

# HAVE YOUR SAY ON PLANS FOR HAY HILL

## Context

We're putting forward proposals for changes to the Hay Hill area of the city. We'd like your feedback on how you use the space now, the project aims, and the concept plan to help shape the scheme we deliver.

The main aims of the project are to:

- Create a reimagined, vibrant and accessible open space within the city centre
- Transform the space so that it can be used for events and cultural activities
- Improve walking links between Norwich Market, Millennium Plain, Gentleman's walk and Chantry Place.
- Attract investment and boost the visitor economy by improving the quality and look of the area.

This consultation is focussed on gathering information on how the existing space is used and the initial ideas for the area. We will then carefully consider all responses and report back to the Towns Fund Board later in the year. The Board will then decide how to proceed with the project.

## Project plan

The outline proposals are shown on the project plan.

There are numbered points that describe the different features of the project and the reasons behind the proposals, which also correspond to their location on the plan.

Please read the information on the project plan before responding to the consultation.

## How to comment

There are two ways to share your views:

Visit [www.norwich.gov.uk/HayHill](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/HayHill) to fill out our online survey.

Complete one of the paper surveys and return it to the box provided or by post using the details on the form itself.

Please return responses by **Friday 25 March 2022.**



Hay Hill, 2021

[www.norwich.gov.uk/HayHill](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/HayHill)



HM Government



NORWICH  
City Council

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DEAL



# PROJECT PLAN



## Proposed change

## Reason for proposal

1	Reconfiguration and simplification of the steps, including some double-height steps	For ease of movement around the space, to create informal seating, and provide an open area for events.
2	Installation of water feature	As an attractor to the space, providing summer cooling, sense of tranquility through sound in the city centre, and an element of fun.
3	Relocation of the existing statue of Thomas Browne on-site	To recreate a focal point within the space and highlight Thomas Browne as an important Norwich figure.
4	Inclusion of interpretation of Thomas Browne and his work in the fabric of the space, for example, within the paving	Information is more readily available as people move through the space. Increases the number of ways the public access information without the need to read a lot of information.
	Relocation of Homage to Thomas Browne sculptures off-site (Brain, eye and other smaller sculptural pieces)	To provide open space and allow unobstructed movement across the public square and greater events opportunities.
5	Planted edges to Hay Hill	To give Hay Hill its own defined area and enable level thresholds into the space. Referencing back to the formal Edwardian garden that originally surrounded Thomas Browne. Improve ground conditions for existing trees and offer biodiversity benefit.
6	High quality paving and accessible street furniture	To enhance the quality and usability of the space for the wider population.
T	No trees are required to be removed to facilitate the scheme shown, however up to four trees could be removed as part of on-going management of city centre tree stock.	To respond to health and safety issues, provide good quality rooting conditions for any replacement planting as part of the scheme, remove declining trees, and trees likely to decline in the next 20 years.



# EXAMPLE IMAGES



## 1 Reconfiguration and simplification of the steps

- including some double-height steps for informal seating
- simple curved forms for visual simplicity and to aid movement through the space
- landings and ramps at different levels to make more of the space accessible
- creation of focal point with Thomas Browne monument

## 2 Installation of water feature

- As an attractive feature of the space
- to provide summer cooling and a sense of tranquility through sound in the city centre, a place for contemplation as well as give an element of fun
- lighting could be incorporated into the space for evening use
- to frame the space and enhance the vista to Thomas Browne
- opportunity to reference Thomas Browne's work in the layout and design of the feature

## 4 Inclusion of Thomas Browne and his work in the fabric of the space

- Thomas Browne was an academic and author of many works ranging across a number of subjects including science, medicine, nature and religion. He lived in Norwich.
- He is considered one of the most original writers in the English language and is cited as to have been the first to use and define many words, many of which are of a scientific or medical background. Ambidextrous, carnivorous, computer, cryptography, indigenous and veterinarian are a selection out of over 4000 entries listed in the Oxford English Dictionary as the first evidence of a word being used.
- Materials could be etched with information or details associated with Thomas Browne's wide-ranging works.

## 5 6 Use planting to help address level change on Hay Hill

- Thomas Browne often wrote about the properties of plants and is most well-known for his work on the Quincunx pattern in his 1658 publication, The Garden of Cyrus. When unveiled, his monument was located within a garden of its own.
- Use the edges of areas of planting for additional seating.
- Inclusion of different types of seating, both traditional and informal throughout the space.



# WHY WE ARE PROPOSING THESE CHANGES

## About the area

Hay Hill and the Haymarket were formerly the marketplace for hay and other goods brought in from the surrounding countryside. Since the unveiling of the Thomas Browne statue in 1905, the space has taken on more of a civic identity as a public open space.

Home to a number of sculptures and other features throughout the decades, it is one of the largest urban open spaces in the city centre and is a key public space on the route between Chantry Place and Norwich Market.

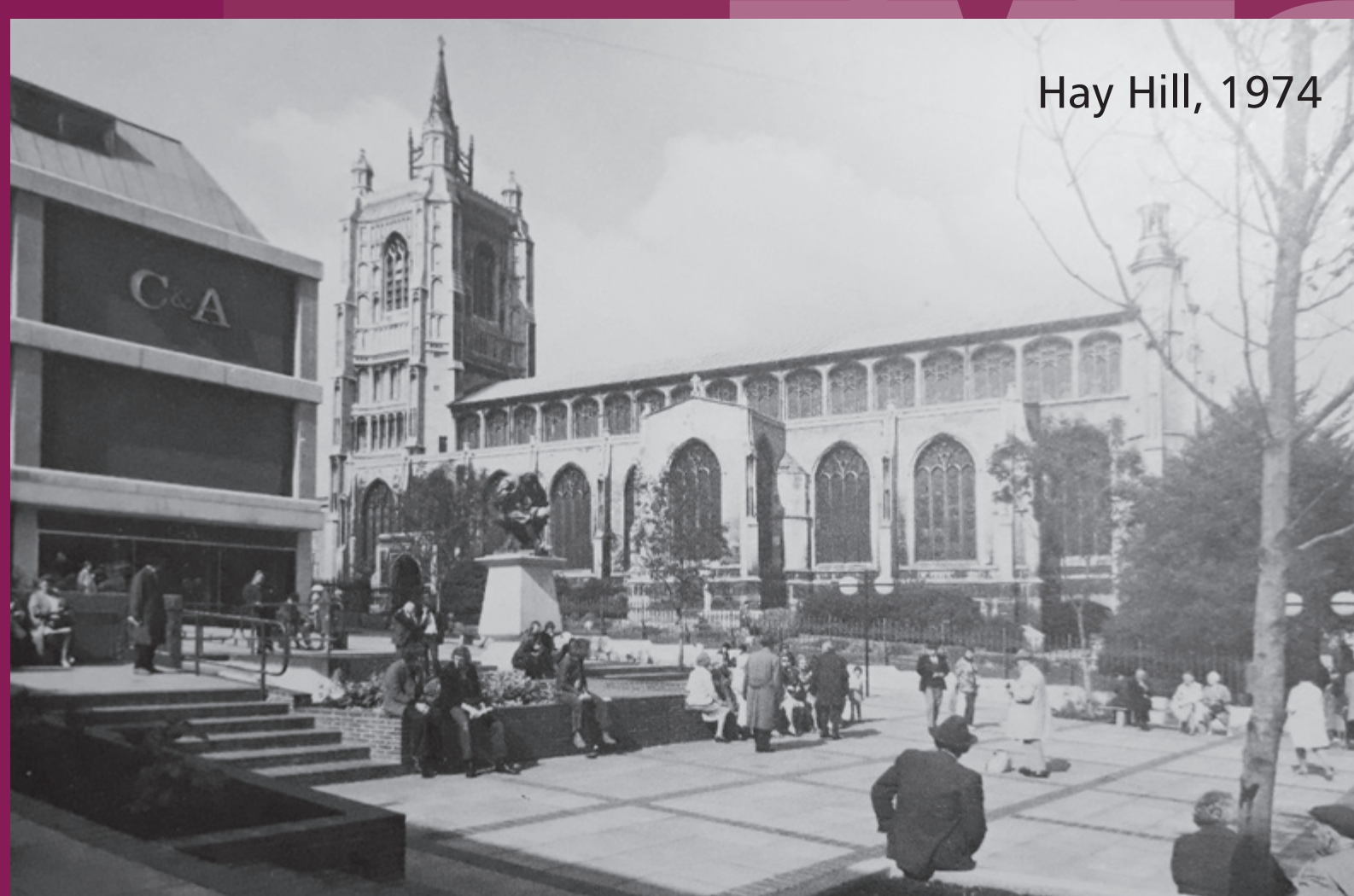


Circa. 1880



Unveiling of Sir Thomas Browne statue, 1905

Picture courtesy of Kate Wolstenholme



Hay Hill, 1974

## Background to the proposals

Hay Hill is one of the few remaining large city centre spaces, however reports of trips and falls, and general deterioration in the fabric have resulted in the space looking tired and not being used effectively.

Seeing potential to improve the space, Norwich City Council drew together a business case to apply to the government's Towns Fund to enhance the area. This was approved and funds awarded to the city council to deliver improvements.

This project is one of eight in the city to be funded from the government's £25 million Towns Fund, which was awarded to Norwich City Council in 2020. You can find out more about Norwich Town Deal and associated projects by visiting [www.norwich.gov.uk/TownDeal](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/TownDeal)



Homage to Sir Thomas Browne, 2022



Hay Hill, 2022