



## Heath Hands Update – December 2024

Heath Hands is a registered charity delivering conservation, community, learning and wellbeing programmes across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House and at the Kenwood Estate.

In 2024, Heath Hands and the City of London Corporation signed a new partnership agreement through until 2029.

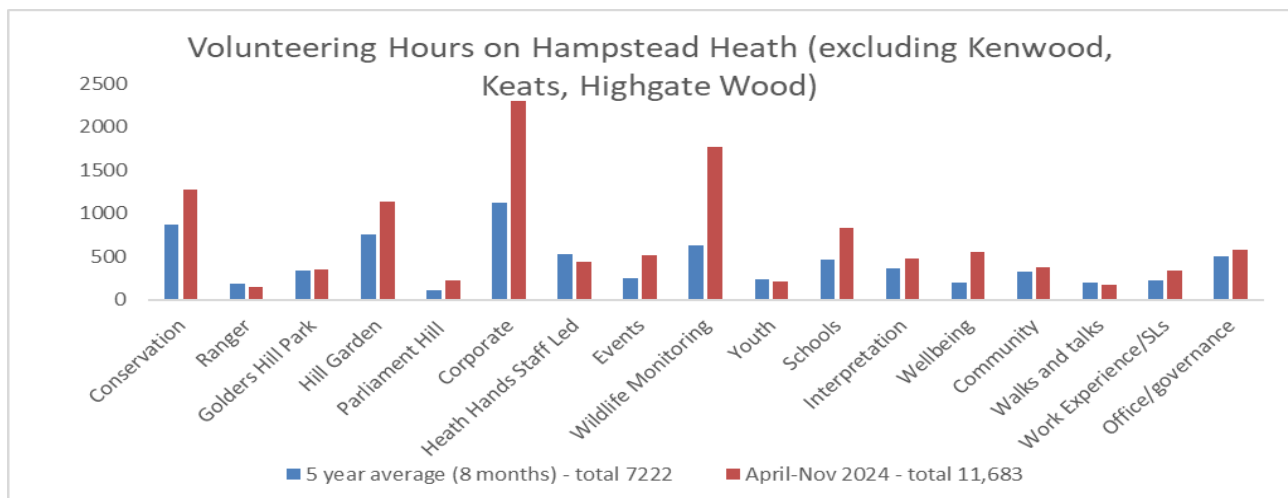
This short report summarises the charity's main activities this financial year according to its strategic and charitable objectives and Strategy and pursuant to the Partnership Agreement.

### Recent Highlights

**Partnership working:** new agreements signed with the City of London Corporation (North London Open Spaces and Keats House)

**Annual member survey** completed - results very positive once more – see appendix.

**Volunteering activity** growing across NLOS: over 13,000 hours contributed by volunteers across all sites in first eight months (5-year average at this stage 8,442). More than 290 volunteer sessions across NLOS and Heath Hands staff have delivered over 350 activities and sessions.



### Strategic Objectives

#### Conservation and gardening

- **Wildlife monitoring** season has finished with reptile, butterfly, dragonfly and Nature's Calendar transects running. Support for large-scale hedgehog survey in May 2024 and National Hedgehog Monitoring Scheme at Heath Extension.
- **Practical** sessions across all NLOS sites, with Ranger Team restarting sessions on Heath Extension in December. Support for Heath and Hampstead Society and CoLC on sheep grazing project.
- 50 square metres of new wildflower meadow created, 130 metres of new native hedgerow and new wildlife pond being created at Hive. 9 grass snake breeding sites now created, 28 hedgehog nest boxes, 6 sparrow terraces and 5 stag beetle loggeries installed
- Collaboration on **wildlife connectivity** ongoing, working with organisations such as Growing Green, Highgate Cemetery, Highgate Neighbourhood Forum, Frognaal Gardens, Kentish Town City Farm and more.
- 50 **corporate volunteering** events delivered since April with around 700 people taking part.

