

## Mousehold Heath Conservators

Date: **Friday, 17 November 2017**  
Time: **14:00**  
Venue: **Westwick room City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH**

### Committee members:

Councillor Maxwell (chair)  
Councillor Price (vice chair)  
Councillor Bradford  
Councillor Brociek-Coulton  
Councillor Lubbock  
Councillor Kendrick  
Councillor Raby  
Councillor Sands (M)  
Councillor Thomas (Vi)  
Clare Cohen, Mousehold Heath Defenders  
Matthew Davies, Norwich Fringe Project  
John Trevelyan, The Norwich Society

### For further information please contact:

Committee officer: Alex Hand  
t: (01603) 212459  
e: [alexhand@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:alexhand@norwich.gov.uk)

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Norwich  
NR2 1NH

[www.norwich.gov.uk](http://www.norwich.gov.uk)

### Information for members of the public

Members of the public and the media have the right to attend meetings of full council, the cabinet and committees except where confidential information or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private.

For information about attending or speaking at meetings, please contact the committee officer above or refer to the council's website.

## Agenda

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| <b>1</b> | <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>To receive apologies for absence</p>   |                |
| <b>2</b> | <p><b>Public questions/petitions</b></p> <p>To receive questions / petitions from the public</p> <p>Please note that all questions must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by <b>10am on Tuesday 14 November 2017</b>.</p> <p>Petitions must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by <b>10am on Thursday 16 November 2017</b>.</p> <p>For guidance on submitting public questions or petitions please see appendix 1 of the council's constitution.</p> |                |
| <b>3</b> | <p><b>Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>(Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting)</p>  |                |
| <b>4</b> | <p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>Purpose: To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2017.</p>   | <b>5 - 8</b>   |
| <b>5</b> | <p><b>Mousehold Heath budget monitoring Q1 17-18</b></p> <p>Purpose: To provide the Conservators with a budget monitoring position for the Mousehold Heath Conservators revenue budget 2017/18 and capital position as at 30 June 2017. The planned meeting on 15 September was postponed and is being held on 17 November.</p>   | <b>9 - 12</b>  |
| <b>6</b> | <p><b>Mousehold Heath 2018-2028 management plan review progress update and timescale amendment</b></p> <p>Purpose: To update the Mousehold Conservators on progress with the management plan and to seek agreement for amendments to the management plan review timescale.</p>  | <b>13 - 54</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <p><b>Mousehold Heath annual report 2016 - 2017</b></p> <p>Purpose: To update the Mousehold Conservators on progress</p>  | <b>55 - 98</b> |

with production of the annual report.

<b>8</b>	<b>Mousehold Heath quarterly management update</b>	<b>99 - 104</b>
	Purpose: To provide a quarterly update on activities on and relating to Mousehold Heath which contribute to the delivery of the management plan objectives.	

Date of publication: **Thursday, 09 November 2017**





**Mousehold Heath Conservators**

**14:05 to 15:15**

**16 June 2017**

Present: Councillors Maxwell (chair), Price (vice chair), Bradford, Lubbock, Kendrick, Raby, Thomas (Va) (sub for Thomas (Vi)); and Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders) and John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society).

Apologies: Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Thomas (Vi) and Sands (M).  
Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project)

**1. Appointment of chair**

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Maxwell as chair for the ensuing civic year.

**2. Appointment of vice-chair**

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Price as vice-chair for the ensuing civic year.

**3. Public questions/ petitions**

There were no public question or petitions received.

**4. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2017.

**6. Appointments to the management sub group**

Following discussion it was:

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Maxwell (chair), Councillor Price (vice-chair), Councillor Brociek-Coulton, Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders) and John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society) to the Mousehold Heath management sub group.

**7. Mousehold Heath Conservators Budget**

(Vicki Reynolds, service accountant, attended the meeting for this item.)

The service accountant presented the report.

In response to a question on paragraph 8 of the report, the service accountant stated that whilst the pension cost instalments were greater than originally envisaged other costs such as recharges from the council were reducing. The situation as it currently stood was not sustainable in the medium term but these costs were changing and this could alter the position.

The parks and open spaces manager confirmed he was aware of this and it was being monitored on a monthly basis.

**RESOLVED** to note the provisional revenue and capital outturn positions 2016-17.

## **8. Mousehold Heath Conservators annual report 2016-17**

Simon Meek (parks and open spaces manager) presented the report. Appendix one was circulated at the meeting. He explained the new structure of the report and that it related more directly to the management objectives and themes contained in the current management plan.

The chair advised her report; a letter to the press thanking volunteers for their contribution to maintaining the heath, was outstanding. The parks and open spaces manager detailed how this letter should tie in with the release of the annual report to publicise the release. When report was finalised letter would go out at the same time.

In response to questions from the committee on the use of schemes such as community payback initiatives, the parks and open spaces manager advised he would need to consider workload of wardens.

The parks and open spaces manager provided information on the broader work happening with volunteers and plans to develop a program for volunteers which would contain a number of modules.

Claire Cohen advised that the Mousehold Heath volunteer group was getting confused with Mousehold Defenders. The parks and open spaces manager agreed to consult with wardens and volunteers to consider change of name.

In response to a suggestion from the committee, the parks and open spaces manager agreed to look at the maps in the report. He would look at the use of maps and possibility of adding a map link to the report.

In response to a concern relating to Highways, it was agreed that the management plan review would look at the impact of the Norwich Area Transport Strategy in the Gurney Road area of the site.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) approve the content of the Mousehold Heath Annual report 2016-17 subject to any amendments identified at the meeting being made,
- (2) ask the parks and open spaces manager to review use of maps in report and possibility of adding a map link in,
- (3) delegate authority to the Parks and open spaces manager to produce the finished version of the report with the communications team,
- (4) ask the parks and open spaces manager to produce a PDF version of the finished report for the Norwich City Council website, a hard copy of the document for each member of the committee, and also copies for circulation to local schools; and
- (5) ask the chair to write a letter to the local press at the time the annual report is published, to thank volunteers for the time they have given up to help look after the heath and to the raise awareness of the heath, the annual report and the work of the Mousehold Heath Conservators.

## **9. Mousehold Heath update**

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report. He highlighted an increase in volunteering and activities this quarter and confirmed that the work plan took account of seasonal changes.

**RESOLVED** to note the work undertaken in the last quarter to meet the management plan objectives.

## **10. Mousehold Heath management plan 2018-2028 – Development stage 1**

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report. Discussion ensued on the vision statement.

The Conservators discussed site security after travellers gained access to the playing fields last summer and costs due to damages were incurred. In particular the access gate on Heartsease Lane onto Wingfield Open was vulnerable. The parks and open spaces manager proposed bollards be installed which would cost £1,258 a pair, including installation and confirmed there was scope within the budget to fund this.

There was also a gap through which vehicles could access Wingfield open space and the parks and open spaces manager suggested fitting two hard wooden bollards to block access as no vehicle access was needed at this point. The wooden bollards were available in stores and could be fitted by the wardens and volunteers. This meant there would be no impact on the Mousehold Heath Conservators budget.

Information was tabled at the meeting on rhino bollards and wooden posts.

**RESOLVED to:**

- 1) approve the vision statement,
- 2) approve the management plan objectives,
- 3) ask the committee officer to schedule an additional management sub-group meeting to develop the management prescriptions for each management objective and the projects to deliver them for consideration at the September meeting of the Mousehold Heath Conservators,
- 4) ask that the parks and open spaces manager to consider the workload of the wardens in terms of managing any extra volunteer,
- 5) consider the impact of the Norwich Area Transport Strategy (NATS) in relation to Gurney Road area,
- 6) approve spend of £1,258 from budget for the installation of rhino bollards at the access gate to Wingfield open space on Heartsease Lane,
- 7) approve the fitting of two wooden bollards at the gap onto Wingfield open space,
- 8) ask the committee officer to arrange an itinerant to take place prior to August; and
- 9) ask the committee officer to circulate future meeting dates.

CHAIR



**Report to** Mousehold Heath Conservators  
17 November 2017

**Item**

**Report of** Chief Finance Officer

**5**

**Subject** Budget Monitoring Statement April – June 2017

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### **Purpose**

To provide the Conservators with a budget monitoring position for the Mousehold Heath Conservators revenue budget 2017/18 and capital position as at 30 June 2017. The planned meeting on 15 September was postponed and is being held on 17 November.

### **Recommendations**

That the Conservators note the current budget monitoring position.

### **Financial Consequences**

This report states the budgetary position for Mousehold Heath Conservators, and the financial consequences are analysed within the body of the report.

### **Strategic Objective/Service Priorities**

The report helps to achieve the council's corporate objective to achieve value for money.

### **Contact Officers**

Vicki Reynolds (Service Accountant)

01603 212493

### **Background Documents**

None

## Report

1. Conservators approved a budget and precept for financial year 2017/18 of £221,293 at their meeting of 20 January 2017.
2. The Conservators have requested that budget reports be brought to their meetings on a regular basis. Budget monitoring is undertaken at the end of each month and Appendix A details the financial position for Mousehold Heath as at the end of June 2017, and comparison of the expected out turn to the annual budget. Where appropriate, explanations for variances are given in paragraph 3 below.
3. The letters preceding the explanation below cross reference with the corresponding letter in Appendix A.
  - A. Depreciation is budgeted for but does not impact on balances, since it is reversed out of the revenue accounts.
  - B. Support service costs and other recharges will be processed later in the year. The forecast outturn reflects an expectation that in the majority of cases recharges will match budgets.
4. Overall the budget shows a forecast underspend of £3,877. Budgets move during the course of the year reflecting virements and changes in anticipated overheads, and some budget items (e.g. depreciation) do not impact on the conservators' balances, therefore this figure does not compare directly with the precept figure.
5. The impact of the precept and forecast 2017/18 budget monitoring position (adjusted to neutralise the impact of budget and accounting adjustments described above) on the Mousehold Heath balances are as follows:

Provisional balance brought forward from 2016/17	-£4,988
Precept 2017/18	-£221,293
Forecast Outturn 2017/18	£219,135
Less: Accounting adjustment for depreciation	-£1,719
Less: 4th instalment of pension deficit costs	£2,808
Forecast balance to be carried forward to 2018/19	-£6,057

In-year movement in reserves	£1,069
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6. The position on capital is as follows, with no spend in 2017/18 to date or budgeted:

Rangers House receipt brought forward	- £100,766
Balance of receipts	- £100,766

421020 Mousehold Heath Conservators			Citywide Services				
Approved	Current		Budget To	Actual To Date	Variance To	Forecast	Forecast
Budget	Budget		Date		Date	Outturn	Variance
		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
		<b>Employees</b>					
69,050	69,050	1405 Salaries Full Time	17,262	18,353	1,091	69,050	0
9,083	9,083	1406 Salaries Employer PF Contrib'ns	2,271	2,410	139	9,083	0
5,052	5,052	1935 Pension Added Years share	1,263	370	-893	5,052	0
11,299	11,299	1939 Pension Deficit Recovery share	11,299	9,949	-1,350	9,949	-1,350
507	507	1990 Employee/Liability Insurance	0	0	0	507	0
<b>94,991</b>	<b>94,991</b>	<b>Subtotal Employees</b>	<b>32,095</b>	<b>31,082</b>	<b>-1,013</b>	<b>93,641</b>	<b>-1,350</b>
		<b>Premises</b>					
9,000	9,000	2100 General Repairs & Maintenance	2,250	0	-2,250	9,000	0
250	250	2600 Grounds General Mtce & Upkeep	63	106	43	424	174
74,225	74,225	2651 Grounds Maintenance contract	18,555	12,348	-6,207	74,225	0
4,380	4,380	2655 Tree works	1,095	729	-366	4,380	0
1,209	1,209	2810 Electricity	303	288	-16	1,150	-59
76	76	2851 Water Charges Metered	18	0	-18	0	-76
7,198	7,198	2875 Contract Cleaning	1,800	1,217	-583	7,198	0
22	22	2900 Fire Insurance Buildings/Conts	0	0	0	22	0
<b>96,360</b>	<b>96,360</b>	<b>Subtotal Premises</b>	<b>24,084</b>	<b>14,688</b>	<b>-9,396</b>	<b>96,399</b>	<b>39</b>
		<b>Transport</b>					
800	800	3080 Car and Cycle Allowances	201	135	-66	541	-259
<b>800</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>Subtotal Transport</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>-66</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>-259</b>
		<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>					
445	445	3259 Specialist Supplies	111	0	-111	0	-445
450	450	3370 Equipment - Purchase	114	140	26	562	112
650	650	3371 Equipment - Repairs/Maintenance	162	42	-120	166	-484
550	550	3389 Other Equipment and Tools	138	65	-73	259	-291
500	500	3550 Clothing and Uniforms General	126	102	-24	408	-92
745	745	3804 Refreshments	186	60	-126	242	-503
500	500	3815 Staff Conference & Course Fees	126	0	-126	0	-500
6,000	6,000	3871 Projects	1,500	0	-1,500	6,000	0
7,110	7,110	4102 Other Contractual Services	1,779	870	-909	7,110	0
<b>16,950</b>	<b>16,950</b>	<b>Subtotal Supplies &amp; Services</b>	<b>4,242</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>-2,963</b>	<b>14,747</b>	<b>-2,203</b>
		<b>Capital Financing</b>					
1,719	1,719	5701 Depreciation	0	0	0	1,719	0 A
<b>1,719</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>Subtotal Capital Financing</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>210,820</b>	<b>210,820</b>	<b>Subtotal EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>60,622</b>	<b>47,184</b>	<b>-13,438</b>	<b>207,046</b>	<b>-3,774</b>
		<b>INCOME</b>					
		<b>Receipts</b>					
-1,404	-1,404	8123 Football	-351	0	351	-1,404	0
-15,000	-15,000	9039 Other Rents	-3,750	-3,750	0	-15,000	0
-1,800	-1,800	9132 Catering Concessn Pitch & Putt	-450	-450	0	-1,800	0
<b>-18,204</b>	<b>-18,204</b>	<b>Subtotal Receipts</b>	<b>-4,551</b>	<b>-4,200</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>-18,204</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Government Grants</b>					
-2,204	-2,204	7097 Government Grants: Specific	-552	-1,102	-550	-2,204	0
<b>-2,204</b>	<b>-2,204</b>	<b>Subtotal Government Grants</b>	<b>-552</b>	<b>-1,102</b>	<b>-550</b>	<b>-2,204</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>-20,408</b>	<b>-20,408</b>	<b>Subtotal INCOME</b>	<b>-5,103</b>	<b>-5,302</b>	<b>-199</b>	<b>-20,408</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>INDIRECT</b>					
		<b>Centrally Managed</b>					
0	0	P100 Programmed Maint (ES/Prop Grp)	0	192	192	192	192
0	0	R100 Day to Day Reps (ES/Prop Grp)	0	103	103	103	103
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Subtotal Centrally Managed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>295</b>
		<b>Recharge Expenditure</b>					
5,824	5,824	4040 CDS IT Services Recharge	0	0	0	5,824	0 B
100	100	5021 CDS Legal Services Recharge	0	0	0	100	0 B
5,059	5,059	5022 CDS HR Services Recharge	0	0	0	5,059	0 B
1,250	1,250	5024 Property Services Recharge	312	213	-99	852	-398 B
6,229	6,229	5026 CDS Finance Services Recharge	0	0	0	6,229	0 B
6,745	6,745	5044 CDS Management Support	0	0	0	6,745	0 B
2,306	2,306	5047 CDS Comms + Research Recharge	0	0	0	2,306	0 B
5,087	5,087	5097 Recharge from AHOs/One Stop Shops	0	0	0	5,087	0 B
<b>32,600</b>	<b>32,600</b>	<b>Subtotal Recharge Expenditure</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>-99</b>	<b>32,202</b>	<b>-398</b>
<b>32,600</b>	<b>32,600</b>	<b>Subtotal INDIRECT</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>32,497</b>	<b>-103</b>
<b>223,012</b>	<b>223,012</b>	<b>Total Mousehold Heath Conservators</b>	<b>55,831</b>	<b>42,390</b>	<b>-13,441</b>	<b>219,135</b>	<b>-3,877</b>



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

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### **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			
<b>Economic</b> (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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"/>	
<b>Social</b> (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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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Mousehold Heath Conservators  
Management planning**

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Location  
Ownership  
Site status  
Staff  
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Misuse and antisocial behaviour

### **A valued open space**

Visitor appeal  
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Past land use  
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**Nature**

Habitats  
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Woodland  
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**4. A VISION FOR MOUSEHOLD HEATH**

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Appendix 5      Project register

# 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> Century until well into the 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> February 1942, a Hampden bomber came down in the Long Valley, and on 25<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1990.

## NATURE

### Habitats

Until the early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 NorwichNorse 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 (*Satyrion 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

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

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**Report to** Mousehold Heath Conservators  
17 November 2017

**Report of** Head of citywide services

**Subject** Mousehold Heath annual report 2017/18

**Item**

**7**

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### **Purpose**

To update the Mousehold Conservators on progress with production of the annual report

### **Recommendation**

- 1) To note the contents of the report Mousehold Heath Annual report 2016-17

### **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

Will Stewart - Mousehold warden 01603 213110

Nigel Hales - Mousehold warden 01603 213310

### **Background documents**

None

# Report

## Background

1. On 16 June 2017 the Mousehold Conservators **RESOLVED** to:
  - (1) approve the content of the Mousehold Heath Annual report 2016-17 subject to any amendments identified at the meeting being made
  - (2) ask the parks and open spaces manager to review use of maps in report and possibility of adding a map link in,
  - (3) delegate authority to the Parks and open spaces manager to produce the finished version of the report with the communications team,
  - (4) ask the parks and open spaces manager to produce a PDF version of the finished report for the Norwich City Council website, a hard copy of the document for each member of the committee, and also copies for circulation to local schools; and
  - (5) ask the chair to write a letter to the local press at the time the annual report is published, to thank volunteers for the time they have given up to help look after the heath and to the raise awareness of the heath, the annual report and the work of the Mousehold Heath Conservators.
2. Due unforeseen circumstances work to finish the annual report was delayed.

## 2016 – 2017 report amendments

3. The report has been amended taking into consideration the amendments identified at the 17 June meeting and the report is in a new format.
4. Additional photographs and images have been incorporated to reflect the point raised that 'a picture paints a thousand words'.
5. A change of name for the Mousehold Heath Volunteers was discussed with the group following concerns raised about the group getting confused with the Mousehold Defenders. The group agreed on a new name Mousehold Heath Mouseketeers.
6. A review of the maps for the report was considered. However, the production of base maps and then layers of information is time consuming. The new management plan will have new base template maps for the site and then layers of information will be built to go on them.
7. The new map formats will also enable information to be more accessible to the public and flexible in terms of what you want to view on the map, via the council's GIS portal. It will also enable future maps to be produced for publications more efficiently.
8. A PDF copy of the final draft copy is attached. (Appendix 1)
9. The chair has been asked to write a letter to the local press at the time the report is published, covering the subject areas in recommendation 5.



## **Next steps**

8. Hard copies of the report will be produced and circulated at the Mousehold Conservators meeting on 17 November 2017.
9. A PDF version of the annual report will be loaded on to the Norwich City Council website 18 November 2017.
10. Copies of the report will be distributed by the Mousehold wardens to the schools local to the site after 18 November 2017







# Mousehold Heath Conservators

Annual report 2016 – 17



**NORWICH**  
City Council





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## 1. Chair's welcome

I am delighted to report that it has been another wonderful year for all those involved with Mousehold Heath. It is a unique area consisting of woodland, heathland and recreational open space within Norwich, a remnant of a much larger area of heath that once stretched as far as Salhouse Broad, several miles to the north-east of Norwich. As well as being a very popular recreational area, the heath is an important site for biodiversity and it has been designated as both a local nature reserve and a county wildlife site.

It is managed by the Mousehold Heath Conservators and Norwich City Council on behalf of the people of Norwich.

A management plan for Mousehold Heath was adopted in 2008 and guides the care the site through the development of an annual work programme.

Key priorities of the plan included retaining and enhancing the biodiversity value of the heath and continuing to ensure that the site provides a clean, safe and attractive environment for people to visit.

None of this could have been achieved without the dedication and commitment of the Mousehold wardens and the teams of volunteers, who work tirelessly to retain and enhance the remaining areas of heathland habitat.

Over the last couple of years, two separate areas have been brought back to establish a balance between woodland and open heathland and grassland areas, to benefit both people and wildlife. Active management, including regular vegetation cutting, scrub removal, bracken control and the creation of bare soil 'scrapes' to encourage plants such as heather to regenerate, is carried out to ensure that we keep the remaining heathland area and improve its condition.

Thank you to all involved for their interest and support in this beautiful place in our fine city.



*Marion F. Maxwell*

Cllr Marion Maxwell  
Chair – Mousehold Heath Conservators

## 2. Introduction

### Mousehold Heath

Mousehold Heath is a unique area made up of 88 hectares (184 acres) of woodland, heathland and recreational open space within Norwich. Mousehold has played an important part in the history of Norwich and it is a designated Local Nature Reserve. It is important both for its wildlife and as a place where people can improve their health by exercising and unwinding, away from the busy pace of everyday city life.

In Tudor times, Mousehold Heath stretched as far north as South Walsham and was 22 miles round. The surviving remnant of the heath was given to Norwich City Council (then known as the local corporation) by the Dean and Chapter, to look after on behalf of the citizens of Norwich.

This was officially recorded in 1884 by Parliament in an agreement called the Mousehold Heath Confirmation Act and a body called the Mousehold Heath Conservators was formed to govern the heath. The conservators were comprised of city councilors, representatives of professional bodies and members of the public and meets four times a year, to oversee the management and protection of Mousehold Heath.

The conservators also prepare an annual report which provides an overview of the work they oversee, any changes to the heath or new biological records and an opportunity to look forward and reflect on changes, opportunities and issues faced. The report also highlights the level of voluntary activity as well as the numbers of events, walks and surveys undertaken.

Examples of how the community are involved with Mousehold Heath, including through management work, attending events, guided walks and talks to find out more about their local open space, are also contained.

### The work of the Mousehold Conservators

The management of Mousehold Heath is guided by a management plan (the current plan was approved in 2013 and is due to be reviewed 2017/18). This seeks to balance the important ecological value of the site with an equally important recreational use within an urban area.

The main management objectives for Mousehold Heath are therefore to:

- ensure that the area is managed effectively
- maintain and enhance its wildlife and historic value
- promote and enhance people's access to and enjoyment of the site.

The challenge is to balance these important and at times conflicting objectives.

The conservators agree an annual work programme and budget in January each year for the following financial year and monitor the implementation at its meetings.

The management plan and further details of the work of the Mousehold Conservators can be found at **[www.norwich.gov.uk/mouseholdheath](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/mouseholdheath)**

### 3. People

#### Volunteering

An impressive 4,367 hours of volunteer time were recorded for the site in the last year – an increase of 247 hours on last year's total. This activity was organised and supervised by the wardens, making sure that the practical works were implemented in a safe working environment and adhering to management plan objectives.

It involved a wide range of practical management tasks including bracken and grass-cutting and raking, path maintenance, coppicing, woodland thinning, tree safety works, litter-picking, installation of bollards and benches, sapling pulling, wildlife surveys and more.

This work does much to increase community involvement with the site, Norwich's largest open space. Not only does it help to deliver the management plan objectives but it also improves people's understanding and enjoyment of the site, build up a sense of ownership and pride in it and brings benefits relating to physical and mental health.

The following groups carried out work this year:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- Norwich Community Green Gym
- Mousehold Heath mousketeers
- Citizens Volunteer Service
- Mousehold Heath Defenders
- The Assist Trust
- Norwich City College Duke of Edinburgh group
- Easton College Foundation student group
- Easton College work placement student
- Students from George White School
- City College student group
- City College work placement
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award work placement.

- Norwich High School for Girls
- Many individual volunteers from the community

#### **A new volunteer group – The Mousehold Heath mousketeers**

In late 2016, The Norwich Community Green Gym volunteer group disbanded. The group had provided an opportunity for local people to get involved in conservation management work on a number of sites in the city. Mousehold Heath is one of the sites that the group worked on regularly.

The loss of the group removed one of the opportunities for people to be active in the natural environment along with the associated health benefits. There was also an impact on the delivery of management works through the loss of the group.

The Mousehold wardens identified an opportunity to support the development of a new volunteer group to ensure all the benefits of volunteering could continue to be realised. In January 2017 the Mousehold Heath mousketeers was formed. The group undertakes two practical tasks a month, supervised by the wardens.

Since the group was formed, it has made a significant contribution to woodland and heathland management work. Debris left by Storm Doris has also been cleared, along with maintenance and vegetation clearance from footpaths.



Group birch pulling



The Mousehold Wardens have organised and supervised over 31,000 hours of volunteer work on the heath in the past nine years. These works have significantly contributed to improving people's lives, as well as meeting objectives set out in the management plan and Higher Level Stewardship agreement.



Group woodland copse

### Community involvement

Through guided walks, education activities, volunteer work days and other activities, there has been an increase in partnership working this year. The community groups, business and education organisations that have been worked on and used the heath include Norwich High School for Girls, Norwich School, City College Norwich, George White/Mousehold Avenue/Parkside schools, Assist Trust, Citizen Volunteer Service, Horning Walking Group.

Corporate community action days involving employees from Amey, RBS and the Naked Wine Company, have seen the completion of practical tasks to improve the site for people and wildlife.

The site, with its accessible city location, is an ideal environment for children to experience the 'great outdoors'.

The conservators' ongoing development of environmental education has continued this year.

There has been continued support to encourage and implement forest school activities with pupils from Mousehold Avenue Infants and Parkside and George White Middle schools. These events continue to be popular with the pupils and parents.

A number of community based Wild4 Wellies activities took place, providing environmental education and play for children.

Additional environmental activities involving pupils from local schools are to be initiated by the wardens through 2017-18 and also through the inclusion of professional conservation organisations including the RSPB and local experts providing community education workshops.

These activities increase involvement, understanding and enjoyment for local children and local community groups regarding nature conservation and its importance.

### Partnership working

This year has seen an increase in camping on the heath by those who are homeless, possibly due to an increase in those without accommodation rather than an increase in the popularity of the site as a place to stay. The wardens have worked on a number of occasions with the council's homeless/rough sleeper co-ordinator to provide support. This included site visits resulting in temporary accommodation being found until a more permanent arrangement could be made.

A missing child alert was initiated by the police regarding a young child missing from home overnight. The wardens were involved with the police search, which lasted for several hours. The incident resulted in a positive outcome when the child was found at Catton Park.

Travellers gained access onto the Greater Norwich Development Project (GNDP) area (map location 1), adjacent to Mousehold. The site is owned by Norfolk County Council (Education) and used by Open Academy students as an educational resource for carrying out practical heathland restoration and management (which also includes the establishment and management of a wild flower meadow around the outskirts of the field).

Following their departure, the wardens worked with officers from Norwich City Council's parks and open spaces department to clean adjacent areas of the heath.

During their stay, the pitch and putt course, (map location 2) was closed due to public health and safety concerns. At the same time the interpretation panel on the site of the GNDP area was vandalised (map location 1).

At a site visit by the conservators on their itinerant meeting, it was agreed to fund the installation of a replacement panel to be installed within the GNDP project area.

As this is a restricted area, it was thought to be a good idea to install a duplicate panel on the fencing of the GNDP area (map location 1) adjacent to the track leading to the pitch and putt course, so that the information about heathland management was also accessible to visitors to the heath.

A number of fly-tipping incidents occurred across the site – on one occasion two bollards were removed to gain access from Gertrude Road onto Gilman Road, (map location 3), resulting in a large amount of household rubbish being dumped on the wildflower area adjacent to the wildlife pond (map location 3). The wardens worked in partnership with Norwich City Council environmental services and highways officers to reinstall the damaged bollards – to ensure the

future security of the site was maintained – and to remove the fly-tipped items.

During a similar incident bollards were illegally removed and damaged, resulting in the wardens working with the council's highways department to order a repair of the bollards and secure the site (map location 4).



Bollard removed to gain access onto Gilman Road



Gilman Road fly tipping



Fly tipping, Gilman Road

On a day-to-day basis, to ensure that the site is safe and accessible to members of the community, the wardens work closely with Norwich Norse (Environmental) Ltd, various Norwich City Council departments and other contractors.

## Activities and events

While the heath is used considerably for informal recreation, the conservators have continued to ensure it is available for events and activities – including organised guided walks and volunteer days – aimed to widen residents' understanding and knowledge of its local history and nature conservation management.

A guided walks programme organised and led by the wardens and local naturalists, was delivered to increase involvement, understanding and enjoyment of the site. Walks this year have included, four seasonal community wildlife watch walks, fungi forays, a dawn chorus, butterfly management, site management and four moth survey evenings.

A number of additional walks were led by the wardens for specific groups and members of the community throughout the year on request, including walks for Parkside School, Horning Walking Group and Norwich Community Green Gym.

The wardens were approached by the RSPB which has developed a community outreach project delivering events to connect families to nature in green spaces in and around Norwich including the heath, where five events took place. This project is funded by the supermarket chain Aldi.

The family events officer for the RSPB provided all the equipment and resources required to deliver simple wildlife activities such as mini-beast hunts, bird watching, scavenger hunts and trails. This provided

**Have a wild time**

**Join RSPB at Mousehold Heath**

Free family activities

Come find us at Mousehold Heath on the following dates:

- 18th of June
- 9th of July
- 25th of July
- 12th of August
- 29th of August

Children must be accompanied by their parents or guardians. Thanks to the team at Mousehold Heath and Norwich Council for supporting our activities.

**Explore wildlife together**

Aldi and the RSPB are working together to connect children with nature.

**RSPB free family activity events**

families the opportunity to join in with an activity for a short period of time (approximately 30 minutes) while visiting or attending organised events.

A number of guided walks organised by the wardens took place including moth evenings, as well as a number of impromptu events advertised for the local community and volunteers.

**Explore Mousehold Heath**  
with our guided walks programme 2016

**Moth evenings**  
Tuesday 24 May, 9.30pm until late  
Wednesday 22 June, 10pm until late  
Thursday 28 July, 9.30pm until late  
Monday 15 August, 8.30pm until late  
Wednesday 14 September, 7.30pm until late

Join a Norwich City Council heath warden in using a light trap to catch and record the beautiful and diverse species of moth living in our parks and gardens.

Please meet in the pitch and putt car park, at the top of Gurney Road. Grid ref: TG247104.

**Community wildlife watch walk**  
Friday 24 June, 11am to 3pm

Join a local wildlife expert and a heath warden, to look at the wide variety of threatened and characteristic species that inhabit the site. This event is part funded by Norfolk County Council, Adult Education Service.

Please meet at the car park below Zaks restaurant, halfway up Gurney Road. Grid ref: TG243101.

**Management and wildlife walk**  
Wednesday 27 July, 1 to 3pm

Join a heath warden, to look at the wide variety of often scarce and threatened species that inhabit the site and how management work is being undertaken to conserve this biodiversity.

Please meet in the car park below Zaks.

**Butterfly walk**  
Thursday 14 July, 11am to 1pm

A walk on the heath with Andy Brazil (Norfolk's county butterfly recorder) and a heath warden, to explore the variety of wildlife that lives on this local Nature Reserve.

Please meet in the car park below Zaks.

**Fungi Foray**  
Wednesday 12 October, 2 to 4.30pm

Accompany Dr Tony Leach (Norfolk's county fungi recorder) and a heath warden, for a walk around the site, to look at the stunning variety of fungi species living in the heart of Norwich.

Please meet in the car park below Zaks.

**All events are free.**  
Booking in advance is essential for the moth and fungi walks, by calling the Norwich Tourist Information Centre on 01603 213999.

Please bring sturdy footwear and outdoor clothing, and a hat for events that take place after dark.  
Events will be cancelled in the case of heavy rain.

Please be aware that photographs may be taken during the events for promotional reasons.

Mousehold Heath guided walks poster 2016.



Two brass band concerts took place at the Fountain Ground on June 26 and 10 July and these were free for the public to attend (map location 5).



Promotion of Band Concerts for 2017.

Seasonal wildlife watch walks were organised in partnership with Norfolk County Council Adult education in addition to our guided walks programme – and these events were very well attended.



Playdays event

A Playdays event was organised by the council's events team on 25 July, on the Fountain Ground, and this included environmental education activities with the RSPB, face-painting and other organised outdoor activities. This was very well supported and enjoyed by local residents (map location 5).

The Common Lot Theatre Company toured the city with their production of Ketts Rebellion. A production took place on July 10 at Gilman Road Open Space and thankfully the weather was bright and dry ensuring a large audience (map location 6).



The Common Lot Theatre Company

On 11 November 2016, an Armistice Day memorial service arranged by the Mousehold Defenders took place at the Airmen's Memorial, Gurney Road (Map location 7).



Armistice day-Airmens memorial

A winter solstice gathering, organised by the Mousehold Defenders to mark the shortest day and longest night of the year, was held on 21 June 2016, adjacent to the wildflower meadow, Gilman Road (map location 8).

Two Norwich HEART Heritage weekend walks were organised. The first was a geological themed walk, superbly led by Tim Holt-Wilson, supported by the wardens. The second was a fascinating social and landscape history walk, focussing on the stories of St William's Chapel and Kett's Rebellion by local historian Colin Howey. Both walks were fully booked and a great success.

An additional geodiversity walk was organised and led by Tim Holt-Wilson and the wardens as part of the Norfolk Walking Festival, which attracted over thirty members of the community.

A total of 317 members of the community attended these walks and events.



Earth Heritage Trail Walk

## Sports

### Football Pitch

A full-sized football pitch is available at the Fountain Ground sports pitch, Gurney Road, including changing rooms, showers and toilets (map location 5).

29 senior matches and one junior match were held at the Fountain Ground in the 2016/17 season with the income from the facility totalling £1672.05. Five fixtures were cancelled by clubs.

The cost per booking for the 2016-17 season was £60.80 (standard charge) or £50.67 (VAT exempt).

The facility can be booked via Norwich Norse (Environmental) by calling 01603 894140 or emailing [sportsbookings@norwichnorse.co.uk](mailto:sportsbookings@norwichnorse.co.uk)



Football, Fountain Ground Sports Pitch



## 4. Nature

### Heathland management

Lowland heathland is a scarce and threatened habitat and only a sixth of the heathland that was present in England in 1800 now remains.

However, Britain still has 20 per cent of the world's total area of heathland and this makes it important to conserve the existing areas and look for opportunities to extend them.

The government's United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) includes targets for establishing more lowland heathland to provide space for wildlife and open access to members of the community.

Similar declines have been seen in acid grassland habitat. Both of these habitats can be found at Mousehold and provide a home to a high number of scarce and threatened species.

Heather is an important nectar source for many insects such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies. A survey of solitary bee and wasps found a number of scarce and threatened species on heather and bare ground inhabiting the heath.

Butterflies such as small heath, small copper, common blue, and green hairstreak are only found in the heathland and acid grassland areas.

One of the priority management objectives is to address the reduction of open heathland and acid grassland across the site, which has been happening over the last 40 years. Of the total area of 88 hectares, only 8.66 hectares of Mousehold is covered by heathland.

In 2012, Norwich City Council secured - on behalf of the conservators - 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.

A grant of £30,600 was awarded to be paid in equal annual payments until the year 2022. This funding has been allocated to restoring heathland and acid grassland, removing scrub, mowing with a tractor-mounted Rytec mower, grinding stumps and stripping humus, giving heather seeds in the seed bank a chance to grow. This has resulted in existing heathland areas being enlarged and linked up.



Tractor-mounter Rytec mower

The funding has enabled the conservators to access specialist contractors to achieve this objective as part of the HLS agreement.



Volunteer community action group undertaking bracken control management.

Ongoing habitat conservation improvements were carried out through the HLS agreement during 2016-17.

This year, a further 0.6ha of poor quality, degenerating heathland habitat, covered in dense bracken and bramble growth was restored.

Removal of encroaching trees, scrub and bracken from existing heathland areas has been carried out. This work is usually done by volunteers, in compliance with the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement. It also includes humus stripping and the use of a cut and collect machine to control nutrient enrichment of soil, in line with management plan objectives.

Future management will increasingly move from heathland restoration to maintenance as areas in the agreement are restored.

### Grassland management

Important areas of acid grassland were also included in the HLS agreement, with the Desert (map location 8), ant hills, (map location 9), St. James Hill (map location 10) and the area adjacent to the wildlife pond (map location 3) cut once a year, in early to late autumn, depending on weather conditions.



Royal Bank of Scotland volunteers clearing bracken



Ant Hill management

All arisings are removed from site, minimising nutrient enrichment of the soil. These management techniques provide and maintain acidic soil conditions required by specialist grasses and wildflowers found on the heath.



The Conservation Volunteers and Duke of Edenborough volunteers cutting and raking the Desert wildflower meadow

The removal of any encroaching scrub and trees also takes place – following regular plant surveys carried out with the help of volunteers to monitor potential problem weed species (ragwort, thistles etc) – if present in large numbers.

Where present, the conservation of ant hills is ensured through sympathetic management techniques.

Natural England, which is overseeing the HLS agreement, carried out an annual habitat condition assessment and complimented the quality and quantity of the works undertaken this year and the progress of the agreement to date.

### Woodland management

Mousehold today is largely covered in secondary woodland and scrub, consisting mainly of oak and birch, with some rowan and sycamore. These are species which readily invade open areas.

Natural woodland regeneration is encouraged, rather than the importation of new trees, which ensures the trees within the woodland are of local provenance, minimising the spread of pests and disease.



Woodland areas were managed through a number of techniques to diversify and enhance the habitat through ride creation, coppicing, and pollarding.

Clearance work has restored woodland glades to provide a more diverse structure to the vegetation and to increase biodiversity.

A section of woodland adjacent to Gilman Road was restored through the clearance of dead and overgrown vegetation and tree thinning. This work is important in improving access for the community to a formally impenetrable area; as well as to improve biodiversity (map location 11).



City College clearing Gilman Haw copse

There has been a large amount of woodland management work carried out by the Mousehold wardens and volunteers. See Appendix 1: Woodland management, for detailed information on the progress made in delivering the woodland management objectives.

### Tree safety management

Due to exceptionally high winds experienced through parts of 2016-17 and particularly during Storm Doris, an above average number of tree works were carried out by the wardens to make dangerous trees safe, especially next to and over main pathways. Over one hundred individual tree issues were identified by the wardens on tree safety surveys, routine patrols and reported by members of the community.



Storm Doris tree blocking path

Tree surveys carried out by the wardens on a six monthly basis, in September 2016 and March 2017, identified a total of 59 trees (see map 2: Tree survey map, page 22), adjacent to or blocking pathways, which were dead, dying or dangerous and requiring, in some cases, urgent attention or ongoing monitoring.



Help from a Duke of Edenborough volunteer after completion of tree safety works

Where possible, dead/dying trees were retained to encourage a diverse structure to the woodland and ensure there is a supply of dead and decaying wood for those specialist species that require it. Trees identified as posing an unacceptable level of safety risk were removed.

Norwich Norse (Environmental) Ltd, the council's contractor, carried out essential tree safety works along Gurney Road (map location 12) and adjacent to the pavilion at the Fountain Ground (map location 13).

### Beech Drive

Two large beech trees situated on Beech Drive were blown over into adjacent gardens during Storm Doris. These were cleared by Norwich Norse (Environmental) Ltd (map location 14, page 22).



The space created by the fallen trees exposed a near-by beech tree. Following an inspection by a council arboriculture officer, it was decided that the tree required immediate works to reduce the crown. The larger wood was left on site to provide a good dead wood habitat for insects, while making the area safe for the general public.

### **Aquatic habitats**

The vinegar pond (map location 15) and wildlife pond (map location 3) are the only source of water on the heath. These habitats are continually monitored to identify any unwanted imported plants needing removal along with collecting debris.

Since the installation of clay linings in each of the above ponds, water levels have remained high, even in prolonged dry weather conditions providing an ideal environment for spawning common frogs.

These conditions have also resulted in the presence of common newts, which can be seen in the margins, along with a wide variety of damsel and dragonfly species. The ponds are also important as bathing and drinking resource for birds and mammals.

## **Ecological surveys and species monitoring**

### **Butterflies**

Two butterfly conservation butterfly monitoring scheme (BMS) transects were surveyed by the wardens, on a weekly basis, between April and October.

The BMS is the largest and longest running biological survey in the country (established in 1976). Data is collected from over 1,200 sites in the UK, with 29 sites surveyed in Norfolk.

Butterflies are uniquely placed among British terrestrial insects and other invertebrate groups to act as indicators of the state of the environment. The results of the surveys are used by the national government to assess the impacts of climate change and the progress of governmental policy initiatives such as the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) schemes.

Not only are butterflies biologically suitable as indicator species – having rapid lifestyles and, in many cases, high sensitivity to environmental conditions – but the recording and monitoring volunteer and datasets built up by Butterfly Conservation and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology enable accurate assessment of their trends.



Frogs spawning in the Vinegar Pond

When taking into consideration that butterfly numbers nationally and in Norfolk decreased in 2016, it is pleasing to see that butterfly numbers on Mousehold – when taking into account annual weather fluctuations and national population changes – are increasing.

There were 474 butterflies recorded during the survey on the western side of Gurney Road (Appendix 2, chart 1). Sections 1, 11, which are through woodland glades and sections 2, 5, 7, through heathland/acid grassland areas show high abundance of butterflies (Appendix 2, chart 2).

Recently restored open habitat areas, such as section 7, the heathland area near Wingfield, have seen a significant increase in abundance this year (Appendix 2, chart 3). All western transect route numbers are marked on the map in Yellow 1 to 11.

The Mousehold Heath east BMS transect survey recorded a total of 528 butterflies, mainly in the recently managed and restored areas of the anthills (section 1) and heathland (sections 4, 5 and 6). (Appendix 2, chart 4). All eastern transect route numbers are marked on the map in pink 1 to 9.



Ringlet

The average upward trend (illustrated on charts with a dotted line) of butterfly abundance over a number of years, (Appendix 2, charts 1 and 3), suggests that management work to provide open habitats such as heathland, acid grassland and woodland glades, has had a positive effect,

resulting in increased sunlight and nectar producing plants and an the abundance and diversity of butterfly species.

Over 70 members of the community were involved in the surveys.

### **Moths**

Four public moth survey evenings, along with ad hoc surveys have been completed. Over 100 moths were recorded during the surveys, including 7 species new to the site. Many colourful and characteristic heath species were recorded during the surveys, including an impressive Black Arches viewed on 15.08.16 and an attractive Small Dusty Wave recorded on 12.09.16

These surveys have taken place adjacent to Gilman Road and Gurney Road resulting in the site species list increasing to 220 species. All moth survey locations marked on the map in white number 1 to 5.

### **Birds**

A Common Bird Census (CBC) survey was carried out by the wardens with the help of volunteers. 30 species of bird were recorded as having breeding territories based on the CBC methodology. There was a general increase in territories during the 2016 nesting season, with Blackbirds, Greenfinches, Long tailed tits, Tree creepers and Great spotted woodpeckers, having a particularly good year, see Appendix 4. The gradual increase in the total number bird territories, suggests that conservation management work undertaken to increase habitat diversity, age and structure, along with an increasing dead wood habitat, is having a positive effect.

Two of the many highlights out on site this year, has been watching two young Kestrels fledge from an owl box which had been put up by the Mousehold Defenders and wardens some years ago. Also four Tawny Owlets were viewed freshly emerged from trees close to the ring road.



Owlets adjacent to Gurney Road

## Plants

A monthly plant survey on St James' Hill, Map location 10, was carried out by members of the Mousehold Heath Defenders and wardens (Appendix 5).

Two further monthly surveys in the New Pond/Hawthorn Glade (Appendix 6) Map location 3, and the Desert wildflower area, (Appendix 7) Map location 8, have been carried out by members of the Mousehold Heath Defenders, recording a wide variety of nectar providing wild flowers.

The surveys provide important data to site managers to monitor and inform habitat conservation and management decisions. The data also increases interest, understanding and enjoyment of the site by visitors.

## Bumblebees

A monthly survey was carried out by a member of the defenders and a Mousehold warden on St James Hill. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust transect survey recorded a number of bee species, including buff-tailed bumblebee, white-tailed bumblebee, re-tailed bumblebee and common carder bee. Bee numbers increased along the transect route in 2016 suggesting that habitat management work such as opening up the Cavalry Track and clearing scrub from St James Hill, to conserve grassland, is having a positive effect, Map location 10.

## Damselflies and dragonflies

A good number of species have been recorded such as large red, common blue, azure damselflies along with the Norfolk hawk, red darter and emperor dragonflies, with over 120 migrant hawkers been recorded feeding over heathland vegetation in August. The Norfolk hawk, which is a nationally threatened and scarce British Red Data Book species, was recorded for the third year in succession. Its nearest breeding site is Thorpe Marshes so they are presumably venturing up to the heath to feed on the abundance of insects in open habitats.

Many species are now seen near Vinegar Pond which following its restoration a few years ago, is now holding water throughout the year, Map location 15.

## Reptiles and amphibians

The common lizard was recorded in good numbers throughout spring and summer months, with many seen basking in recently restored open heathland and grassland habitats.

Frogs had a very productive year with many adults being seen in early March and frog spawn and tadpoles in the Vinegar and New Pond, Map location 3/15.

There were ad hoc sightings of both slow worm and grass snake at various locations across the site.



Common Lizard on Volunteer



## 5. Heritage Landscape

### St William's Chapel

Following interpretation panel installation last year, it was apparent that the site needed to be managed; with the intention of visitors being able to visibly see key areas of the chapel's remaining earthworks from the information panel. This would involve removing vegetation from the boundary markers and areas of the chapel.

The wardens worked in close partnership with David Robertson, the historic environment officer for Norfolk County Council, to develop a management plan which was adopted by the Mousehold Conservators in January 2016.

The aims and objectives involved the removal of vegetation and scrub from selected areas of the site to improve interpretation and access.

The first stage of these works was carried out this year involving many local volunteer groups, supervised closely by the wardens.

Map 1 outlines the banks and ditches that were to be cleared and the main

pathways leading to and through the site itself, to be cleared and maintained.

The dense vegetation clearance and thinning work carried out this year has resulted in a major improvement in the access and interpretation of the site.

A fully booked Heritage Open Day walk visited the chapel site, with a local historian discussing the story of St William in detail which the participants thoroughly enjoyed.

### Interpretation

The installation of a perspex panel and metal frame for the St Williams Chapel interpretation board was completed in early April, map location 16.



St. Williams Chapel Interpretation panel



TCV clearing St Williams Chapel



St Williams chapel after veg. clearing works

**Map 1: St William's Chapel**



A proposal for a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to develop a project to investigate and interpret the brick making history of the heath from a third party was considered by the conservators, but subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.











Map 2: Tree survey map





## 6. Infrastructure

### Access

A number of main pathways were cleared during the year of overhanging vegetation, across the whole site including the site of St Williams Chapel. Earth mounds identified in the inner and outer boundary of the chapel were also included to improve the interpretation of the site in conjunction with the new interpretation panel.

The four corner marker stones were also revealed after the clearance of vegetation identifying the extent of the chapel's perimeter, map location 16.

A 25 metre section of Breedon gravel surfacing needed repairing along the disabled pathway leading to the Mottram Memorial due to erosion. The repair included the importation of fresh Breedon gravel to complete the works, map location 10.



Repair to Breedon gravel pathway



Maintenance works to improve disabled access

To compliment these works, substantial clearance of encroaching vegetation was cleared from either side of the disabled access pathway at St. James Hill to protect the surface and maintain open access, map location 10.

A large build-up of mud had collected along a stretch of the Tram Track used daily by visitors to the heath, impeding access. This was addressed by the use of a mini digger carefully scraping away the top surface of mud whilst causing minimal disturbance to the underlying sandy gravel base resulting in a clean hard surface, map location 17.



Improving public access by clearing mud from Tram track

Due to a steep gradient and high usage the path around the southern edge of St James Hill started to erode making it an increasing difficult traverse to reach Spitalfields on Kett's Hill. With the help of TCV volunteers, the Mousehold wardens purchased and installed timber to stabilise and make the path safe to walk along, map location 10.



TCV repairing St.J.Hill path

## Car parks

The success of Britannia Café has seen a substantial increase in pressure on Britannia Road public car park due to increased visitor numbers. Issues caused by people parking on the verge of Britannia Road have included restricting access for the Norwich tour bus and local residents.

The conservators have put considerable resources into the issues relating to Britannia Road and the car park. Not only in terms of short term repairs to the heath carpark but also in engaging in the consultation process. A decision needs to be made relating to the highway issues and also the cafe access, which is outside the control of the conservators. Further consultation is planned by the council's highways department. The conservators will continue to play a role in that consultation process. Once a scheme has been decided upon the conservators will then be able to determine the best form of management for the car park on the heath.

At the main entrance to the Britannia Road car park uncut gravel was used to try and stabilize the condition of the surface to protect erosion problems this seems to have had a positive effect, map location 18c.



Installation of un cut natural gravel at main entrance

Regular maintenance and regrading works were carried out at the pitch and putt, Britannia Road and pavilion car parks, to the surface to maintain safe conditions for vehicles and pedestrians, map location 18a,b,c.



Britannia Road car park maintenance works

## Signage

As requested by the conservators, the blue public car parking sign mounted on the lamp post adjacent to the public car park in front of the pavilion was replaced with a more informative sign including symbols indicating public and disabled toilet facilities and the inclusion of a woodland walk, map location 18b.



Public car park sign installed at pavilion.



## Security

A section of chain link fencing was repaired along with a new pedestrian gate installed at the Fountain Ground sports pitch on Gurney Road, map location 5.



New gate and fencing posts at the Fountain Ground

A number of bollards and benches were repaired and replaced throughout the year. In an effort work more effectively and efficiently, these works were carried out by Mousehold wardens with the help of a Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) student, who was keen to develop his

work experience and practical skills. This method reduced budget spends and also gave the student a sense of achievement and vital skills for future employment.



Gas pipe line marker installation by National Grid

## Installation/access permissions

An application was submitted by National Grid to highlight a gas supply pipe line which runs along the highway of Britannia Road and the public car park.

National Grid were given permission to install marker posts to highlight the gas main to ensure contractors working on the site are aware of the location. Map location 18c.



DofE student helping to replace bench

## 7. Resources

### Employees

Mousehold Heath is looked after on a day-to-day to day basis by two wardens who cover the site seven days a week, except when annual leave, illness and training prevent this. The high level of staff presence on site helps visitors feel safe, and enables a high level of monitoring of the heath which in turn means a swift response to site issues and deters antisocial behaviour; it also provides a consistent point of contact for new and regular visitors to the heath, to report problems to, or to get information from which helps them enjoy their visit.

The wardens have and will continue to support a range of volunteers in delivering works and events on the site to meet the objectives defined in the management plan.

The wardens' in-depth knowledge and understanding of the heath, its users and also site issues is critical in supporting the conservators in their decision making.

### Budget

The conservators took into consideration the financial challenges facing local authorities and did not increase their precept to the council for operational items within their control. There was some unavoidable growth relating to salaries, premises cost and recharges.

The conservators also carried out an exercise to look into the works delivered on the site relating to grounds maintenance, cleaning and trees contracts to ensure they were getting value for money.

Looking forward, the financial pressures will continue with no realistic opportunity for major growth in the precept.

The management plan review being undertaken in 2017-18 will provide an opportunity to identify any required changes in the management plan, such as a review of football provision – which is currently subsidised by the conservators, continuing and developing volunteer involvement to enable more to be delivered with no increase in budget and also the potential to use the capital receipt held to reduce pressure on the revenue budget.

### Facilities

Mousehold Heath is very important as a haven for wildlife and recreation contained within an urban area. The management of a site containing nationally declining habitats, a wide range of biodiversity, local historical importance and a range of different users with different needs is complex and challenging.

Public access points, infrastructure and on-site facilities also require continued maintenance and upkeep which has an impact on the budget and this work will need to continue. The cost of equipment and works will need to be considered alongside the life expectancy of the installation. All projects must factor in the need to design out future costs as part of their development.

While major change to the management plan is neither needed nor affordable improvements to 'access hubs' and on site signage must be made, when necessary. A review of the access points and works required will be informed by the aims and objectives of the new management plan.

## 8. Contacts and further information

### Contacts

If you have any queries about this document, Mousehold Heath or wish to report a problem on the heath, please **visit [www.norwich.gov.uk](http://www.norwich.gov.uk)** or call 0344 9803333.

### Further information

#### Mousehold Heath

For the management plan, more information about the heath, details of guided walks and events: **[www.norwich.gov.uk/mouseholdheath](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/mouseholdheath)**

Hiring Mousehold Heath for an event  
**[www.norwich.gov.uk/parksandopenspacesforhire](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/parksandopenspacesforhire)**

Other city parks and open spaces  
**[www.norwich.gov.uk/parks](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/parks)**

County Wildlife Sites  
**[www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)**

Local Nature Reserves  
**<http://www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk>**

Scheduled Ancient Monuments  
**<https://www.historicengland.org.uk>**

## Appendix 1

### Progress on woodland management objectives set out in Management Plan 2008 - 2018.

Management Plan objective/project name	Area	Work undertaken or to be undertaken	Work carried out by	Date start/finish
9.2 (i): Create rides and glades	The Dip/ Hawthorne Glade	Has been cut back and restored over the last four years. A new pond was installed in November 2012 and wild flower seed was spread in spring 2013.  The glade is presently a flower rich habitat which is cut and raked annually in Autumn. Dead material is removed to increase sward diversity and easy access.  Flower surveys are currently being undertaken by members of the Mousehold Heath Defenders who have recorded over 40 species.	Mousehold Heath mousketeers TCV, Mousehold Defenders, Mousehold wardens.	Restoration work to finish March 2018.  Annual autumn cutting and raking ongoing
9.2 (iv): Increase amount of available dead wood habitat	Whole site	During glade restoration, tree safety works, heathland restoration, etc. large amounts of dead wood are left in piles to provide wildlife habitats and hibernation places for frogs, lizards and other reptiles.  In recent years this has greatly increased the amount of available dead wood. This is particularly important when considering the young age and lack of dead wood when comparing the site to older woodlands.	Mousehold wardens, volunteer groups, contractors.	Ongoing
9.2 (vi): Monitor spread of Sycamore and other non-native invasive species	Whole site	<b>Sycamore:</b> This species is increasing across the site. In managed areas seedlings and saplings are removed. In secondary woodland, young Sycamores could be managed by a Woodland Grant Scheme, by Easton College and other volunteers groups to reduce their impact on native species.  <b>Laurel:</b> a recent survey has found a significant increase in Laurel across the site. This is particularly concerning when considering the damage and cost of controlling of Laurel in nearby Lion Wood. All Laurel will be mapped and removed by March 2016.  <b>Rhododendron:</b> A large specimen near Gilman Road has been monitored with no evidence of it spreading.	Easton College and other volunteer groups, Mousehold wardens.  Mousehold wardens, Green Gym, TCV.  Mousehold wardens	2015-23. After HLS felling has finished.  March 2015. Ongoing.  Ongoing monitoring.

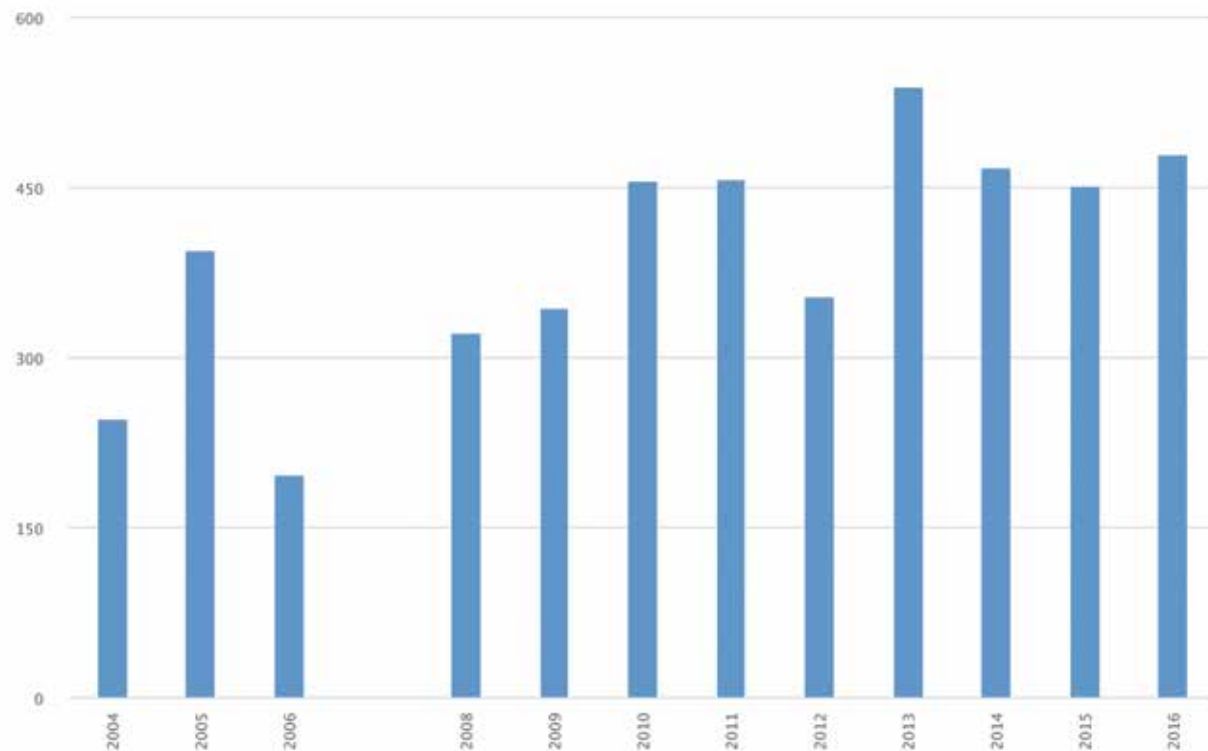


Management Plan objective/project name	Area	Work undertaken or to be undertaken	Work carried out by	Date start/finish
9.2 (v): Retain creepers such as honeysuckle and ivy on trees.	Whole site.	Creepers have been left (unless safety considerations dictate otherwise), with good quantities along Gilman Road and on paths near the Vinegar Pond. There has been an increasing trend in associated butterfly species such as White Admiral and Holly Blue. Breeding birds such as Song/Mistle Thrush and winter migrants such as Redwings and Fieldfares have been recorded feeding on their berries.		Ongoing.
9.2 (iii): Identify key specimen trees and woodland features such as Beech Drive.	Whole site.	Specimen trees such as Turner's and Mother Oak, Giant Redwood, etc. have been identified and any required protective measures (i.e. log boundary around Turner's Oak to protect it from car tyre compaction), have been put in place. These trees are monitored on a regular basis. <b>Beech Drive:</b> this picturesque avenue has been encroached upon by scrub. This will be cut back in 2017/18 to conserve views, allow easy access and help dry out the surface by allow sunlight to penetrate. A large Beech tree dying due to a fungal infection has resulted in light penetrating ground level allowing nectar bearing plants to grow and a woodland glade to naturally develop. A large number of butterfly species including the scarce White Admiral have subsequently been recorded in the new sheltered micro climate. It is recommended that new planting of Beech is not undertaken unless a large number of mature trees are lost and the avenue structure is compromised.	Mousehold wardens Mousehold wardens	Ongoing. 2015. Ongoing.
9.3 (vi): Coppice area.	Adjacent to Gilman Road	A 0.5 – this 1ha area of dense mainly hawthorn woodland has been identified (see map) for coppicing. Active management and opening up this area has taken place in 2016/17, with most of the area restored. This has helped to reduce anti-social activity taking place as well as increasing biodiversity.	Easton College, City College, TCV, Green Gym, Mousehold wardens.	2016/17. Ongoing.
Tree safety inspections	Whole site	Due to the age and structure (pioneer birch being replaced by high canopy oak trees) of secondary woodland, there has been and will continue to be an increase in tree management required, especially adjacent to highways and paths. The wardens have implemented a new 6 month tree inspection survey, which takes a pro-active approach to tree and public health & safety.	Mousehold wardens, Tree contractors	Every 6 months. Ongoing.

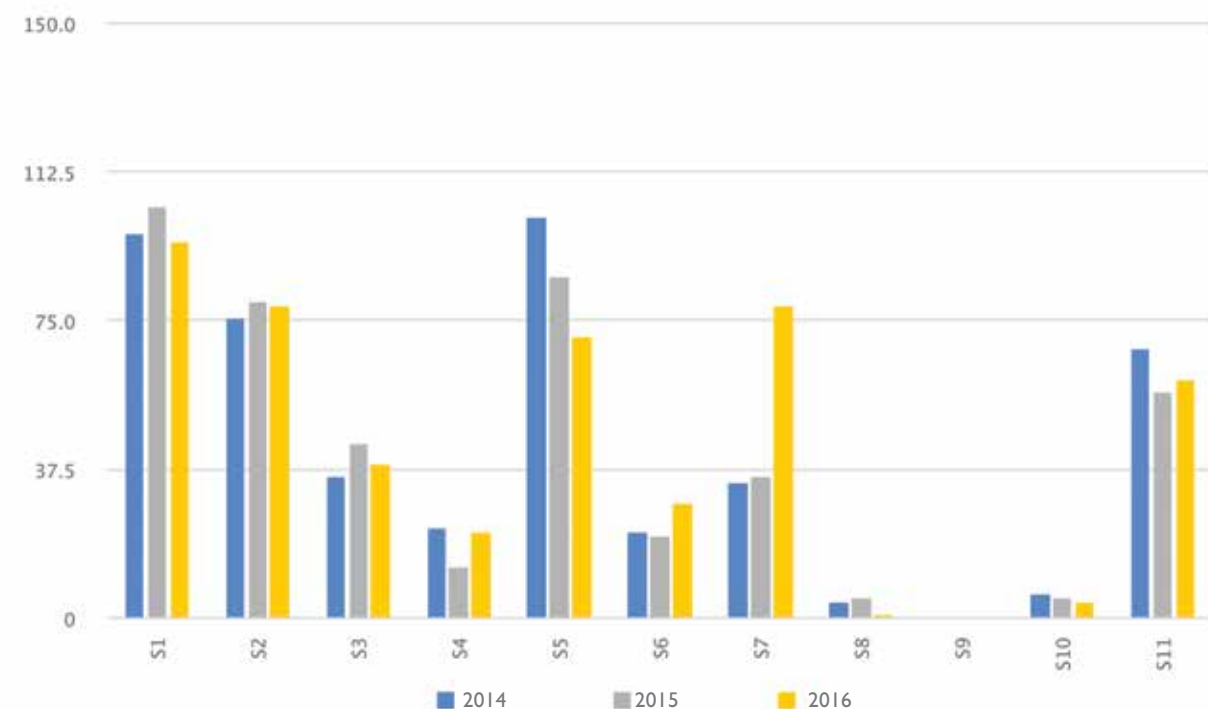
## Appendix 2

### Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (BMS): Butterfly Data Charts

**Chart 1:** Mousehold West transect: Total butterfly numbers recorded. (Dotted line shows average upward trend line of butterfly abundance since survey started in 2004.)



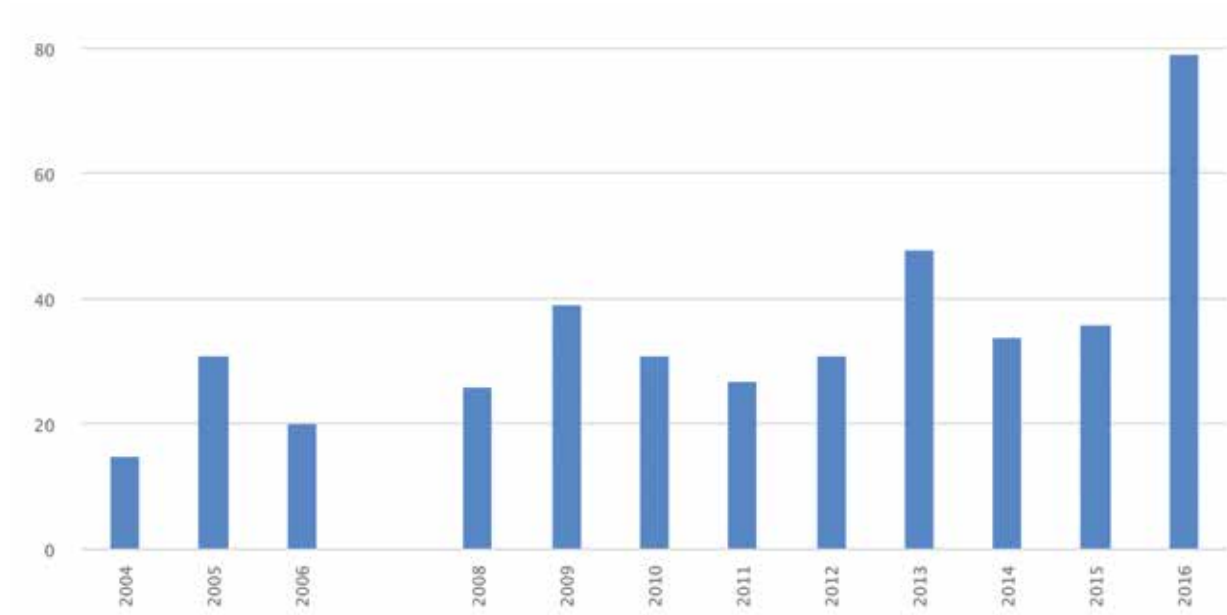
**Chart 2:** Mousehold West transect: Variation in butterfly abundance in different transect sections



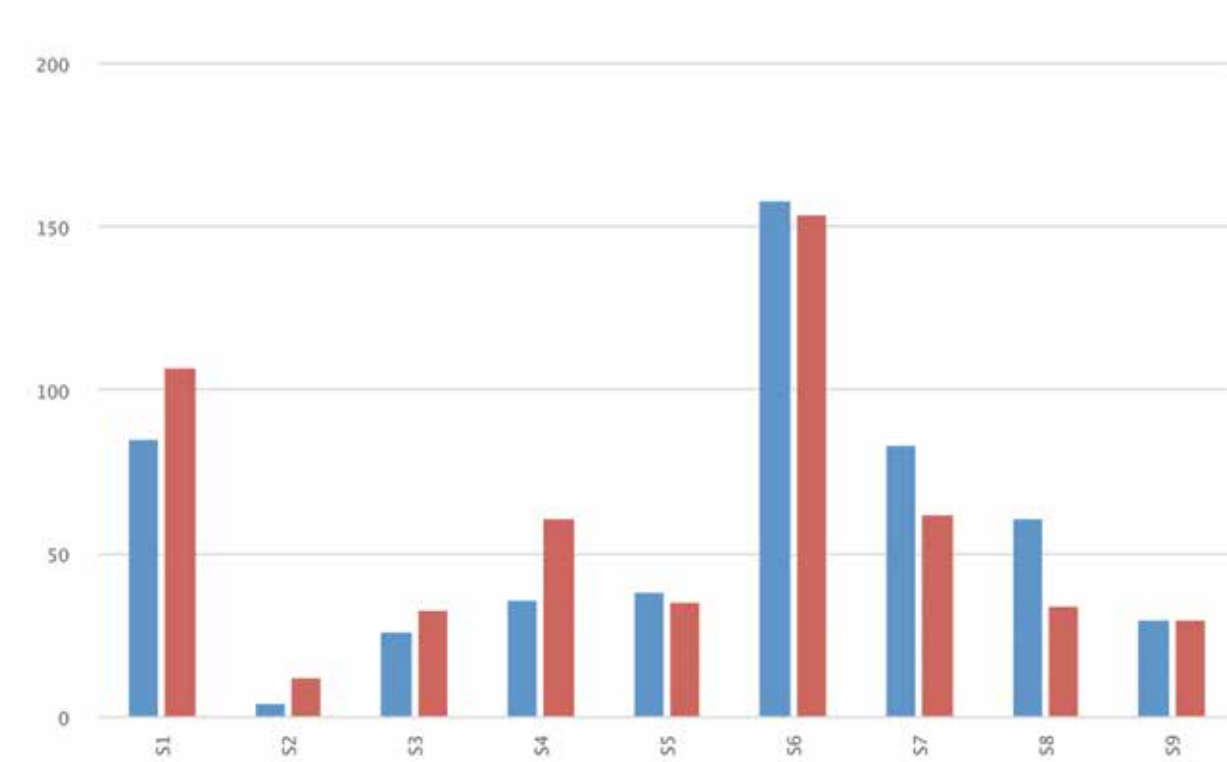
Sections S8, S9, S10 are through shaded scrub and secondary woodland



**Chart 3:** Mousehold West transect: Butterfly numbers recorded in section 7 (heathland restoration area near Wingfield). (Dotted line shows average upward trend line of butterfly abundance since survey started in 2004.)



**Chart 4:** Mousehold East transect: Variation in butterfly abundance in different transect sections



## Appendix 3

### Butterfly species recorded during 2016-17

Species	Distribution/Status	Habitat: Egg/Caterpillar Foodplants
Comma, <i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Resident	Hop, Common Nettle, Bramble etc.
Essex Skipper, <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Resident	Various grasses: Cocks-foot, Creeping Soft-grass and Tor grass.
Small Skipper, <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Resident	Grasses; Yorkshire Fog and Creeping Soft grass.
Large Skipper, <i>Ochlodes venata</i>	Resident	Various grasses.
Common Blue, <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Resident	Open habitats. Legumes.
Holly Blue, <i>Celatrina argiolus</i>	Resident	Holly, Ivy and variety of other plants.
Small Copper, <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Resident	Open ground. Common and Sheep's Sorrel.
Green Hairstreak, <i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Resident. Local.	Heathland. Gorse and Broom.
Brown Argus, <i>Aricia agestis</i>	Resident. Local.	Common Rock-rose.
Large White, <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Resident	Brassicacae and Crucifers.
Small White, <i>Pieris rapae</i>	Resident	Brassicacae and Crucifers.
Green-veined White, <i>Artogeia napi</i>	Resident	Damp, grassy and flowery places. Various Crucifers.
Orange-tip, <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Resident	Crucifers.
Purple Hairstreak, <i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>	Resident	Oak trees.
Gatekeeper, <i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Resident	Various grasses.
Meadow Brown, <i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Resident	Various grasses
Ringlet, <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Resident	Various grasses, shrubs and bramble.
Peacock, <i>Inachis io</i>	Resident	Common Nettle.
Painted Lady, <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Migrant	Thistles.
Red Admiral, <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Resident. Migrant	Common Nettle.
Brimstone, <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Resident	Alder Buckthorn.
Speckled Wood, <i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Resident	Woodland glades. Grasses.
Small Heath, <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Resident. Near Threatened	Dry grassland and heaths. Grasses.
White Admiral, <i>Limnitis camilla</i>	Resident. Vulnerable	Woodland glades. Honeysuckle.
White-letter Hairstreak, <i>Satyrus w-album</i>	Resident. Endangered	Elms.

## Appendix 4

### Common Bird Census (CBC) Survey results 2010 - 2016. Number of territories recorded along transect - Pitch & putt car park to St James' Hill.

Bird species recorded	Spring 2010	Spring 2011	Spring 2012	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016
Blackbird	22	17	12	17	17	29	33
Blackcap	6	9	4	6	11	8	8
Blue Tit	12	9	9	10	15	19	17
Chaffinch	16	8	13	13	13	16	17
Chiffchaff	3	6	5	6	12	7	12
Coal Tit	2	2	3	4	2	3	3
Common Whitethroat	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Duncock	4	6	10	6	8	12	10
Garden Warbler	0	1	1	0	0	0	
Goldcrest	4	2	4	2	3	2	4
Goldfinch	0	1	1	0	21/03/14	14/05/15	14/06/17
Greater Spotted Woodpecker	3	0	2	2	3	2	3
Great Tit	9	11	9	9	10	9	9
Greenfinch	3	0	3	1	2	3	4
House Sparrow	1	1	1	2	4	3	3
Jay	2	1	2	2	2	2	3
Long Tailed Tit	6	5	2	2	2	4	5
Mistle Thrush	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Robin	29	29	40	22	30	35	33
Song Thrush	3	2	4	4	6	5	9

Bird species recorded	Spring 2010	Spring 2011	Spring 2012	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016
Sparrowhawk	1	0	0	0	0	07/04/15 13/05/15 04/06/15	18/04.16 17/05/16
Tree Creeper	2	2	1	1	3	2	4
Willow Warbler	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Wren	19	28	28	20	23	42	41
Kestrel	17/03/10, 19/04/10 & 26/04/10	25/03/11 & 15/05/11	07/05/12	29/04/13	12/04/14 & 29/04/14	24/03/15 07/04/15 21/04/15 02/06/15	1 territory
Magpie	31/03/10 & 19/04/10	23/03/11 & 02/06/11	12/05/12	29/04/13	29/04/14 & 03/06/14	13/04/15 21/04/15 19/05/15 09/06/15	1 territory
Marsh Tit	26/04/10					0	
Carrion Crow				17/04/13, 18/04/13, 14/05/13, 21/05/13		1 territory	4 territory

(Date): Species recorded without evidence of territories

## Appendix 5

### Plant species recorded on St. James' Hill, Mousehold Heath, by the Mousehold Heath Defenders in 2016.

Fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*)  
Rosebay willowherb (*Chamenerion angustifolium*)  
Broad-leaved willowherb (*Epilobium montanum*)  
American willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*)  
Grounsel (*Senecio vulgaris*)  
Heath grounsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*)  
Common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)  
Tansy (*Chrysanthemum vulgare*)  
Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthum*)  
Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*)  
Common poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*)  
Scarlet pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*)  
Common field speedwell (*Veronica persica*)  
White campion (*Silene alba*)  
Red campion (*Silene dioica*)  
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)  
Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)  
Dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.)  
Goat's-beard (*Tragopogon pratensis* agg.)  
Greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*)  
Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)  
Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)  
Canadian golden-rod (*Solidago Canadensis*)  
Common chickweed (*Stellaria media*)  
Common mouse-ear (*Cerastium holosteoides*)  
Red dead-nettle (*Lamium purpureum*)  
White dead-nettle (*Lamium album*)  
Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*)  
Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)  
Broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*)  
Pineappleweed (*Marricaria matricarioides*)  
Wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*)  
Wild rose (*Rosa canina* agg.)  
Dove's-foot Crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*)  
Small-flowered crane's-bill (*Geranium pusillum*)  
Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)  
Common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*)  
Ivy (*Hedera helix*)  
Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*)  
Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*)  
Cleavers (*Galium aparine*)

Perforate St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)  
Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*)  
Broom (*Cytisus scoparius* ssp. *Scoparius*)  
White bryony (*Bryonia dioica*)  
Hop (*Humulus lupulus*)  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)  
Silver birch (*Betula pendula*)  
Apple (*Malus domestica*)  
Travellers joy (*Clematis vitalba*)  
Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*)  
Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)  
Ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)  
Greater plantain (*Plantago major*)  
Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)  
Horse-radish (*Armoracia rusticana*)  
Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)  
Hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*)  
Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)  
Common mallow (*Malva sylvestris*)  
Black horehound (*Ballota nigra*)  
Hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*)  
Wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)  
Bramble (*Rubus* spp)  
Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)  
Hare's-foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*)  
Green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*)  
Shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)  
Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*)  
Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)  
Black medick (*Medicago lupulina*)  
Wild cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*)  
Black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*)  
Wall lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*)  
Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)  
Oak (*Quercus robur*)  
Elm (*Ulmus minor* agg)  
Lime (*Tilia x europaeus* agg)  
London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*)

## Appendix 6

### Plant species recorded in the recently restored new pond glade area by members of the Mousehold Heath Defenders in 2016

Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*)  
Bramble (*Rubus* spp)  
Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*)  
Cleavers (*Galium aparine*)  
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)  
Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*)  
Pineappleweed (*Matricaria matricarioides*)  
Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochoeris radicata*)  
Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)  
Ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)  
Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)  
Green Alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*)  
Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex pulcher*)  
Small-flowered Crane's-bill (*Geranium rotundifolium*)  
Milk Thistle (*Silybum marianum*)  
White Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*)  
Redshank (*Persicaria hydropiper*)  
Nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*)  
Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*)  
Red Deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum*)  
White Dead-nettle (*Lamium album*)  
Red Campion (*Silene dioica*)  
White Campion (*Silene alba*)  
Corn Chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis*)  
Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*)  
Greater Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella major*)  
Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)  
Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)  
Canadian Goldenrod (*Solidago Canadensis*)  
Hawkweeds *Hieracium* (spp)  
Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)  
Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*)  
Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)  
Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)  
Common Mallow (*Malva sylvestris*)  
Pineappleweed (*Matricaria discoidea*)  
Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*)  
Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)  
Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)  
Devils-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)

## Appendix 7

### Plant species recorded in Desert Wildflower area by members of the Mousehold Heath Defenders in 2016.

White clover (*Trifolium repens*),  
Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)  
Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)  
Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*)  
Slender Trefoil (*Trifolium micranthum*)  
Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium holosteoides*)  
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)  
Smooth Cat's-ear (*Hypochoeris glabra*)  
Daisy (*Bellis perennis*)  
White Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*)  
Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)  
Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)  
Large-leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*)  
Cleavers (*Galium aparine*)  
Buddleia (*Buddleja Davidii*)  
Bramble (*Rubus spp*)  
Upright Hedge-parsley (*Torilis japonica*)  
Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)  
Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)  
Black Horehound (*Ballota nigra*)  
Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)  
Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)  
Hedge Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)  
White Dead Nettle (*Lamium album*)  
Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)  
Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex sanguineus*)  
Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*)  
Goat's-beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*)  
Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)  
Prickley Sow Thistle (*Sonchus asper*)  
Mare's-tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*)  
Dove's-foot Crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*)  
Sheep Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)  
Silverweed (*Potentilla anserine*)  
Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*)  
Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)  
Small-flowered Buttercup (*Ranunculus parviflorus*)  
Ox-eye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)  
Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*)



## Notes

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<b>Report to</b>	Mousehold Heath Conservators 17 November 2017	<b>Item</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of citywide services	<b>8</b>
<b>Subject</b>	Mousehold Heath quarterly management update	

---

### **Purpose**

To provide a quarterly update on activities on and relating to Mousehold Heath which contribute to the delivery of the management plan objectives.

### **Recommendation**

To note the content of the report

### **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:** Multiple Wards

### **Contact officer**

Simon Meek - Parks and open spaces manager	01603 212403
Will Stewart - Mousehold Heath warden	01603 213310
Nigel Hales - Mousehold Heath warden	01603 213310

### **Background documents**

None

# **Report**

## **Background**

1. The report details the work, activities and issues arising on, and relating to, Mousehold Heath.
2. This report covers the reporting period from the March 2017 meeting up to the September 2017 meeting (which was rescheduled to 17 November 2017). The period from September 2017 up to January 2018 will be covered in the January report.

### **Infrastructure management**

3. Two Rhino security bollards at the access barrier on to the Wingfield open space have been procured and installed as approved at the Mousehold Conservators meeting on 16 June 2017.
4. Three wooden bollards have been installed by the Mousehold Heath wardens to prevent cars from encroaching onto the heath at Britannia Road car park and Britannia road.

### **Tree safety**

5. The wardens have undertaken a range of tree work across the site, to unblock paths and make trees and branches safe. There are still low risk trees which require further remedial work. These works will be prioritised and completed so as not to disturb hibernating insects and nesting birds.
6. The next six monthly tree inspection of all the well-used paths and other high amenity areas of the heath, will be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens in September

### **Management for nature**

7. A range of habitat and site management tasks have been carried out by the Mousehold wardens, volunteers and contractors, to help deliver the management plan objectives relating to habitats on the and the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement priorities relating to heathland.

### **Woodland management:**

8. Work to restore a section of woodland adjacent to Gilman Road by clearing dead and overgrown vegetation has continued. This work has been carried out to increase community access to a formally impenetrable area, with the aim of improving biodiversity and creating a more diverse environment for new fauna and flora to become established.
9. Encroaching bracken has been cut back in woodland glades to allow a diversity of plants to grow and flower.

## **Heathland management**

10. With increasing areas of open habitat, the summer months are now one of the busiest times on the heath, with practical tasks focusing on path maintenance and the cutting/pulling of bracken, which rapidly out-competes and smothers important heathland and grassland plant species.
11. The labour intensive work facilitates community access to many areas of the heath. It also produces large swathes of land covered in a carpet of blues and purples when the heather flowers in August and September. The flowering heather is an important source of nectar for the large number of bees, butterflies and other insects which inhabit the site.

## **St. Williams Chapel**

12. Vegetation was cleared at the site of St. William's Chapel to make the landforms more visible in preparation for the Norwich HEART Heritage Walks. Access improved by clearing pathways around the boundaries of the site.
13. These works will be followed up with further vegetation clearing, over the Autumn-Winter period, in line with the objectives set out in the management plan.

## **Path maintenance.**

14. Vegetation which encroaches on to footpaths has been cut back, with the help of volunteer groups closely supervised by the Mousehold Wardens.

## **Litter management**

15. A number of areas formerly used for camping have been cleared and rubbish removed by the wardens with assistance from the Norwich Norse Environmental litter picker, as part of his daily work.

## **Misuse and antisocial behaviour**

16. Two homeless people found camping in the Long Valley area of the Heath were assisted by the Norwich City Council Homeless and rough sleeper co-ordinator who arranged accommodation for them.
17. Six incidents of temporary campers, who were not homeless were found on the heath. The wardens verbally advised them about camping on the heath being against the bylaws and all six left the site.
18. There have been two separate incidents involving quad bikes on the heath. The wardens and also a member of the public reported the incidents to the police.
19. On Monday 04-09-17 a three year old boy went missing at St. James Hill. The police and dog handlers attended. The wardens and the local community were involved in

the search The boy was found safe and well after approximately an hour searching. The parents passed on their thanks to everyone involved.

## **Volunteers**

20. A total of 1179 volunteer work hours have been undertaken on site in the last quarter by the following groups:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- The Assist Trust.
- Mousehold Heath Defenders
- Aviva Corporate Community Action Day Group
- Ethical Investments Corporate Group
- The new Mousehold Heath Mousketeers volunteer group
- City College Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme group.
- DofE Award volunteer.
- Norwich High School for Girls
- Many volunteers from the community.

21. An initiative to work closely with the Friends of Ketts Heights and share equipment and skills across both sides of Ketts Hill has been developed.

22. Two task dates have been arranged in the Autumn for a combined work party on St James' Hill.

23. Following concerns raised at the Mousehold Conservators meeting in June about the possibility of the Mousehold Volunteers being confused with Mousehold Defenders volunteers, the matter was raised with the new group. The volunteers discussed possible new names and finally agreed on Mousehold Heath Mousketeers.

24. Volunteers have helped to carry out bee, butterfly, plant, moth and bird surveys.

25. Ongoing support provided to the volunteer groups has provided an opportunity for the community to become involved with the management of the heath, to increase their understanding of the projects being undertaken, the importance of the heath and to engender a sense of ownership and pride in the space.

## **Events**

26. A range of events to increase understanding, involvement and enjoyment of the site have been organised or hosted on the heath in the last quarter;

- More than 14 Forest School activities took place on the site, involving children from three schools.
- Two moth survey evenings took place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August attracting new members of the community to this event and adding new species to the species list.
- A butterfly walk and workshop, led by the Norfolk County Recorder, took place in June recording new species of butterfly and other insects.



- A Management and wildlife walk led a Mousehold warden, showed members of the community the work that has been undertaken in the last year to improve the site for people and wildlife.
- ROOTS environmental education activities - reconnect with Nature – took place on the second Sunday in the month which involved young people's stay and play wildlife activities. For children aged 3-11 years organised by Norwich City Council Events and overseen by the wardens.

