

Report to	Mousehold Heath Conservators 17 November 2017	Item
Report of	Head of citywide services	6
Subject	Mousehold Heath 2018-2028 management plan review progress update and timescale amendment	

Purpose

To update the Mousehold Conservators on progress with the management plan and to seek agreement for amendments to the management plan review timescale.

Recommendation

- 1) To note the progress to date
- 2) To approve the plan format
- 3) To approve the revised timescale and key stages for the review of the management plan.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority a safe, clean and low carbon city

Financial implications

Any financial implications arising from this report will have or will be met from approved budgetary provision

Ward/s: Mutiple Wards

Contact officers

Simon Meek – Parks and open spaces manager	01603 212403
Adrian Akester – Head of Citywide services	01603 212331

Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. On 17 March 2017 a report was brought to the Mousehold Conservators outlining the key timescale and key stages for the production of the Mousehold Heath Management Plan 2018 – 2028.
2. On 16 June 2017 a report was presented to the Mousehold Conservators and the vision and objectives for the management plan were approved.
3. Due unforeseen circumstances the Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting on 15 September was cancelled and rescheduled for 17 November 2017. These circumstances led to a delay in achieving the outcomes identified for Stage 2 of the project plan. As a result there is a need to amend the previously agreed timescales.
4. The aim of the document and its appendices is to provide a detailed document to facilitate efficient site management and continuity of management over the next ten years. A more concise and public friendly summary of key points that the general public will be interested in will be produced.
5. The draft document provided is a word document and does not reflect the finished document, which will be designed by the communications team and contain photographs and plans.

Progress to date

6. The factual information which forms part one of the management plan has been put into a revised format, to assist with a successful Green Flag application in 2018, as agreed at the Mousehold Conservators meeting on 17 March 2017. (Appendix 1)
7. A number of new map templates of the heath have been produced which will be used for not only for general maps within the plan but they also enable specific detail to relating to relevant project specifications to be mapped.
8. This will not only provide greater clarity in relation to specific projects but, also enable the public to access visual information about what management is happening where on the heath via the council's GIS portal at some point in the future.
9. Work has started on part two of the plan, drafting management prescriptions and identifying projects which will deliver the management objectives, an example of one objective has been provided to illustrate the format each objective will take. This objective and the text describing will develop further as the development of management prescriptions and project specifications for the other seven objectives progresses. (Appendix 2)
10. The management prescriptions will be delivered by specific projects, which reflect the day to day work on and relating to the heath, approved by the Conservators. The project specifications will be contained in a site handbook

which will be an appendix to the management plan. An example of a project specification template form is provided. (Appendix 3)

11. Where relevant project specifications will be developed with the management sub-group and brought to the Conservators for approval.

Revised timescale

12. As a result of the September meeting being rescheduled and due to a lack of resource to develop the plan the approved timescale and key stages are unachievable; a revised timescale has been produced for approval. (Appendix4).
13. The revised timescale will mean that the new management plan will not be adopted until June 2018 and so it will not be in place when the annual work programme is approved in January 2018.
14. The annual work plan can be produced based on the old format and revised accordingly and approved alongside the new plan at the June 2018 meeting.
15. There will not be an adopted plan in place at the time the Green Flag application needs to be submitted. This will not be an issue as with previous applications either the old plan is submitted with a note that it is being revised and when it will be available, or the unadopted draft is supplied with the adopted plan being provided once it has been approved. Advice will be sought from the awarding body on the best way to proceed.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

The IIA should assess the impact of the recommendation being made by the report

Detailed guidance to help with the completion of the assessment can be found [here](#). Delete this row after completion

Report author to complete

Committee:	Mousehold Conservators
Committee date:	17 November 2017
Director / Head of service	Adrian Akester
Report subject:	Mousehold Heath 2018-2028 management plan review progress update and timescale amendment
Date assessed:	7 November 2017
Description:	

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The management plan will maintain the heath for active recreation and also provide volunteer opportunities.

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments

	Impact			
Risk management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improved risk management through new/revised projects relating to tree safety, vehicle access, site audits etc
Recommendations from impact assessment				
Positive				
Negative				
Neutral				
Issues				

**MOUSEHOLD HEATH
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

2018 – 2028

Mousehold Heath Conservators

**Foreword from Councillor Marion Maxwell, Chair of Mousehold Heath
Conservators**

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1.BACKGROUND

Norwich City Council

Norwich City Council is one of four councils that provide services to the city of Norwich, along with Broadland District Council, South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council. The city council is responsible for approximately 60 per cent of the urban area of Norwich, including the historic city centre, covering a population of approximately 135,900 people (Source: 2013 midyear estimates, Office of National Statistics ONS).

Norwich is an innovative, creative city with big ambition for both the place and the people who live here. The fastest growing economy in the east of England, it is home to the headquarters of 50 major companies, is one of the top shopping destinations in the country, and is the regional cultural capital. Yet, in sharp contrast to this, outward economic prosperity, Norwich has a low-wage economy and high levels of deprivation.

Norwich's position as a regional centre means there are high levels of inward travel for work, shopping, cultural and leisure activities. This means that many of the services the city council provides are used by people who live outside of the city, placing additional pressures on council resourcing. However, this must be balanced against the range of benefits this high inward travel provides, including to the local economy and to the council financially through its share of business rates etc.

The freehold of Mousehold Heath is held by Norwich City Council and the management of the heath is vested in the Mousehold Heath Conservators.

Mousehold Heath Conservators

Mousehold heath was given to Norwich City Council (then known as the local corporation) in 1880 by the church to look after on behalf of the citizens of Norwich. The City of Norwich Mousehold Heath, Scheme Confirmation Act was passed by Parliament in 1884. The Mousehold Heath Conservators were constituted following the passing of the act to maintain and preserve Mousehold Heath.

The City of Norwich Act 1984 made further provision for the regulation and maintenance of Mousehold Heath by the Mousehold Heath Conservators.

There are 12 Conservators appointed as follows; 9 appointed by the Council (7 members), one from the Mousehold Heath Defenders, one from the Norwich Society and one appointed by an organisation interested in the conservation of the environment in the city.

The Mousehold Heath Conservators meet four times a year and cover the costs of managing the heath through a precept to the Council.

Management planning

Managing change in the natural environment, preventing the loss of habitats or creating and improving them takes place over many years. The management plan set out the long term objectives for a site, which is important where changes in the management committee can take place annually, to ensure continuity of management. The plan will enable the Conservators to manage the site effectively; to identify the management required to meet their objectives; to provide a framework for decision making and setting policy; to identify budget requirements, to support grant funding applications and to develop work programmes. A management plan is produced taking into consideration the environmental, cultural and historical attributes of the site along with the visitors it serves, which collectively identify the importance of Mousehold Heath as an open space within a city.

It has been ten years since the introduction of the first Mousehold Heath management plan covering the period 2008-2013 which was revised in 2013 to cover the period 2013 – 2018.

This current document is not a complete re-write of the original management plan agreed through public consultation, as the majority of information within it is still applicable. It has been updated and developed to build on the successes achieved over the last 10 years.

During the timescale covered by a management plan changes in legislation, best practice, financial climate and technology can change, as can trends in the way people wish to use a site. A management plan is a dynamic document which through the annual work plan will enable management to be flexible, adapting to changes in constraints and opportunities, whilst still working towards the vision and objectives which have been defined for the next 10 years.

2.INTRODUCTION

Mousehold Heath is a unique open space made up of grassland, woodland, heathland and recreational open space within the city. In Tudor times Mousehold Heath stretched as far as North Walsham and had a boundary of 35km and up until the 1900's it was predominantly open heathland. Mousehold Heath is now 88 hectares (184 acre) in area, of which a relatively small proportion is now heathland and not woodland.

The site has played an important part in Norwich's history and is a diverse part of the city's cultural and natural heritage, shaped by its geology, history and previous and current use.

The Mousehold Heath you see today has been influenced by the way the heath was used in the past; being used for grazing domestic such as cattle, sheep and pigs livestock; gathering fuel and making products; gravel extraction and quarrying; brick making.

The site has a mosaic of habitats including mature woodland, specimen trees, acid grassland, heathland, scrub and aquatic environments which provide a range of conditions suitable for a variety of plant and animal species, including some which are nationally in decline. It is a Local Nature Reserve and County Wildlife site.

The Mousehold Conservators use traditional management techniques such as coppicing and pollarding when managing trees, to look after the site alongside more modern techniques such as humus stripping when trying to increase the extent of heather cover on the heath. The management work is carried out by the Mousehold wardens, volunteers and contractors.

Mousehold Heath has important historical links with the city. The body of William of Norwich was found on the heath. It was suspected he was the victim of a ritual murder and supposedly attained the status of saint and martyr. The heath has been used as a campsite during rebellion and as a military training ground on more than one occasion in its history and was the site of 2 military aircraft crashes during more recent conflict.

Although important for its wildlife and history, it is much more than a museum or a nature reserve. It is a space that is highly valued as a place in which people can enjoy a feeling of being in the countryside whilst being in the city; as a place where people can walk, play sport, learn about nature and history, attend an event, or just unwind from the pace of city life.

MAP – Location map

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

Mousehold Heath lies in the northeast quarter of the city of Norwich, Norfolk, just inside the city ring road. Central grid reference is TG245104.

Ownership

Mousehold Heath was given to Norwich City Council (then known as the local corporation) in 1880 by the church, to look after on behalf of the citizens of Norwich. Norwich City Council still own the freehold of Mousehold Heath.

In 1884 Parliament passed the City of Norwich Mousehold Heath, Scheme Confirmation Act and, the Mousehold Heath Conservators were constituted following the passing of the act to maintain and preserve Mousehold Heath.

The City of Norwich Act 1984 made further provision for the regulation and maintenance of Mousehold Heath by the Mousehold Heath Conservators.

Site status

Mousehold Heath is designated as a Local Nature Reserve and also a County Wildlife Site (Reference number 1469).

The site and remains of St William in the Wood Chapel is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Recorded as Site of Saint William's Chapel list entry Number: 1003172.

The Norwich Local Plan 2014 defines Mousehold as an open space and critical drainage area to which Development management policies DM3, DM5, DM6 and DM8 apply.

Staff

The site has two full time wardens who work a rota system to cover weekends and weekdays. They are multifunctional and not only patrol the heath but also carry out management work, surveys, practical task, liaise with users of the heath and assist with developing policies and projects and supervise project delivery.

The work of the Conservators is also supported by a number of officers at Norwich City Council.

Budget

The Mousehold Heath revenue budget for 2017/1 was £221,293 with £100,766 capital held in reserves.

Legal constraints

The freehold of Mousehold Heath is held by Norwich City Council.

Mousehold Heath Conservators are responsible for the management of the heath as set out in the City of Norwich Act 1984.

The site is covered by Mousehold Heath byelaws pursuant to Section 21 of the Norwich City Council Act 1984.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981): provides protection for a wide range of species, some of which occur at Mousehold Heath.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), states that:

‘Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity’

The NERC Act applies to Norwich City Council and the Mousehold Conservators

Leases and licences

Zaks restaurant has a lease for the Pavilion building, there is a lease for the Ranger's to be used as a residential property and an annual licence in place for an ice cream van on Gurney Road.

Utility services

One utility company, National Grid Gas has statutory rights of access onto the site to repair and maintain their structures and apparatus.

A VALUED OPEN SPACE

Visitor appeal

Mousehold Heath is used throughout the year by local residents and also people travelling from further afield. People are attracted to the site because of the sense of being in the countryside whilst in a city, its wildlife, its history and also the events and activities which take place on the site.

Visitor access

The site is easily accessed by visitors, the majority of whom come from the city. The site boundary is unfenced and can be accessed via formal paths or at any point where the vegetation and topography make it possible.

There are cycle paths the site at strategic points linking to adjacent city pedalways.

Although a few visitors to Mousehold now arrive by bus, a route (currently operated by Firstbus services 21/22) runs along Sprowston Road, which is a short walk from the Gilman Road entrance to Mousehold Heath.

Visitor facilities (MAP – Main facility provision locations)

- A bandstand with seasonal concerts.
- Cycle parking
- Football pitch and changing rooms
- Easy access paths at Hill Farm rack, Britannia Road CP to Mottram Memorial viewpoint loop, Valley Drive to Gu
- Seating and benches
- Eight car parking areas.
- Public toilet facilities at Mousehold are adjacent to the pavilion (Zak's Restaurant) these are very basic, and currently offer a poor level of provision for visitors, it is recommended to remove or replace these existing toilet facilities or refurbish to a higher standard, including access for disabled users.
- Football pitch
- The Fountain Ground has toilet and changing room facilities, although these are for the use of organised sports teams only.
- Nature trail and orienteering routes.
- Earth heritage trail
- The main refreshment facility for Mousehold is Zak's restaurant including an ice-cream van concession adjacent to the Fountain Ground sports pitch, Gurney Road.
- Britannia Café is also available adjacent to the Heath, accessible from Britannia Road car park.
- Combined litter/dog waste bins are provided on Mousehold Heath and there are a number of benches in various locations.
- Interpretation panels,

Community involvement

A community approach encourages local people to be involved with the management of the site. The community are involved in a variety of different ways on an individual basis acting as 'eyes and ears' and reporting problems, or collecting litter; through to being involved with practical management tasks carried out by a number of groups in conjunction with the Mousehold Wardens. Volunteers also undertake survey work and lead guided walks.

Representatives from two local groups, the Norwich Society and the Mousehold Heath Defenders appoint a representative each to the Mousehold Heath Conservators.

Regular conservation tasks involve local groups including; The Conservation Volunteers (T.C.V.) Assist Trust, Mousehold Heath Defenders, Heartsease Open

Academy, Norwich High School for Girls, City College, Easton Agricultural College, DofE students and regular Corporate team activities

The site also has its own volunteer group involving a number of people from the local community.

The Wardens, responded positively to requests from local schools to visit the site and use it for educational purposes and also assist college placements with providing practical work experience.

The use of the heath as a Forest School is supported and used by children from Mousehold Avenue infant School, George White Junior School and Parkside Infant School. The Wardens also go into local schools to talk with children about Mousehold Heath.

An annual programme of guided walks is delivered and seasonal wildlife surveys involving local community groups, students and local users of the Heath are undertaken.

A number of biodiversity workshops have taken place which give an introduction to local wildlife, along with Heritage open weekends and geological walks led by local experts and the Mousehold Heath Wardens.

Present use

The public use Mousehold mainly for dog walking and other informal recreation such as running or jogging, casual ball games and picnics. There are a large number of paths running throughout the heath, many of which are not part of the formal path network; and these tend to come and go over time. Unofficial camping occasionally takes place, and in the wooded areas children and young adults sometimes construct 'dens' and rope swings.

There is a designated cycle way, although unauthorised cycling occurs over parts of the site, and this has caused some localised erosion. "Do it yourself" mountain bike courses are often constructed; these are sometimes a hazard for other site users. A potentially more serious problem is the occasional, unauthorised, use of the site for off road motorcycling.

Organised sporting activities, mainly football, take place at the Fountain Ground, and there is also a popular pitch and putt course adjacent to the south-eastern corner of Mousehold which also incorporates a foot golf course. Organised cross-country runs occasionally take place on the site.

The bandstand is still used for occasional concerts, although on a less frequent basis than in the past. Public fetes and similar events have also been organised by the City Council, Mousehold Conservators and Mousehold Defenders.

A constraint on the recreational use of Mousehold is the very busy Gurney Road, which effectively cuts the site in two. Crossing this road can be extremely hazardous for pedestrians, and there is further environmental impact from noise and traffic

fumes. Traffic calming measures have been introduced involving the narrowing of the road from near the Rangers House to Valley Drive and speed humps being put in place.

Misuse and anti-social behaviour

As with any open space adjacent to (or, in Mousehold's case, surrounded by) a large urban area, problems of misuse and anti-social behaviour do occur and include:

- Deliberate vandalism, including graffiti, to buildings, seats, gates, signage etc
- Unauthorised access by motor vehicles, including stolen ones that are often abandoned and set alight
- Fly-tipping of rubbish, including green waste
- General littering
- Dog fouling
- Illegal drug taking
- Arson (mainly setting fire to vegetation)

The misuse and anti-social behaviour taking place at Mousehold Heath is common to other areas of Norwich, and measures are undertaken to tackle these issues across the city and are dealt with by the Wardens in conjunction with the council, using Norwich City Council policies and processes.

From an ecological viewpoint, the most serious form of misuse is arson. Although controlled burning is used as a management tool on some extensive heathlands, it is carried out so as to minimise damage to wildlife. At Mousehold, the area of heathland remaining is very small, and there is little space available to which heathland wildlife can retreat in the event of a fire, and from where it can re-colonise the burnt areas afterwards. A further undesirable effect of heathland fires is that they can encourage the spread of birch (*Rackham, 1986*), and probably also bracken, if these species are present as they are at Mousehold.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Climate

Temperature (Met Office monthly average 1981 – 2010)

Maximum: 21.4°C (August)
Minimum: 1.3°C (February)

Temperature (Met Office annual average 1981 – 2010)

Maximum 13.8 °C
Minimum 6.4 °C

Rainfall (Met Office monthly average 1981 – 2010)

Maximum: 68.2mm (October and November)
Minimum: 41.7mm (February)

Rainfall (Met Office annual average 1981 – 2010)
Annual average 674.2mm

Hydrology

There are currently no visible springs or watercourses on the heath. There is one shallow rain fed pool, known as the Vinegar Pond, which following being relined with bentonite clay granules in 2012 holds water throughout the year. The pond is located in a slight hollow, but there has been some debate as to its precise age and origins, or whether the pond is artificially lined. A survey in May 2007 and 2011, indicates that the current pond probably originated in the 20th century as a result of ground compaction from quarrying and military activities.

In 2012 a community wildlife pond was constructed using a bentonite clay liner at the Gilman Road end of Valley Drive adjacent to Silver Birch walk. This permanent feature now offers an important habitat for birds, dragonflies and frogs with an abundance of frogspawn in spring.

It is known that there were other ponds in the past; for example, a small pond formerly existed in the small valley between compartments B and C, but now there is no evidence of this.

Topography

Mousehold Heath is on the western edge of a plateau typically more than 40m above sea level. The site has a varied relief, due to a combination of natural processes and past human activities, especially quarrying, which today give the site much of its interest. The distinctive steeply sided, but flat-bottomed valleys at Mousehold were probably formed during cold stages of the Ice Age, when permafrost would have prevented water from soaking into the gravels and sands as it does today. The valleys would originally have drained into the River Wensum, and they would have cut deeper as the river itself gradually eroded deeper.

Geology

The basic geology of Mousehold Heath consists of 25m of gravels, sands and glacial till on top of a chalk bedrock.

The coarse flint gravel (about 3m thick) which forms the Heath's surface, and the underlying sandy gravel and sand (about 5m thick), were deposited by ice sheet meltwater rivers up to 400,000 years ago. Below is several metres of sandy, clayey till with stones (known as 'brickearth'), that was left by an ice sheet. Between the till and the chalk is a thick sequence of sands, known as the Norwich Crag; these are mostly marine and sometimes include shells, and are up to a million years old. The chalk itself is very much older, originating about 70 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The chalk was laid down in a warm, crystal clear sea and is exposed at the southern end of Mousehold Heath in St. James' Pit.

Soils

The soils are mainly sandy, which are acidic and nutrient poor on the higher ground; where trees or bracken have gradually replaced the heathland vegetation, a more fertile surface humus layer has developed. Deeper, humus rich soils with a higher nutrient status occur in the wooded valleys.

CULTURAL HERITAGE (MAP – Main feature locations)

Past land use

Mousehold Heath is a historic landscape with many features testifying to its past socio-economic importance to the City of Norwich. There are several medieval references which refer to the gradual reduction in size of the ancient and very extensive Thorpe Wood and its replacement by Mousehold Heath, mainly as a result of grazing pressure. These are described by O. Rackham (1986) in *The History of the Countryside*.

Heathland was formerly regarded as a useful resource, providing grazing and a wide range of products made from heather, gorse and broom; it was also an important source of fuel, especially in areas with little woodland. Bracken was also regarded as a valuable material with many different uses. It is known from historical documents that Mousehold was managed for these purposes since at least the 14th Century, when commoners had rights to keep cattle, sheep and pigs on the site.

Rabbits were also introduced and were actively managed for food, and their grazing activities helped delay the succession of the heathland to woodland until the 1950's, when they were decimated by myxomatosis.

Generally, these processes would have had a very positive effect on the heathland habitat, in that they produced a mosaic of vegetation of different ages (thereby encouraging a wider range of wildlife dependent on it), and prevented reversion to woodland. Traditional management practices, such as grazing and cutting, may also have helped prevent bracken from out-competing heather. Active management also limited the build up of large quantities of combustible material, thereby reducing the risk of catastrophic fires.

Mousehold was also quarried extensively from at least the 16th Century until well into the 20th, a factor that has been responsible for the varied relief of the site with its characteristic 'hills and hollows'. The quarrying, especially the larger scale activity of the late 19th-early 20th centuries, may well have had some adverse effects on the site's vegetation and associated wildlife, although many heathland species, especially invertebrates, favour bare ground and these may have benefited. It is very unlikely, however, that all the heathland vegetation could have been destroyed during the quarrying, and plants and animals would probably have been able to re-colonise the former quarried areas, once operations had ceased, from adjacent pockets of heathland that survived.

The heath was used for military training from 1790, when a cavalry barracks was built in Barrack Street; there is still a path known as the Cavalry Track at Mousehold, although this is currently (2007) very overgrown. During World War Two, limited military training occurred at Mousehold, but an attempt by the War Office to take

over most of the area for a battle training ground in 1947 was defeated by strong local protests.

Mousehold Heath may always have been used for public recreation to some extent, but it was not until the late 19th Century, and the passing of the 1884 act that created the Mousehold Conservators, that this became the dominant use for the site. From this time onwards, Mousehold became extremely important as a site for open-air recreation by the people of Norwich. Early photographs (*e.g. Gorham, 1908*) show large numbers of people enjoying the heath on both informal occasions and at organised events. Although there are now fewer organised events, public recreation has remained the major use of the site up to the present day, and it is likely to continue to do so.

Cultural references

There are several well-known cultural references to Mousehold Heath. Two of Britain's most celebrated landscape painters, John Crome (1768-1821), and John Sell Cotman (1782-1842), of the Norwich School of Artists painted scenes of Mousehold Heath; both works show a very open and typical heathland landscape. Another Norwich School artist, Henry Ladbroke (1800-1870), painted a large work depicting sheep grazing on Mousehold Heath; this is now displayed in City Hall.

Local writers were also inspired by Mousehold Heath; George Borrow (1803-1881) mentions his true life meetings with gypsies on Mousehold in his work *Lavengro*, and the writer and World War One poet Ralph Hale Mottram (1883-1971) also knew the site well and campaigned for its conservation. The Mottram Memorial on St. James' Hill commemorates his association with the area.

Archaeological and historical significance

Within the overall landscape are several individual features of archaeological and historical interest, the most important of which is the site of St. William in the Wood Chapel site, a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

In 1144 the body of a boy, William of Norwich, a tanner's apprentice from Norwich was found on Mousehold Heath. It was thought that he had been the victim of a ritual murder. A chapel founded at the location where his body was found and dedicated to St Catherine de Monte and following the supposed martyrdom of William it was rededicated in 1168 to St William and became known as St William in the Wood's chapel. (Norfolk Heritage Explorer record 406) It is thought that the chapel was located in a wooded grove, complete with woodbanks, long after most of the other woodland on Mousehold had turned into heathland (Rackham, 1986). The chapel and the grove were destroyed during the Reformation in the 16th Century, the date is not known but the last offering was recorded in 1506 and by 1556 the site was being leased out.

Now only earthworks remain. The earthworks consist of bank and ditch enclosures with mounds and dips of flint rubble which is potentially the remains of buildings which have been on the site.

Various archaeological finds have been made at Mousehold Heath, including three prehistoric hand axes as well as other flint artefacts

The Vinegar Pond, as well as being a significant wildlife habitat, is also a historic feature in its own right, although it probably dates only from the 20th century. Other features include rifle butts, which survive south of Valley Drive, and the old tram track, which runs from Mousehold Lane through part of the site to Gurney Road. This appears to have been used primarily for goods traffic, especially in connection with the building of an airfield to the north of Mousehold during World War One, and it was abandoned in 1921. It is now a distinctive woodland path with high banks on either side.

Mousehold Heath has played a role in several nationally important historical events.

During the Peasant's Revolt of 1381, a rebel group camped on the Heath whilst undertaking offensive operations against government forces in Norwich, taking with them several high ranking prisoners they had captured earlier. One of these, Sir Robert de Salle, a prominent knight who was in charge of the Norwich defences, was killed by the rebels when he tried to escape.

Mousehold Heath played an important role in Kett's Rebellion of 1549. The rebel force, led by Robert Kett, camped on the heath whilst besieging Norwich, and the final battle of Dussindale, at which the rebels were finally defeated by a large government army, is believed by some authorities to have taken place on or near Mousehold rather than on the site of the modern Dussindale housing development.

During the Second World War, two military aircraft crashes occurred at Mousehold Heath. On 12th February 1942, a Hampden bomber came down in the Long Valley, and on 25th July of that year a Beaufort torpedo bomber crashed on the Fountain Ground. A memorial plaque to those who died in these accidents was unveiled on 22nd April 1990.

NATURE

Habitats

Until the early 20th Century, Mousehold Heath was predominantly an open heath landscape, probably dominated by dry *Calluna vulgaris* heath and grassy heath. Today, it is largely covered in secondary woodland and scrub, consisting mainly of oak (*Quercus robur*) and birch (*Betula pubescens* and *B. pendula*), with rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), which readily invade heathland communities suffering a decline in their management. Since the Second World War, and particularly since 1975, there has been a rapid rate of decline of the open heath communities, a fact that is clearly apparent from aerial photographs taken at various dates.

Mousehold Heath can be divided into a number of different compartments (MAP – **Compartment map**). In the scheme below, the main remaining areas of heathland vegetation are located in Compartments A – D. Compartments E – I consist primarily of non heathland vegetation including woodland and grassland.

Compartment A contains large areas of dense gorse, rabbit-grazed acid grassland and mixed scrub consisting mainly of birch. Heather has largely disappeared from this area. Bracken is mainly confined to the mixed scrub area around the northern part of the compartment. This compartment also contains the Vinegar Pond.

Compartment B formerly contained many scattered young and semi-mature birch and oak trees, and extensive gorse scrub. Bracken and heather dominated areas have been managed for several years, but control of bracken has had limited success. Other parts of this area are dominated by grasses, with encroaching gorse and bramble. There is a stand of even-aged birch in the southern part of the compartment.

Compartment C is fairly uniform in character, surrounded by woodland and scattered encroaching scrub. Similar to B, the areas of heather are relatively well established, though in places being out-competed by bracken.

Compartment D includes the original heathland reclamation 'Pilot Project' area. Some of the heather in this area is long and mature, and in places forms a dense mosaic along with gorse. In some areas, particularly towards the boundary with the pitch and putt course, mature gorse and broom are dominant. There is considerable birch encroachment over most of the compartment. In areas where topsoil stripping has taken place, there is good heather regeneration.

Compartment E consists mainly of woodland; this area also contains Zak's restaurant. The woodland is mainly birch-oak, a recognised woodland type that invades neglected heathland sites (*Rackham, 1986*), although other species, including rowan and sycamore, are also present. Small remnants of heathland vegetation (mainly gorse and broom), occur within the woodland, and to the north east of Zak's car park, adjacent to Gurney Road, is a small area of acid grassland with anthills. This area is suffering rapid encroachment by both self-sown and planted trees.

Compartment F consists mainly of woodland similar in character to Compartment E, and it also contains the remains of St. William's Chapel. This too was formerly a fairly open area that has been invaded by scrub, resulting in the chapel remains being heavily obscured. The Wingfield Sports Ground and the pitch and putt car park are also included in this compartment.

Compartment G contains the Fountain Ground sports field, which is maintained as amenity grassland and is surrounded by semi-mature trees. The bandstand is also situated in this area.

Compartment H also contains the Gilman Road Open Space and the Desert Conservation Area, which is managed as a wildflower meadow. Both areas are surrounded by semi-mature trees and woodland, with small areas of gorse and broom, especially along Gilman Road.

Compartment I consists of the narrow southern extension of Mousehold Heath, between Mousehold Avenue and Gurney Road and Britannia and Gurney Roads. The northernmost parts of this area consist mainly of woodland and scrub with remnant heathland vegetation, much of it becoming moribund due to the dense shade. The former Ranger's House is also located here. The southern tip of this compartment is formed by St James' Hill, a wide expanse of grassland fringed by scrub.

Heathland (MAP – Heathland location)

Of the total area of 88 hectares, approximately 10 hectares of Mousehold Heath is covered by heathland.

Attempts to reverse the rapid loss of Mousehold's open heathland areas to woodland were undertaken at least as early as 1972-74, when selected areas were cleared of scrub; some of this work involved follow up treatment with herbicides. Asulox was also used to control bracken at this time. Initial results appear to have been encouraging, although the momentum was not maintained.

In 1991, a pilot area (parts of which had been cleared during the 1970's conservation work) was cleared of encroaching vegetation to allow for the regeneration of heather and other heathland flora. Two further areas were cleared in 1994, and these now form one of the core areas of surviving heathland at Mousehold.

Further heathland management work has since been undertaken at Mousehold, including topsoil stripping in Compartment D in 2003 (which has resulted in good heather regeneration), further tree and scrub removal and gorse cutting in Compartments A, B and C in 2005-7, and more topsoil stripping in Compartments A and B (following extensive fires) in 2006-7.

In 2012, Norwich City Council secured grant funding from Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS), to restore and conserve areas of heathland and acid grassland over a 10 year period. Working towards the targets and objectives for Norfolk, which contribute to the achievement of regional and national targets.

Presently areas of heathland on the site are in poor condition due to high nutrient levels leading to invasion by bracken.

An annual management grant totalling £30,600 was awarded to restore heathland and acid grassland areas up until the year 2022.

Norwich City Council is also a key member of the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, which co-ordinates biodiversity activity throughout the County. The Partnership has set local targets for key habitats and species in Norfolk, of which Lowland Heathland is one.

All members of the Partnership have signed up to these targets, including Norwich City Council, and all Partners who own or manage heathland are actively working to retain their existing heathland.

The importance of the remaining heathland at Mousehold was also highlighted in the Green Infrastructure Strategy document for Greater Norwich (2007), which advocates that Mousehold Heath could form the key historic component in a major heathland habitat restoration scheme to the northeast of Norwich.

Acid grassland (MAP – Acid grassland location)

Grass species favouring acid soil conditions are an integral component of heathland vegetation communities, although they sometimes replace heather and other heathland plants due to nutrient enrichment. Some areas dominated by grasses occur within the main heathland areas themselves, but more extensive grassland areas are also present; the main ones are 'The Desert', a former sports field that has been developed as a wildflower area, St James' Hill and an area bordering Gurney Road, to the east of Zak's Restaurant ('The Anthills').

Rabbits still occur in parts of Mousehold, and their grazing and burrowing activities help maintain open grassland (and heathland) areas, as well as creating patches of bare ground that are important for many invertebrate species and as basking places for lizards. Rabbits are, however, either absent from, or have a negligible impact on some grassland areas at Mousehold; otherwise, the three main grassland areas identified above are maintained by mowing.

The Desert (Map??)

This area is managed by an annual cut in late summer-early autumn, with the arisings being removed to prevent a build up of nutrients (most wildflowers typical of semi-natural grasslands prefer nutrient-poor soil).

This management regime has vastly improved the diversity of wild flower species associated with acidic grassland, proven by regular plant surveys being carried out by local volunteers along with the wardens, indicating its success with 39 differing species recorded in 2016 by the Mousehold Heath Defenders. At the same time, the amount of problem species, such as ragwort and dock, appear to be decreasing.

The Anthills (Map???)

This grassland area was, until 2006, unmanaged apart from very limited rabbit activity, and self-sown and planted trees and scrub are rapidly encroaching upon it. The area contains numerous large anthills produced by the Yellow Meadow ant (*Lasius flavus*); the size of these nests indicates that this area has been open grassland for a considerable time. This grassland area is sunny and sheltered, and it is likely to be important for insects; furthermore, anthills have their own specialised ecology. This habitat has improved to the extent that it is included in the sites HLS Agreement

St James Hill (Map??)

From photographic evidence, and the presence of residual heathland plants such as gorse and broom, this area was formerly heathland but the majority of it is now acid grassland. Developing woodland and scrub occur at the margins of the site controlled from encroaching by removal and treating with herbicide, there are a few individual trees, mainly self-sown sycamores, within the grassland area.

There is a formal disabled pathway leading to the City viewpoint. At the Mottram Memorial, this pathway is managed by a standard grass cut controlling encroaching vegetation.

Targeted areas of grassland are cut annually and arisings removed from site ensuring acidic soil conditions ideal for wild flower, grass and sedge species, of which 79 species were identified by surveys carried out by the Mousehold Heath Defenders in 2016.

Recent removal of trees has improved the view of the City skyline from the Mottram Memorial with all stumps treated with the application of Roundup to prevent re growth.

Vegetation management will continue to prevent the encroachment of trees and vegetation that would impact on the view.

Wild Flower Glade

In 2013-14 works were carried out to improve the glade adjacent to the wildlife pond by removing vegetation and seeding with a wild flower mix to improve biodiversity of the site.

This area is now closely monitored with regular surveys carried out by local volunteer groups, in 2016 a plant survey was carried out by the Mousehold Heath Defenders recording 40 differing plant species (ref annual report).

This area is currently managed by an annual cut, using brushcutters, in the autumn, with the arisings being raked and removed to prevent a build up of nutrients.

Woodland

Most of the former extent of Mousehold Heath now consists predominantly oak, birch, beech, sycamore, rowan with some poplar, cherry and Scotts pine with some marginal species like hawthorn, crab apple and black thorn. There are a small number of ornamental specimen trees that have been planted like lime, Giant redwood, turners oak, tree of heaven, black pine, plane and chestnut. The tree of Heaven poses a risk of being invasive and we have been undertaking proactive work to remove this species altogether from the heath.

It is proposed that most of the woodland areas will be retained during the next ten years although some additional areas may be cleared to reinstate heathland if additional resources became available in the future **(Map???)**

The following are considered when making a decision about the removal of any woodland

- (i) Has there been a long period of continuity of cover? As these areas are likely to have a higher ecological value than more recently established woodland, as well as being more appealing to visitors.
- (ii) Would the removal of the woodland have a detrimental impact on notable features, such as avenues (e.g. Beech Drive); notable specimen trees.
- (iii) Is it practical or cost effective to remove woodland to attempt to restore heathland and also maintain it in a favourable condition.
- (iv) Is there sufficient evidence present to suggest that clearance of the woodland to regenerate heathland will be successful.

The mature woodland at Mousehold Heath would benefit from more active management, to diversify the age, structure and improve understorey and ground flora.

Work has been done to create rides and glades to encourage species that need more light and facilitate their movement around the site.

Large areas of the woodland are managed on a minimum intervention basis. Tree management outside of the areas identified for clearance as part of a habitat restoration project is restricted to keeping access routes open, for fire safety reasons, to maintain formal 'views' and for safety reasons.

Traditional management techniques such as coppicing and pollarding are used in some areas and adjacent to paths, rides and fire breaks to improve the diversity and structure of the woodland.

Dead and dying trees are retained where possible to provide standing deadwood habitat where the risk to visitors is low and the timber from dead and decaying trees is left on site at the location, to minimise the impact on the organisms which are resident in the timber and to create new fallen deadwood habitat for invertebrates and fungi.

Natural regeneration processes rather than planting are used to maintain the areas identified as being retained as woodland. There is scope for some minimal ornamental tree planting in the more formal amenity areas with a view to replacing

some of the aging specimen trees. These are around the band stand, the restaurant Zaks, the picnic seating area at Britannia Barracks and around the sports pitches.

Tree safety management

Tree safety management is done on a risk assessment basis. The main highways through the route are inspected on annual basis by Norwich City Council arboricultural officers and in accordance with the council's tree safety policy.

The Mousehold wardens carry out 6 monthly basic tree safety inspections of all the pedestrian routes across the site, car parks and the vicinity of buildings. If their findings require a more detailed assessment from a professionally qualified arborist they are supported by the council's arboricultural team.

Works are carried out by the Mousehold wardens if possible or by Norwich Norse Environmental on the instruction of the council's arboricultural officer following discussion with the Mousehold wardens for more specialist works.

Flora (Species list in appendix)

Areas of heather can still be found on the heath. *Calluna vulgaris* is the main type of heather found, but *Erica cinerea* also occurs, though it is much scarcer. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) encroaches on these open heath areas as well as being common in the woodland. Other typical plants of heathland communities that occur at Mousehold include sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), broom (*Sarothamnus scoparius*) and common gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). Mousehold is also locally important for two species of dwarf gorse, *U. gallii* and *U. minor*, which occur in only two and one other location respectively in Norfolk.

In some areas, notably Compartment A, heathland grades into acid grassland, and small pockets of acid grassland survive elsewhere at Mousehold. In Compartment E, near Zak's Restaurant, large anthills, an indicator of relatively undisturbed grassland and with their own associated wildlife, occur. 'The Desert' is an area of formerly close-mown amenity grassland in Compartment H that is now managed as a wildflower meadow. A much larger expanse of grassland, although fairly species poor, is found on St. James' Hill.

The wooded areas consist primarily of birch-oak woodland, which is typical of recent secondary woodland on heathland sites. A number of other tree species, including some planted exotics such as horse chestnut, a Turner's oak (which forms the centrepiece of the Pavilion car park), and a giant redwood are also present. The flora of the wooded areas, apart from relict stands of heathland vegetation, is generally species poor; in some areas it consists mainly of bramble (in the late 19th century, the botanist E.F. Linton conducted a celebrated study of brambles on the heath), often growing with honeysuckle and bracken. In some areas where the canopy is particularly dense, ground flora is almost entirely absent. There is also a low diversity of epiphytic vegetation (plants that use trees as a means of support), with only two species of fern, other than bracken, recorded. There are also a few species of common mosses and lichens on some trees, and ivy is locally abundant.

Fauna (Species list in appendix)

Birds

Many common woodland birds occur at Mousehold, including sparrowhawk, jay, magpie, kestrel green and greater-spotted woodpeckers, treecreepers and great, blue and long-tailed tits. Song thrush, a Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, is reasonably common. Many parts of the woodland, however, lack undergrowth and/or mature trees, and thus tend to be deficient in nesting opportunities for birds although recent data shows a gradual increase in woodland associated species with more dead wood and older trees, creating nesting opportunities.

Few birds that are strongly associated with heathland occur regularly at Mousehold; the remaining heathland area is probably too small to support breeding populations, and the intensive use of the site for dog walking would discourage ground nesting species.

Mammals

Mammals known to occur include bank vole, wood mouse, grey squirrel, rabbit, common shrew, hedgehog, fox, stoat and Reeve's muntjac and roe deer. Red squirrels were present until about 1970, but they no longer occur. Bat surveys and walks have recorded 5 species including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton, brown long-eared and noctules. Other species may be present and hunt over Mousehold Heath although it is not known if they actually roost there.

Amphibians

The Vinegar Pond is an important spawning site for frogs and toads are also present at Mousehold. Common lizards occur in the remaining open heathland areas, and slow-worms are also present; adders are said to have occurred in the past, but there are no recent records. All British reptile species declined considerably during the last century, mainly due to habitat loss, and although slow-worms still frequently occur in urban areas the presence of common lizards so close to a city centre is exceptional.

Invertebrates

Most invertebrate groups were under-recorded at Mousehold, but in recent years a number of surveys have been undertaken both on an ad hoc and regular basis. The site is known to be of importance for solitary bees and wasps, especially for species associated with heathland or bare ground habitats, and a study carried out by the County recorder in found 82 species present with 12 scarce and notable species.

Monthly Bumble bee surveys are carried out with 7 species being recorded

Dragonflies and damselflies are often seen at Mousehold Heath, especially near the Vinegar Pond, and regular recording of these was started in 2008.

Two Butterfly Conservation Butterfly Monitoring Scheme transects are walked on the site. Species include the green hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*), the small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), white-letter hairstreak (*Satyrus w-album*) and the white admiral (*Ladoga camilla*), all of which are Biodiversity Action Plan species.

A number of moth surveys are carried out each year with over 220 species recorded to date. Many of these species are uncommon and closely associated with locally scarce heathland and acid grassland habitats

1.A VISION FOR MOUSEHOLD HEATH

'The Mousehold Conservators are committed to safeguarding the long term future of Mousehold Heath as a high quality and accessible natural area for residents and visitors to the city to enjoy.

To manage the heath in a way that protects and enhances the valuable historic and natural features of the site, and provides opportunities for all to be involved in looking after and learning about the site.'

The vision will be achieved through the following objectives, management prescriptions and projects.

Project detail is contained in the Mousehold Heath project register (Appendix TBC)

2.MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

There are eight management objectives.

- A) To ensure Mousehold Heath is a welcoming place for people to visit.
- B) To protect Mousehold Heath and ensure that it is a safe and secure place to visit.
- C) To ensure that Mousehold Heath is clean and well maintained.
- D) To manage Mousehold Heath in a way that has a positive impact on the environment.
- E) To improve habitats and the natural environment for wildlife, to enhance the biodiversity of Mousehold Heath.
- F) To safeguard the historic landscape, archaeological features and buildings of Mousehold Heath.
- G) To provide opportunities local communities to be involved in in all aspect of our work.
- H) To promote Mousehold Heath to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and sense of pride of Mousehold Heath

A. To ensure Mousehold Heath is a welcoming place for people to visit.

Mousehold heath will be managed in a way that attracts visitors to the site and draws them into once they are there.

Although much of the heath is 'informal countryside' there is a need to ensure that key access points are maintained and key information provided about the heath and who it is managed by to increase understanding of the site and increase their enjoyment of it.

The Mousehold Conservators are responsible for the management of the site and are legally empowered through the Norwich City Act 1984 to maintain and preserve the heath, and to ensure that the city has free access to the site.

The Heath is used for a wide range of activities which are acceptable and legal and also on occasions it is misused and used for illegal activities. Trends will change over time and the Conservators will need to respond to changes in trends and activities over the life of this plan and seek to ensure that the site is not only maintained but continuously improved, in terms of provision and management.

A1) The Mousehold Conservators will manage the site and discharge their duties in accordance with the Norwich City Council Act 1984

AF00 Financial planning and recording

- AF00/01 PREPARE ANNUAL BUDGET
- AF00/02 BUDGET MONITORING AND REPORTING

AP20 Prepare/revise site management plans

- AP20/01 MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

AP60 Prepare/plan annual work

- AP60/01 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME
- AP60/02 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS MONITORING AND REPORTING
- AP60/03 ANNUAL REPORT

AP80 Convene meeting, Site Management Committee

- AP80/01 MOUSEHOLD CONSERVATORS MEETING
- AP80/02 MOUSEHOLD CONSERVATORS MANAGEMENT SUB GROUP MEETING
- AP80/03 MOUSEHOLD CONSERVATORS ITINERANT

AR60 Prepare report, other

- AR60/00 PROJECT APPROVAL AND RECORDING

A2) To provide opportunities for the Mousehold Conservators to develop their understanding of the management of the site and of best practice in the management of public open space and especially heathland.

AP80 Convene meeting, Site Management Committee

AP80/03 MOUSEHOLD CONSERVATORS ITINERANT

AT00 Training and management

AT00/04 BEST PRACTICE VISITS

A3) To continuously improve the management of the site through the development of staff and contractors

AT00 Training and management

AT00/01 STAFF APPRAISALS

AT00/02 STAFF 1:1s

AT00/03 STAFF DEVELOPMENT PLANS

AT00/04 BEST PRACTICE VISITS

AT50 Liaise and supervise staff/contractors

AT50/01 CONTRACT MONITORING/IMPROVEMENT NORWICH NORSE ENVIRONMENTAL

AT50/02 CONTRACT MONITORING/IMPROVEMENT NPS NORWICH

AT50/03 CONTRACT MONITORING EXTERNAL CONTRACTORS

A4) To submit applications for awards, where appropriate, for awards that recognise the positive management of Mousehold Heath

AI00 Inspections and audits

AI00/01 GREEN FLAG AWARD

B. To protect Mousehold Heath and ensure that it is a safe and secure place to visit.

B1) To protect the integrity of the heath and in accordance with the Norwich City Council act 1984

ML00 Liaise with stakeholders, owners/occupiers

ML00/01 ZAKS RESTAURANT

ML30 Liaise with stakeholders, neighbours

ML30/01 BRITANNIA CAFÉ

ML40 Liaise stakeholders, local/national authorities

ML40/01 NORWICH AREA TRANSPORT STRATEGY

MP00 Patrol, general

MP00/01 SITE PRESENCE

MP00/02 SITE BOUNDARIES AND HOSTPOTS

RH35 Collect data, public use, trespass/theft/damage

RH35/00 ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

RH36 Collect data, undesirable activities

RH36/00 UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITY

AS00 Site and species safeguard and law enforcement

AS00/00 LEGAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION

AS10 Protect site, visitor permit system

AS10/00 LICENCE AND PERMIT SCHEME

B2) To work with the emergency services to work on joint problem solving to deter and resolve misuse of the site.

ML60 Liaison with stakeholders, emergency services

ML60/01 NORFOLK CONSTABULARY

ML60/02 NORFOLK FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

B3) To increase visitor perception of feeling safe on the heath.

MP00 Patrol, general

MP00/02 SITE PRESENCE

AT00 Training and management, general

AT00/05 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

AR01 Prepare report, project review, new project

AR01/02 INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

B4) To provide facilities for formal and informal recreation where appropriate

The heath currently has a senior size football pitch and changing facility, with booking and pitch management carried out by NorwichNorse Environmental and the changing room facility is maintained by NPS Norwich on behalf of the conservators.

The provision of this facility will need to be reviewed in the future taking in to account the level of use, other local provision and the cost of providing it in relation to the income received, taking into consideration other possible recreational uses.

AR01 Prepare report, project review, new project

AR01/02 FORMAL SPORTS PROVISION REVIEW

AR01/03 INFORMAL SPORTS PROVISION REVIEW

B5) To provide a public toilet facility at the heath

The heath has one public toilet block located at the Fountain Ground car park and in very close proximity to Zak's restaurant. The toilet block requires some investment to improve the quality of a provision. The options for the future provision of this block and it's management need to be explored, to determine if it is retained and if so the options for funding its refurbishment and future maintenance.

AR01 Prepare report, project review, new project

AR01/04 PUBLIC TOILETS PROVISION REVIEW

B6) To manage vehicular access to prevent damage to the site and to reduce the risk to visitors.

ME01 Manage site infrastructure, boundary structures

ME01/01 ACCESS MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

AR01/05 VEHICLE ON SITE POLICY

B7) To provide seating.

Seating is provided at a number of locations across the heath to sit in a quiet area to reflect or observe a view of the city. The provision range from formal seats, where appropriate, through to more rustic benches in the less formal areas of the heath. The Mousehold Conservators respond to request for benches or seats favourably subject to the location being appropriate and the resource available for purchase and installation. The development of a bench sponsorship scheme will be considered.

ME02 Manage site infrastructure, other structures

ME02/01 BENCHES AND SEAT PROVISION PLAN

AR01 Prepare report, project review, new project

AR01/06 SEAT SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

B8) To continue to provide, and develop further, subject to available resources, opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing through volunteering.

AR01 Prepare report, project review, new project
AR01/07 VOLUNTEER STRATEGY

B9) To ensure that the heath is managed in accordance with relevant legal obligations.

AI30 Implement inspection, site safety
AI30/01 ANNUAL SITE SAFETY INSPECTION
AI30/02 TREE SAFETY INSPECTION
AI30/03 RISK ASSESSMENTS

RH90 Collect data, other activities, by others
RH90/01 CHEMICAL USE RECORDS
RH90/02 GOALPOST INSPECTIONS

PROJECT SPECIFICATION

Project ref code		Project title													
Brief description															
Start date	??/??/??	Finish date	??/??/??	Months active											
Budget code	160345 7789	Budget £s		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Approved by	Mousehold Conservators	Approval date	??/??/??												
Project lead		Delivered by													
Project aims															
1. 2.															
Detailed project description															
Project map/plans															
Links to additional information															

Management plan revision timescale and key stage amendments

STAGE 2

Outcomes: Revised plan format, revision of factual information, development of management prescriptions and project specification format. All approved by Conservators.

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager.

1. Revised plan structure produced for approval
2. Draft of factual site information produced for approval.
3. Draft of management prescriptions for an objective as an example and a project specification template produced for format approval.

APPROVAL: November 2017 Mousehold heath Conservators meeting.

STAGE 3

Outcomes: Management prescriptions, project specifications for objectives 1 – 4 produced and consultation process identified. Approved by Conservators.

Work to be undertaken by the Management sub-group and brought to the Conservators meeting for discussion and approval.

1. Draft management prescriptions and project specifications for objectives 1 - 4.
2. Agree consultation process for stage 5.

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager.

1. Produce draft management prescriptions and project specifications
2. Produce draft maps/plans for project locations as required.
3. Source photographs to illustrate the management plan.

APPROVAL: January 2018 Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting

STAGE 4

Outcomes: Management prescriptions, project specifications for objectives 5 – 8 produced First draft management plan produced.

Work to be undertaken by the Management sub-group and brought to the Conservators meeting for discussion and approval.

1. Agree first draft of management plan.

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager.

1. Source photographs to illustrate the management plan.
2. Complete maps for the management plan.
3. Pull together information from stages 1,2 and 3 to produce first draft of the management plan with communications team (simple word document not desktop published).

APPROVAL: March 2018 Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting

STAGE 5

Outcomes: Stakeholders consulted. Finished management plan produced. 2018-19 annual work programme produced. Finished management plan adopted and annual work programme approved by Conservators.

Work to be undertaken by the Management sub-group and brought to the Conservators meeting for discussion and approval.

1. Stakeholder consultation
2. Review stakeholder consultation
3. Revise 1st draft management plan to produce final draft following consultation.
4. Annual work programme for 2018-19 produced and based on final draft management plan.
5. Management plan distribution methods and number of hard copies required identified.

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager.

1. Feedback to each stakeholder on the outcome of the matter(s) they raised.
2. Final amends made following consultation and final management plan produced.
3. Approved plan passed to communications for production of finished document.

APPROVAL: June 2018 Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting

STAGE 6

Outcome: Mousehold Heath management published

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager.

1. Management plan distributed and made available as agreed at stage 5