman Rd car parks	Car parks	Maintain as necessary		4.11	1,000	MW	С	С	С	С	С	С						
	3	Whole site	Interpretation stations	Renew and update when necessary		4.11	0	MW		MW										1
	3	Selected locations	Welcome to M'hold signs	Review potential new signs		4.11	0	MW		MW									1	
	2	Various	Benches	Replace/repair as necessary		4.11	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	Various	Signs	Replace/repair as necessary		4.11	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	Various	Bollards	Replace/renew as required	G12-13/H13	4.11	5,000	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	3	Car parks	Car park surfacing	Review durable surfaces		4.11	0	MW									MW	MW	1	
	3	Areas with BMX activity	BMX biking	Monitor & review measures to resolve		4.11	0	MW		MW			MW							
	1	Whole site	Response works	unauthorised BMX activities Contingency budget		4.11	2,000	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
Review management on a regular bas		THOU GILD	response works	Commigator Badget		4.11	2,000			1									1	
Davious & manitaring	I 1	Off site	Management Dian	Davious & rouino plan		5.1	In	IMW	1	1	MW			MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
Review & monitoring		Off site	Management Plan Conservators Meeting	Review & revise plan		5.1	0	CO	MHC		MIVV	MHC		MIVV	MHC	IVIVV	IVIVV	MHC	MIVV	IVIVV
		Off site	Cons Working Group Mtg			5.1	0	CO			MHC		1	мнс		ł	MHC		<del> </del>	MHC
							Ů				MITC			WITC			WINC			MITC
	2	Whole site	Itinerant	Organise site visit to review work plan progress & priorities for next financial year		5.1	0	CO/MW												
	1	Off site	Annual Work Programme	Drafted and agreed by Conservators		5.1	0	MW									MW	MW		
	2	Heathland Areas	Heathland Regeneration	Monitor heathland regeneration	Selected Sqs	5.1	0	MW	1			MW	MW	MW						1
In order to determine whether manage	ement is having	an appropriate affect on the s	ite's biodiversity, it is impe	ortant that the site is monitored on an or	ngoing basis.				•											
Surveying & recording	2	All	Common Bird Census	Carry out weekly during season	1	5.1	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW								т —
g a root-amg	2	All	Butterfly transect	Complete 26 week transect	1	5.1	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW		<del>                                     </del>	<del>                                     </del>		-	<del>                                     </del>
	2	All	Fungi survey	Survey & record Fauna and Flora	1	5.1	0	MW/D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
	2	All	Miscellaneous species	Collate records		5.1	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	All	Dragonfly survey	Monitor weekly throughout season	1	5.1	0	MW	l	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	1			<del>                                     </del>	<del>                                     </del>
	2	All	Annual report	Collate information & produce report		5.1	0	MW	MW	PH			1							t
	1	Heathland areas	Heathland Management	Implement Higher Level Stewardship		4.5	0	MW	MW	MW	MW									
Supplies and Sevices		-	Į.	(HLS) agreement	Į		1	-1		Į	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	<b>.</b>
Equipment and Tools	l 1	All	Site management works	Durchaeina	INA	All	400	MW	MW	MW	MW	MM	MW	MW	MAN	MW	MANA	MW.	MW	84147
Equipment and Tools	1	All	Site management works	Purchasing	NA NA	All	400	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW MW	MW	MW
Equipment and Tools		All	Site management works	Repairs and maintenance	NA NA	All	100	MW												
Protective clothing	1	All	Service	Health and Safety	INA	All	100	IVIVV	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW

25,915 Available funds 25,915 Balance 0

KEY; MHC Mousehold Heath Conservators

EY; MHC Mousehold Health Conservators
D Mousehold Defenders
C Contractor
ARB Arboriculture section
CO Committee Officer
GG Green Gym
TCV The Conservation Volunteers
NGP Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership
A&CM Asset & City Management
MW Mousehold Wardens