

**Report to** Mousehold Heath Conservators  
23 July 2021  
**Report of** Parks and open spaces manager  
**Subject** Mousehold Heath Conservators Annual Report 2020-21

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### **Purpose**

To report on the work carried out on Mousehold Heath on behalf of the Mousehold Conservators for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.

### **Recommendation**

To:

- (1) note the content of the report.
- (2) produce a simplified summary PDF version of the report highlights, in colour, to be published on the Mousehold Heath web page.
- (3) include information about the heath to raise awareness of its value as an open space and the opportunities it has to offer for residents and visitors.
- (4) delegate authority to the Parks and open spaces manager to produce the finished version of the summary report with the communications team.

### **Mousehold Heath management plan objectives**

The report helps to meet all objectives in the Mousehold Heath management plan.

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

### **Corporate and service priorities**

The report helps to meet the corporate priority great neighbourhoods, housing and environment.

### **Financial implications**

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

**Ward/s:** Catton Grove and Crome

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## **Introduction**

1. Mousehold Heath is a unique area made up of 88 hectares (184 acre) 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 unwind from the pace of city life.
2. 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.
3. 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 Mousehold Conservators is 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.
4. The Conservators also prepare an annual report which provides an overview of the work of the Conservators, any changes to the heath or new biological records and an opportunity to look forward and reflect on changes, opportunities and issues that the heath faces. The report also highlights the level of voluntary activity as well as the numbers of events, walks and surveys undertaken.
5. The report also highlights how the community are involved with Mousehold Heath; through active involvement in its management and attending events and guided walks and talks, to find out more about their local open space.

## **The work of the Mousehold Conservators**

6. The management of Mousehold Heath is guided by the Management Plan 2019 - 28. This seeks to balance the important ecological value of Mousehold with an equally important recreational site within an urban area.
7. The challenge is to balance these important and at times conflicting objectives.
8. The Conservators agree an annual work programme and budget in January each year for the following financial year and monitor the implementation of this plan at its meetings.
9. The management plan and further details of the work of the Mousehold Conservators can be found on the Norwich City Council website.

[https://www.norwich.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5043/mousehold\\_heath\\_management\\_plan.pdf](https://www.norwich.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5043/mousehold_heath_management_plan.pdf)

## **Mousehold Heath during Covid-19 and lockdowns**

10. In accordance with government Covid-19 regulations, volunteer, school and college student activities were suspended during both lockdowns (see volunteering and Covid-19 section later in report).
11. During the first lockdown, with people told to exercise locally, the wardens observed an increase in visitors (estimated at 5 times the usual number). People who may have driven to the coast or countryside were using the heath, and appreciating more than ever, the positive impact of having safe and accessible green space on their doorstep.
12. During this time, the wardens received positive feedback about how important and wonderful it was to have such a large, semi-natural area so close to their homes.
13. The wardens continued to undertake ecological surveys (it was much easier to record bird song without car and plane sound) and tree safety works. Their work switched to issues arising from the increase in visitors due to the promotion of the site through social media, local press and TV, promoting the Heath as a top five place to visit in Norwich as a natural area for physical exercise and mental health well-being, within the lock down periods.
14. Patrols were increased to deal with anti-social behaviour, such as campfires, BBQ's, with an increase in cycling and BMX jump construction, fly-tipping, etc.
15. Extra litter picks were undertaken to remove the increase in litter. With recycling centres closed, the wardens reported over twenty cases of fly-tipping for removal by NCSL.
16. Without volunteer activity, the wardens spent extra time maintaining site infrastructure, such as painting benches, repairing nature trail/earth heritage trail posts and cleaning interpretation boards.
17. For many people, the new normal is more locally focused and the heath has continued to see an increased number of visitors through the year, even when lockdowns haven't been in place. This year, more than ever, the site has provided the community with space to escape, space to unwind and space to reflect on the events of 2020-21 and enjoy the natural world in a safe environment.

## **Priority A: To ensure Mousehold Heath is a welcoming place for people to visit.**

### **AF00/01 PREPARE ANNUAL BUDGET**

18. The Mousehold Heath revenue budget for 2020/21 was £240,107, with £100,766 capital held in reserves.

### **AI00/01 GREEN FLAG AWARD APPLICATION**

19. The Mousehold Heath Conservators applied submitted a Green Flag application application in February 2020 and judging took place in July 2020. The green flag judge who was shown various parts of the heath by the Chair of the Mousehold Heath Conservators, Cllr Marion Maxwell and the Chair of the Mousehold Defenders, Clare Cohen, accompanied by the Mousehold Heath Wardens. The application was successful and Mousehold Heath achieved Green Flag status for the first time.
20. Sites have to apply annually and be judged annually to ensure that they are stilling meeting the criteria to receive the award. An application was submitted in February 2021 and the site will be judged again later this year.

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

**AI30/02 TREE SAFETY INSPECTION**

21. Both six monthly (September 2020 and March 2021) tree safety surveys were completed by the wardens, identifying 76 dead, dying, dangerous trees and branches mostly due to several high winds and adverse weather conditions, requiring work to manage tree safety risk. Works were completed by the Mousehold wardens within three months, with three specialised specialised pieces of work being delivered by NorwichNorse Environmental (NNE).
22. An early Autumn storm on 25.09.20 created significant damage, with the Mousehold wardens undertaking twelve windblown tree safety jobs following the strong winds.
23. An additional 32 dead, dying, dangerous and windblown trees and branches spotted during patrols and reported by members of the community, these were been made safe and cleared by the Mousehold wardens.
24. Due to the concern regarding the declining health of the Turners Oak tree located in the middle of the pavilion public car park, Gurney Road, a site meeting was held by the Mousehold wardens and Norwich City Council's arboricultural officer to discuss measures to improve the future health of the tree.
25. It was thought that the declining condition of the tree was due to suffocation of the root system caused by compaction of the surrounding soil by vehicles using the car park. The compaction reduces the amount of air being taken up by the roots.
26. Improvement works were ordered a specialised contractor was procured to undertake the works to improve soil conditions and secure the future health of the tree.
27. The recommended works carried out included, the extension of the existing root protection area (RPA) at the base of the tree to reduce soil compaction by vehicles and air spading (using compressed air to loosen compacted soil around

the roots) within the root protection area to improve air circulation to the root system and to improve soil conditions within the RPA.

28. The works started on Monday 22nd February over a five day period and completed on Friday 26th February.
29. Since the works, the tree's condition has started to improve.

#### AR01/05 SEAT AND BENCH SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

30. A sponsored bench was installed within the open grassed area, locally known as the Round Hill, accessed by following the pathway to the side of the pavilion from the car park on Gurney Road.
31. The new bench replaced an old decaying bench. A trustee of a charity developing a football museum at Norwich City Football Club was interested in displaying the old bench in the museum as a piece of historical memorabilia. It had been a location of several meetings held by the club in its formative years. Approval was granted by the conservators via email.

#### MH08 DEAD AND DECAYING WOOD

32. Dead/diseased/dying trees were retained, to encourage a diverse structure to woodland and to ensure that there is a supply of dead and decaying wood for those specialist species which require it. Trees identified as posing an unacceptable level of safety risk were removed. Where appropriate dead wood removed is left on site as a habitat.

#### MI60/03 FOOTBALL PITCH PROVISION

33. A full-sized football pitch is available for hire at the Fountain Ground, Gurney Road, including changing rooms, showers and toilets.
34. 16 senior matches and 1 junior match were held at the Fountain Ground in the 2019/20 season, income from the facility was £1020.04. The income was impacted by
35. The cost per booking for the 19/20 season was £65.81 (standard charge) or £54.84 (VAT exempt) the junior rate was £32.90.

#### MI60/04 FOOTBALL BOOKINGS MANAGEMENT

36. This facility can be booked via Norwich City Services Ltd on 01603 987922 or email [ncslsportsbookings@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:ncslsportsbookings@norwich.gov.uk)

#### MP00/01 SITE PRESENCE

37. Covid 19 lockdowns and being promoted through the media and online as a top ten place to visit in the city, resulted in the heath seeing an increase in visitor

use for outdoor exercise. Due to the increased use patrols were undertaken more frequently.

#### MP00/02 PATROLL SITE BOUNDARIES AND HOTSPOTS

38. Due to adverse weather conditions two sink holes were discovered on Monday 4 January 2021 both appeared at the same time, one at St. James Hill and the other in the woodland adjacent to the pavilion car park on Gurney Road.
39. These were dealt with under an emergency order and fenced off with Heras fencing to ensure public health and safety.
40. Both areas were left for several weeks to settle, a visual safety inspection was carried out to determine the cause followed by a probe inspection by NPSN and a senior civil engineer. The cause was put down to wet and cold conditions over a prolonged period of time making the underlying soil conditions unstable, the survey did not identify any other cause. They were filled in and monitored once a month over a five-month period to make sure they were stable, both locations were then re-opened to the public.

#### RH35/01 ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES CRIME

41. The wardens worked with the council's homeless/rough sleeper coordinator for support to be provided to rough sleepers (camping or sleeping in vehicles) on the heath. This included site visits, resulting in temporary accommodation being found until a more permanent arrangement could be made.
42. A number of BMX jumps were dismantled and holes filled in by the wardens, adjacent to Valley Drive and central parts of the heath. The wardens also used the principle of engage, inform, and advise when speaking to people having BBQ's and campfires on open spaces and conservation areas across the site also metal detectorists have been asked to move on from St. James Hill, the pitch and putt side of the heath and the Winfield open space.
43. Car parking was also in demand with vehicle encroachment being an issue, drivers were asked to move on to protect the heath and keep emergency access gates clear.

#### **Objective C: To ensure that Mousehold Heath is clean and well maintained.**

#### ME01/01 GATES, FENCING AND BARRIERS

44. Following an insurance claim concerning the damage to a roof rack caused to a vehicle by the height barrier cross bar at the pitch and putt car park, the height of the barriers at Gilman Road and the Pitch and Putt car parks has now been painted on each cross bar, to mitigate against any future claims.

45. As a result of normal wear and tear one new chain link fencing supporting post was installed and six sections of fencing re secured to supporting posts at the Fountain Ground sports pitch, Gurney Road.

#### ME01/02 BOLLARDS

46. Four new wooden bollards were installed around the perimeter of Britannia Road car park, replacing missing and damaged ones to ensure the security of the site.
47. Four new bollards were installed in an area of woodland along the edge of the driveway leading from Britannia Road to the flats managed by Wensum Property, to deter illegal parking on the Heath by residents.
48. Six bollards were renewed along the disable pathway adjacent to Britannia Road to upgrade old decaying ones.

#### ME04/01 LITTER PICKING

49. NCSL litter picked the whole site five days a week Monday to Friday with just the car parks being litter picked on a weekend.
50. An area used for camping at the top of St. James Hill was cleared and rubbish removed by the wardens. Assistance was provided by the NCSL litter picker, as part of his daily work.

#### ME04/02 LITTER BINS

51. Graffiti was removed from five litter bins across the site, this fell within the terms of the maintenance contract provided by NCSL.

#### ME04/03 FLY TIPPING

52. An above average number of fly tipped items, 25 individual reports, were removed from Hill Farm Track, Pitch and Putt and Britannia road car parks and other parts of the heath, including garden waste and building materials. Items found are being removed and disposed of by NCSL.

#### ME06/01 FINGER POSTS AND WAYMARKERS

53. The Nature Trail and Earth Heritage trail posts and discs have been maintained and any rotten or vandalised ones replaced.

#### ME12/01 REMOVE GRAFFITI

54. Five separate incidents of graffiti were removed from bollards and cycle route signs along Gilman Road, the notice board, Welcome to Mousehold Heath sign, historical interpretation panel (adjacent to the Ice Cream concession) on Gurney Road. The graffiti was reported using the council's online reporting system and removed the next day, the police were also informed.



55. Graffiti on former Cllr David Bradford's bench and two interpretation boards was removed by the wardens.

#### ME12/04 CHANGING ROOMS

56. The meeting room window at the Fountain Ground changing rooms was vandalised and required the installation of a new security grill.

#### ME41/01 MAIN PATHS

57. Eighteen paths have been maintained by brush cutting and raking off vegetation, including those on Gilman Road Open Space, the Wildflower Meadow; Mustard Pond Glade, in front of the pavilion; St William's Chapel; and St James Hill by the wardens with the help of volunteers.

#### ME41/03 CYCLEWAYS

58. All main cycleways have been flailed by NNE and swept to help control encroaching vegetation providing safe and open access.

#### ME44/02 CAR PARK SURFACING

59. Due to erosion caused by high vehicle usage, car park maintenance works were required at the lay by on Gurney Road, these works included the levelling of the curb from car park to highway and pot holes being filled.

#### ML00/03 CONCESSION BRITANNIA ROAD

60. A site meeting was held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December attended by the chair, vice chair and Mousehold Heath wardens to meet and introduce themselves to the successful applicant of Sunset Café, the new concession holder for Britannia Road.
61. The position was offered on a twelve-month basis with a contract drawn up on behalf of the conservators by NorwichNorse Property Services covering a twelve-month period from December 2020.

### **Priority E: To improve habitats and the natural environment for wildlife to enhance the biodiversity of Mousehold Heath**

#### **Heathland and Grassland management**

62. Lowland heathland is a scarce and threatened habitat and only a sixth of the heathland that was present in England in 1800 now remains.
63. However, Britain still has 20 per cent of the world's total area of heathland and this makes it important to conserve the existing heathland areas and look for opportunities to extend them.

64. The Government UK Biodiversity Action Plan for Lowland Heathland includes targets for establishing more lowland heathland to provide space for wildlife and open access to members of the community.
65. 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 notable, declining and threatened species.
66. 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.
67. One of the management objectives is to address the reduction of open heathland and acid grassland across the site, which has occurred over the last 40 years. Of the total area of 88 hectares, only 10 hectares of Mousehold is covered by heathland.
68. Butterflies, such as small copper and green hairstreak, and a number of moth species, such as true lover's knott, heath rustic and beautiful yellow underwing, are associated with heathland habitats, and were recorded on the heath this year.

#### HL40/06 NATURAL ENGLAND HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP (HLS) AGREEMENT

69. A grant of £30,600 was awarded to be paid in equal annual payments until the year 2022/23. HLS funding has enabled the conservators to access specialist contractors to achieve their objective objective of improving the quantity and quality of heathland habitat.
70. The funding has been used to restore heathland and acid grassland, by removing scrub, mowing with a tractor-mounted Rytec mower, grinding stump, and stripping humus. This has resulted in existing heathland areas being enlarged and linked up.
71. Habitat improvements carried out during 2020-21 involved the removal of encroaching trees, scrub and leggy gorse from existing heathland areas. These works are were undertaken by volunteers and contractors under the supervision of the wardens, in compliance with the HLS agreement. The works also included humus stripping and the use of a cut and collect mower, to control nutrient enrichment of soil, in line with management plan objectives
72. In short sward open areas, tree poppers were used to pull up birch saplings, which rapidly out-compete heather and grassland species.
73. Future management will increasingly move from heathland restoration to maintenance as areas in the agreement are restored.

#### MH12/01 MAINTAIN ACID GRASSLAND

74. The Anthill and Wildflower Meadows had an annual conservation cut which was completed by volunteers and the wardens.
75. All arisings were 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.
76. The conservation of ant hills is ensured through sympathetic management techniques, such as using a cord strimmer and carefully raking around the habitats.

#### MH39/01: BRACKEN REMOVAL

77. Large areas of bracken were cut, pulled, raked and removed from heathland, grassland and woodland glade habitats by volunteers and the wardens. This summer task is crucial to conserving nectar rich heather species and complying with the Mousehold Heath's, Natural England, HLS Agreement.

#### MH39//03 COMMON GORSE REMOVAL

78. Invasive common gorse has been cut and removed from heathland areas to conserve heather, western gorse and other dwarf shrub species.

#### **Woodland management**

79. 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.

#### MH00/01 COPPICING

80. Woodland areas were managed through a number of techniques to diversify and enhance habitat and increase biodiversity, through ride creation, coppicing, and pollarding.
81. Work to maintain access to 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 fauna and flora to become established.

#### MH03/01 NATURAL REGENERATION

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

#### MH04/01 GLADE MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE

83. Grassland habitat in the Wildlife/Mustard Pond glade has been maintained by cutting and raking encroaching vegetation, such as invasive bracken and bramble.

#### MH31/01 SCRUB AND TREE REMOVAL

84. Invasive scrub and birch trees have been cut and removed within the heathland habitat area.

#### **Aquatic habitats**

##### MH60/01 Vinegar Pond and MH60/02 Mustard Pond

85. The Vinegar and Mustard Ponds are the only source of water on the heath. These habitats were monitored and floating debris, such as branches and litter removed. Reed sweet-grass and yellow flag iris are invasive plants which had been unofficially introduced to the Vinegar Pond. These plants were removed by the wardens.
86. Since the installation of a bentonite clay linings in December 2011 (Vinegar Pond) and November 2012 (Mustard Pond), water levels have remained high, even during prolonged periods of dry weather, providing an ideal environment for spawning common frogs and other still water biodiversity.
87. These conditions have also resulted in common newts inhabiting the ponds, along with a wide variety of damselfly and dragonfly species.
88. The ponds are also served as an important place for birds and mammals to bathe and drink.

#### **Birds.**

##### RA12/01 COMMON BIRD CENSUS

89. A Common Bird Census (CBC) survey was carried out by the wardens in the Spring. 34 species of bird were recorded (singing and/or calling) as having breeding territories based on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), CBC methodology.

#### **Reptiles and Amphibians.**

##### RA26/01 REPTILES SPECIES LIST

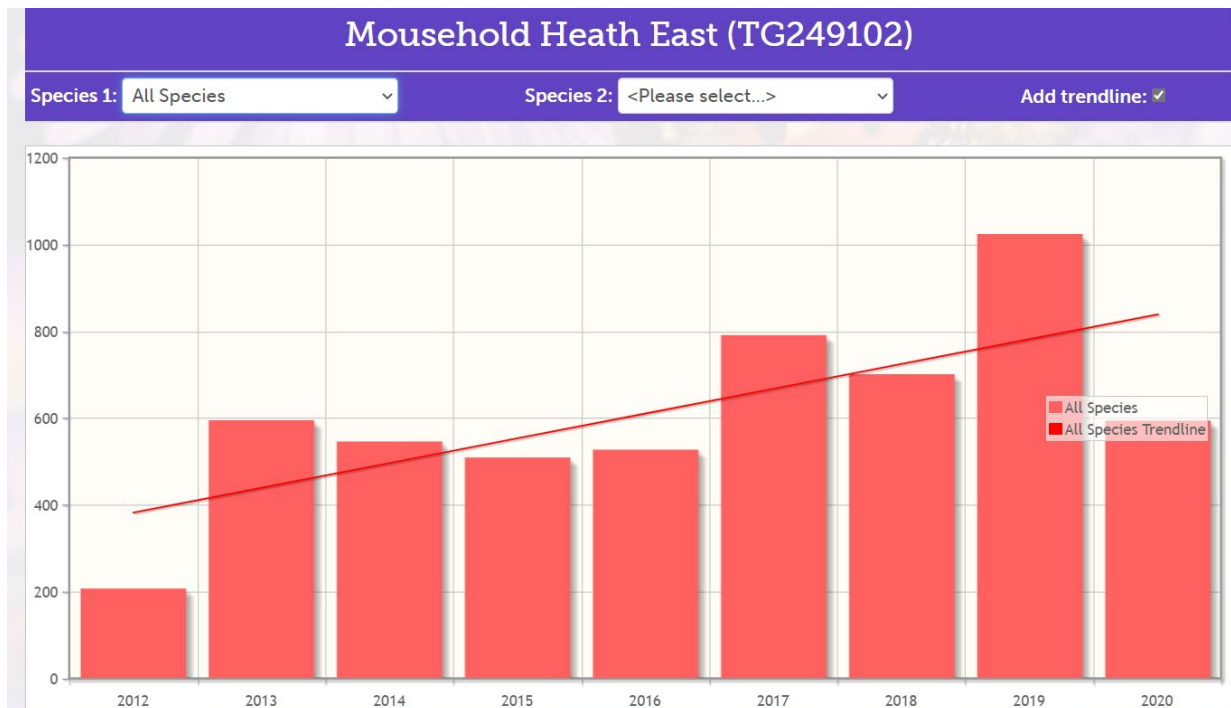
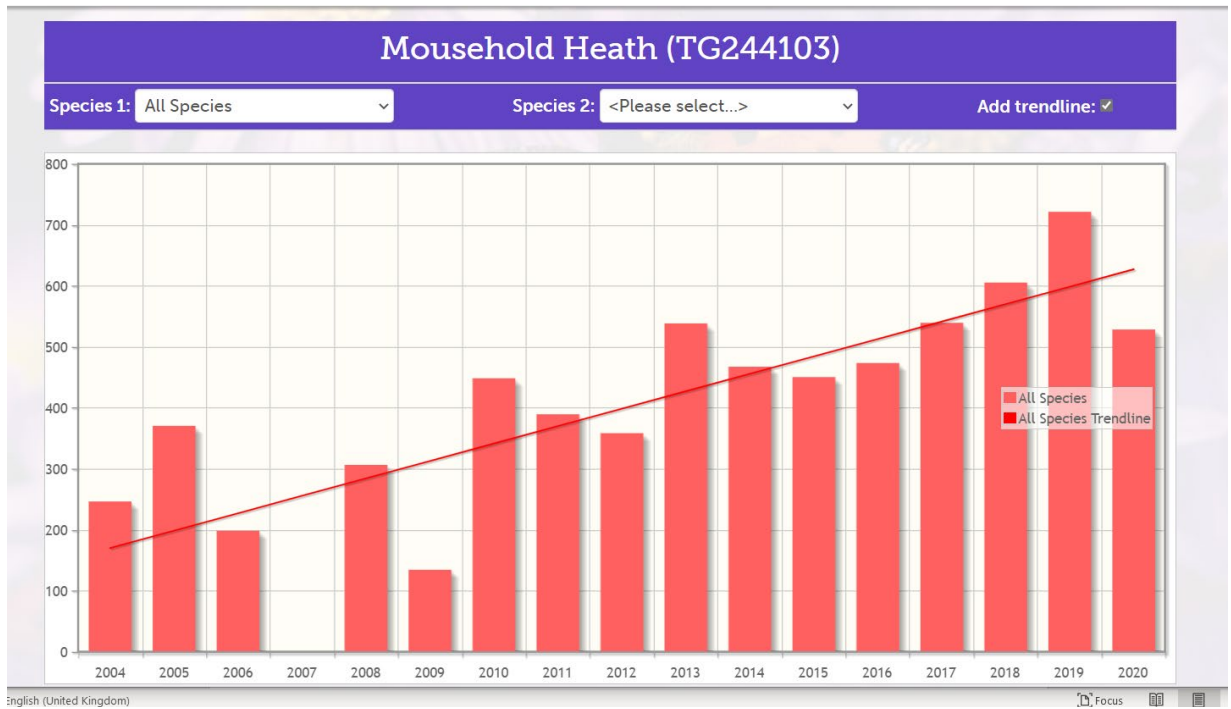
90. Common lizards were recorded in good numbers throughout spring and summer months, with many seen basking in recently restored open heathland and grassland habitats.
91. Frogs had a very productive year with many adults being seen in March and frog spawn and tadpoles in the Vinegar and Mustard Pond.

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

## **Butterflies.**

### RA42/01 BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SURVEY

93. 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 31 sites surveyed in Norfolk.
94. 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.
95. 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.
96. Two, weekly BMS transect surveys have been undertaken by the wardens. On the Mousehold Heath West survey, monthly counts recorded 627 individual butterflies. This is compared to 1047 estimated in 2019.
97. Several local and characteristic species were recorded, such as Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus, Small Copper and Purple Hairstreak.
98. On the Mousehold Heath East transect, an estimated 615 were recorded compared to 722 in 2019.
99. This drop in numbers in 2020 could be explained by an exceptionally good year for many butterfly species in Norfolk, in 2019, following the record warm summer of 2018. This is supported at county level by the Norfolk County BMS Butterfly recorder who stated, "Looking at the Norfolk transects that had fairly complete data, they all showed a decrease compared to 2019".
100. When taking into consideration that butterfly numbers have been declining nationally over recent years, it is encouraging that the butterfly population trend line on both Mousehold BMS transects (see trend line graphs below) - when taking into account annual weather fluctuations and national population changes - are increasing.
101. An upward trend could suggest that the restoration and conservation of early-successional habitat, such as heathland, woodland glades and grassland, through bracken control and scrub clearing, is having a positive impact.



## **Bumblebees.**

### RA82/01 ST JAMES' HILL BUMBLEBEE SURVEY

102. Monthly, BeeWalk Bumblebee Conservation Trust surveys have been undertaken by the wardens with the help of a member of the Mousehold Heath Defenders. A total of 51, Buff-tailed, Red tailed, White tailed, Common Carder, Tree and Early bumblebee species, along with Honeybees, were recorded along the transect route on St. James Hill.

## **Bats.**

### RA92/01 NATIONAL BAT MONITORING PROGRAMME SURVEY

103. Two, National Bat Monitoring Project (NBMP), Bat Conservation Trust Field Surveys were completed in July by the wardens assisted by volunteers, using a bat detector. A total of 66 Common pipistrelle passes (49 in 2019), 39 Soprano pipistrelle (26 in 2019), 2 Noctule passes (1 in 2019) were recorded during the transect survey, starting 20 minutes after sunset. This annual national survey was started in 2018 on the heath. Bat population trend line analysis will help assess bat numbers on the site in future years.

## **Plants.**

### RF22/02 MUSTARD POND SURVEY

104. A monthly flowering plant survey has been undertaken by members of the Mousehold Heath Defenders, recording many beautiful and nectar-rich species. 82 flowering plant species have been recorded in this area.

### RF22/03 ST JAMES' HILL SURVEY

105. A warden and a member of the Mousehold Heath Defenders carried out a monthly flower survey, identifying a number of new flowering plant species and bringing the total number up to 125 species in the last 10 years.

## **Objective F: To safeguard the historic landscape, archaeological features and buildings of Mousehold Heath.**

### MC03/01 ST WILLIAMS CHAPEL – VEGETATION REMOVAL

106. Invasive bracken and bramble has been cut and removed from chapel paths, banks and viewpoints by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and the Mousehold wardens so that views of the chapel could be viewed from the interpretation board.

### MC81/03 CAVALRY TRACK

107. Under the supervision of a warden, volunteers have cleared vegetation, leaves and other dead vegetation to keep the track open.

**Objective G: To provide opportunities for local communities to be involved in all aspect of our work.**

Volunteering and Covid-19.

108. Despite volunteer activity having to be suspended during the lockdowns, there has been a large amount of interest in, and volunteer activity out on site. The Mousehold wardens worked with parks and open spaces officers to produce Covid-19 risk assessments and safe working procedure sheets, to create a safe working environment for when volunteer activities could resume.

109. The wardens have had a higher than usual interest in volunteering by members of the community, some of whom discovered and used the site for the first-time during lockdown; and from people who had been furloughed and had more time to volunteer.

110. Due to this demand and a maximum of 6 volunteers per task, an additional nineteen Mousketeer work parties were organised and lead by the wardens. This extra community support made up for lost time in the lockdowns and has resulted in tasks carried out by volunteers being delivered despite a challenging situation.

111. The volunteer tasks have provided physical and mental health benefits to the volunteers during a challenging and difficult year for many people. The wardens are planning to continue the increased number of volunteer sessions over the coming months, whilst there is the demand.

AT50/01 VOLUNTEERS GENERAL

112. This year's volunteer tasks, groups and numbers have been negatively affected by Covid-19 restrictions. There were two long periods when volunteer work parties were not permitted to take place. A total of 923 volunteer work hours (5156 hours in 2019/20) were contributed to work on the site, in the last year, by the following groups:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- The Assist Trust
- Mousehold Heath Defenders
- Mousehold Heath Mousketeers
- Natwest, RBS and Aviva Corporate Groups
- GoodGym Norwich



- Norwich High School For Girls
- City College DofE group
- George White School students
- Individual volunteers from the community.

113. Since July 2008, there has been 46,896 volunteer hours safely undertaken on the site. Volunteering 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.

**Objective H: To promote Mousehold Heath to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and a sense of pride.**

MI60/01 EVENTS

114. A range of events to increase understanding, involvement and enjoyment of the site have been organised or hosted on the heath.

115. An Armistice Day service was held by the Mousehold Heath Defenders on Monday 11 November 2020. A wreath was laid at the Airmen's Memorial, Gurney Road, to remember those who gave their lives, especially in recognition of the 5 airmen who were killed there during World War 2.

Plt.Off. Colin Barton RNZAF  
 Flt.Sgt. James Lemon RCAF  
 Flt.Sgt. Robert Kater RCAF  
 Sgt. Donald Carpenter RAFVR  
 Sgt. Ernest Nightingale DFM RAFVR

RH31/01 FOREST SCHOOLS

116. Five environmental education activities were authorised to take place throughout December after a long break due to Covid19 restrictions. These were booked through Norwich City Council events team, and run by ROOTS, to encourage children and adults to reconnect with the natural world through play and outdoor experiences. The activities included, birthday parties (including woodland adventure), stay and play sessions, adult fitness and wellbeing and children's clubs, spoon carving and yoga.

117. Enchanted Forest school is a new Forest School environmental education and play group booked to undertake one event in November and four in December booked through Norwich City Council events team.