

Annual Assembly for Lowestoft Town Council 2026

Friends of Kirkley Ham Report

Friends of Kirkley Ham is a new group, formed in 2025. In January 2026 we signed a lease with Suffolk County Council to manage The Ham for the benefit of the local community and to protect the wildlife that lives there.

Kirkley Ham is a County Wildlife Site. A recent survey conducted by Suffolk Wildlife Trust established that it is home to large and small mammals, many species of butterfly, moths and other insects, amphibians, lizards and birds. It makes a valuable contribution to local wildlife habitats as part of a 'green corridor' along Tom Crisp Way.

The Ham is presently unloved, overgrown by bramble and gorse and suffers from fly tipping and littering. Friends of Kirkley Ham want to change this and create a space that local residents can enjoy as well as protecting the many species of plant and wildlife that make The Ham their home.

In the Autumn of 2025 our group benefitted from a Lowestoft Town Council grant towards the initial cost of Public Liability Insurance so that we could secure the Suffolk County Council lease. The Town Council have also provided funding towards the cost of purchasing some heavy-duty tools, IT equipment and have made a contribution towards the costs for initial publicity.

The Friends group will now be actively recruiting volunteers to help with the project:

- Management of the overgrowth of bramble and gorse
- Helping us to keep the site litter free
- Helping us to identify and catalogue the many bird, mammal, insect and plant species that can be found on The Ham
- Helping to organise fund raising events

We will be working in partnership with Friends of Fen Park to improve access to The Ham and manage the overgrowth of gorse to support wildlife and plants. We will be creating a joint Fen Park and Kirkley Ham nature trail and will be providing guided walks of the areas.

Stewart Bowers

Chair, Friends of Kirkley Ham Management Committee

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