

**Report to** Mousehold Heath Conservators  
20 January 2017  
**Report of** Head of citywide services  
**Subject** Mousehold Heath update

**Item**

**7**

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**Purpose**

To provide an update on issues and recent activities at Mousehold Heath

**Recommendation**

That Conservators note the content of the report.

**Corporate and service priorities**

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

**Financial implications**

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

**Contact officer**

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**Background documents**

None

# **Report**

## **Infrastructure management**

1. The Mousehold wardens have liaised with Norwich City Council's Single Homeless and Rough Sleeper Coordinator, to help a camper to find accommodation who was living next to the Cavalry Track. His belongings and litter were removed following his departure.
2. All main road verges were flailed for public health and safety these included Gurney Road, Heartsease Lane and the public cycle way along Gilman Road.
3. Public car park maintenance works have been carried to the Britannia Road car park.

## **Tree and natural area management**

4. During the 6 monthly tree inspections, 39 dead, dying, dangerous and windblown trees and branches within falling distance of footpaths and cycleways were identified. In this quarter, these have been made safe by the Mousehold wardens.
5. A large amount of heathland and grassland management has been undertaken by Mousehold wardens and volunteers, especially the cutting and raking of wild flower habitats, to restore and improve the condition of existing habitats in line with the site's Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England.
6. As stated in the woodland management statement (see annual report), work has commenced in thinning and coppicing an area of dense woodland adjacent to Gilman Road, to improve the site for people and wildlife. With large-scale volunteer support, the Mousehold wardens have opened up a significant area of the previously inaccessible copse, through cutting and clearing dense undergrowth. Rubbish had gradually built up over many years with over 20 bags of litter removed. Light can now penetrate into the wood which should increase ground flora. There has been a big increase in members of the community using the area. The plan is that an increased open environment will reduce anti-social behaviour in the area. Work is set to continue in 2017/18.

## **Access works**

7. Paths across the site have been maintained by Mousehold Heath Defenders, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Green Gym, Assist Trust, City College group and other volunteers.
8. Paths have been cut back around St. Williams Chapel and vegetation cut and removed to improve access, views across and enjoyment of the scheduled ancient monument in line with David Robertson's, the Norfolk Monuments Management Project for Norfolk County Council management plan, for this year's HEART Heritage history walk, focusing on the story of William of Norwich.
9. Part of the disabled access route leading to the Mottram Memorial was repaired due to erosion and vegetation cut back to allow easier access.

## **Volunteers**

10. A total of 1,200 volunteer work hours has been undertaken on site in the last quarter.

11. These volunteers have been completed by:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- Norwich Community Green Gym
- Mousehold Heath Defenders
- The Assist Trust
- An Easton College and City College work placement students.
- Volunteers from the community.
- City College Duke of Edinburgh award scheme group.
- RBS corporate community action day group.
- Many volunteers from the community.

12. There has now been over 30,000 volunteer work hours completed on the heath in the last 9 years which have been organised, overseen and supervised by the Mousehold wardens. These works have significantly contributed to the implementation of objectives set out in the Management Plan and Higher Level Stewardship agreement, along with increasing community involvement in the many projects being undertaken on the site.

## **Events**

13. A range of events to increase understanding, involvement and enjoyment of the site, have been organised or hosted on the heath in the last period, these being:

- A Fungi Foray which identified 12 new species for the site making the site total 283.
- The Mousehold Heath Defenders have organised an Armistice Day ceremony, Winter Solstice event and litter picks.
- Guided walk led by a geologist and Mousehold warden as part of the Norfolk Walking Festival.
- RBS corporate community action task cutting and raking the Desert Wildflower area.
- Two Norwich HEART Heritage walks were led by the Mousehold wardens and local historian and geologist, focusing on the stories of St William, Kett's Rebellion and the rich geodiversity to be found on the heath.
- A moth survey evenings run by Mousehold Heath wardens.

- Community Winter Wildlife Watch Walk
- Volunteer Christmas thank you meals have been enjoyed by volunteers.