



*Burgh Castle Roman  
Fort conservation  
works – see below*

## **Onwards & Upwards: Creating a sustainable future for the Norfolk Archaeological Trust**

One of the main outcomes of the Onwards & Upwards project has been the development of a new Strategic Plan and a Business Plan designed to deliver NAT's new strategic goals and objectives, and to build greater security of funding for our work.

### **Our adopted new strategic goals are to:**

- 1. Focus resources on rescuing Norfolk's most At Risk heritage, and promote the skills to do so**
- 2. Involve and inspire a greater number, and a wider range, of people and deepen their participation and support**
- 3. Develop dynamic and mutually beneficial relationships with organisations that will help deliver NAT's purpose**
- 4. Raise awareness of NAT and its essential role in protecting Norfolk's heritage**
- 5. Develop a sustainable business model through greater entrepreneurship, improved financial management, and rejuvenated governance**

The Strategic goals will be delivered through a number of objectives (actions) which can be read in full by downloading the Strategic Plan from the website.

Strategic goal 5 is to develop a sustainable business model and this is encapsulated in the Business Plan. NAT Council has adopted an aspirational model for the Plan in order to address the challenges NAT faces as the system of farm payments – our main source of income – changes over the next five years; and to benefit from opportunities provided by large numbers of visitors (we now know that we receive over 30,000 visits a year at St Benet's Abbey and Caistor Roman Town) and local community support. Key aspirations include acquisition of a significant archaeological site at risk and sale of Pykerell's House.

# Onwards & Upwards: Pykerell's House

Pykerell's House is named after Thomas Pykerell, who was Lord Mayor of Norwich in the early sixteenth century. The building was acquired by NAT in 1928 and is the last of a number of historic buildings at risk which NAT saved in the 20th century but sold on when their future was secured.

Although Pykerell's was at risk of demolition in the 1920s it now has Grade II\* status and no longer requires NAT protection.

As with previous properties, the income from the sale will be used to fund NAT's conservation activities through

investment and by providing working capital to develop sustainable income streams from our sites; a new supporter scheme; and fundraising events and activities.

A number of possibilities for acquisition of an archaeological site at risk are currently being investigated and we will report further in future newsletters.



*Pykerell's House, formerly the Rosemary Tavern in Norwich. Photo: Nick Stone.*

The Onwards and Upwards project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly the Heritage Lottery Fund).



# Onwards and Upwards: Changing faces

The Onwards and Upwards project included a governance review which identified that a number of existing Trustees who had served the Council for many years wished to retire, including Sir Christopher Howes who attended council for over 45 years.

NAT is very grateful for the support and advice he and other recently retired members (Michael Begley, Paul Jeffery, Sarah Spooner, Nick O'Sullivan) have given during their Council membership.



Left: Jonathan Sisson, centre: Owen Warnock, right: Henry Kilvert.

We have been fortunate to recruit five new Trustees, who will join existing council members **Peter Griffiths** (Chair), **Heather Bolt**, **Peter Foster**, **Matthew Martin** and **Jo Parmenter**. These are:

- **Nick Balaam:** Former assistant regional director of English Heritage for the East of England, currently a consultant in heritage management and Chair of King's Lynn Preservation Trust
- **Henry Kilvert:** retired Chartered Surveyor and land agent, currently a farmer in Mid Norfolk and an adviser to the Forestry Commission. He has recently completed an MA in Landscape History at UEA
- **Dr Elizabeth Pye:** Emeritus Professor of Conservation for Archaeology and Museums at UCL
- **Jonathan Sisson:** Chartered Accountant, formerly Honorary Treasurer and Council member of the University of East Anglia and President of the Norfolk and Waveney Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **Owen Warnock:** solicitor and Emeritus Professor of Employment Law at the University of East Anglia. Committee member of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group, currently studying for an MA in Landscape History at UEA.

## Volunteer co-ordinator role

At the end of December Co-Director Natasha Hutcheson stepped down to pursue her writing career.

In line with the Strategic Plan, a new post of Volunteer Co-ordinator will be created in support of the part-time Director role.

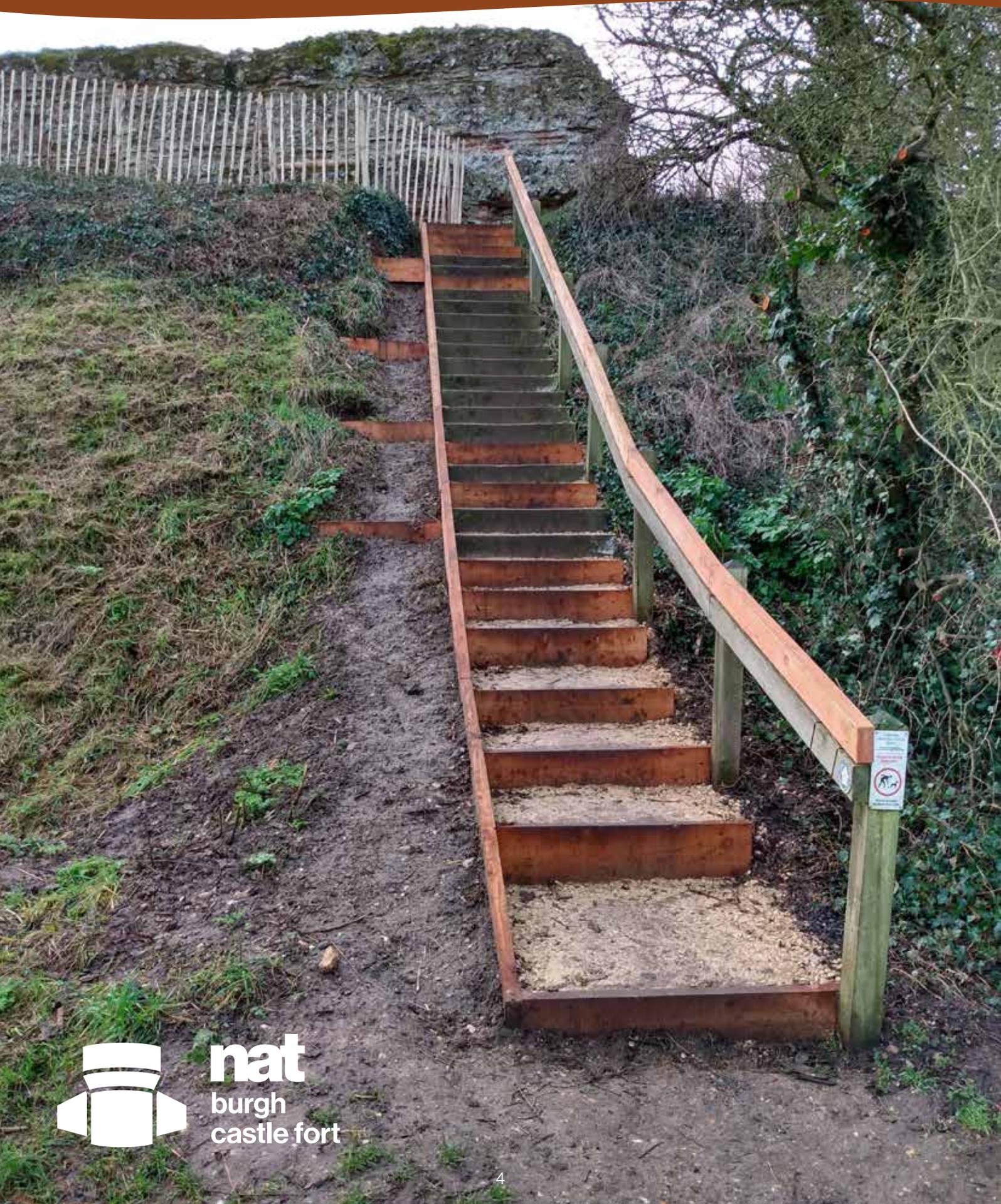
This will enable NAT to continue developing volunteer support at our sites, while allowing the Director to focus on delivery of the strategy and business plan.

News on the appointment to the new post will be circulated later in the year.



Our previous Volunteer Co-ordinator, Katie Phillips

# Access Works Burgh Castle Fort



**nat**  
burgh  
castle fort

**Those of you who have visited Burgh Castle Fort recently will have noticed works being undertaken to the north and south slopes of the fort.**

These have been implemented by English Heritage as part of their guardianship of the upstanding walls. In recent years, narrow strips of bare earth had become eroded around the base of the walls where visitors were walking along the tops of the high slopes.

This had the potential for undermining the monument as well as putting visitors at risk from falling.

English Heritage have re-profiled the ground at the base of the walls and seeded new grass to help stabilise the area.

Chestnut-paling has been installed to protect the grass. This fencing is likely to remain in place for several years. While this work was being done, NAT took the opportunity to ask the same contractor to repair the steps on the north slope which do not fall under the guardianship agreement.

*Works at the site were undertaken under the guardianship agreement with English Heritage*



**ENGLISH HERITAGE**



*Above: Burgh Roman Fort reprofiling*

*Below Burgh Castle Fort from the air. Photo Debra Stokes, 2018.*



# Access Works Caistor Roman Town



**nat**  
caistor  
roman town

**Members will remember that the timber steps which led up to the top of the south wall of the Town were removed a couple of years ago as they had become unsafe.**

A decision was made to monitor visitor footfall before installing new steps in order to establish a 'desire line' – described by Robert McFarlane as 'paths & tracks made over time by the wishes & feet of walkers'.

This approach should ensure that new infrastructure is successfully adopted by the intended users. Initially, two or three paths appeared up the bank, but eventually it became clear that one route was favoured, and Norwich Fringe Project volunteers have now installed steps on the surface of the south slope following the desire line.

They have also repaired the existing steps on the north slope. We are grateful to South Norfolk Council for funding these works, as part of our management agreement.



*Above: The desire lines on the slope on the south wall.*

*Below: the new steps created by Norwich Fringe Project Volunteers*



# Guided walks 2020



*School group led by  
volunteers at Burgh  
Castle Fort*

Regular guided walks led by volunteers will begin again at three of our sites in the spring:

- **St Benet's Abbey** from May until the end of September each Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 3:00pm.
- **Burgh Castle Fort:** throughout June, July August and September, 14.30 pm on Sundays, weather permitting.
- **Caistor Roman Town:** 14:30 on Sundays from 12 April – 27 September. Additional tours on Wednesday afternoons (14.30) during July and August.

Volunteers also support visits by school groups at Burgh Castle and Caistor during the warmer months. More details on our website. Thanks, as always, goes to Caistor Roman Project, The Friends of St Benet's Abbey, and our local volunteers at Burgh Castle for organising these activities!

## Keeping in touch

We are always pleased to hear from members about any aspect of the Trust's work, especially if you are interested in volunteering at one of our sites!

Email us at [info@norfarchtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@norfarchtrust.org.uk) or Telephone 01603 462987

You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook @NorfArchTrust. We regularly update the news page of the website [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk).