

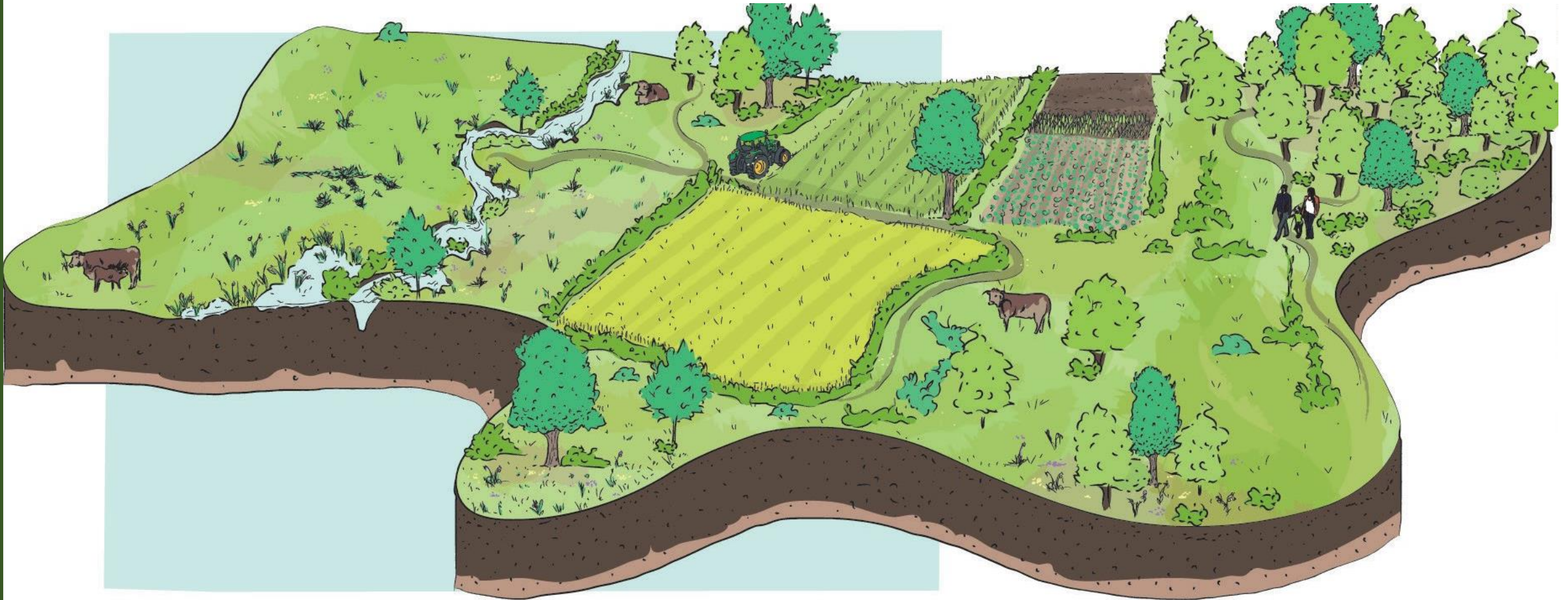
Sherborne Big Nature Better Access Project Update – March 2024

'a Cotswold landscape for everyone where
nature and people can thrive'



Sherborne in the future

Our vision is a Sherborne for everyone - buzzing with wildlife and wilder places. A landscape rich in history and beauty. A welcoming place to visit where people can easily roam, be inspired and connect



Direction of Travel

Sherborne has a golden opportunity right now for that more transformative approach – alongside farming changes, organisational interest, a strong fundraising narrative, projects in train and strong NGO partnerships and relationships

Collaboration and partnership support design and delivery



Sherborne plays its part in the climate response



History and landscape are celebrated

More people experience and enjoy Sherborne



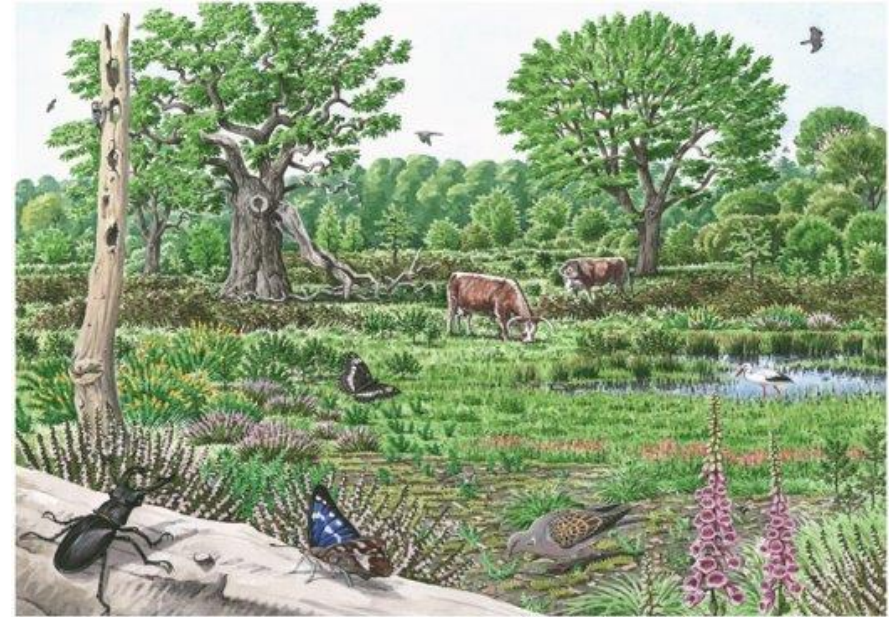
Cotswold wildlife and habitats thrive



Sherborne Farm

Priority Habitat creation and improved public access across Sherborne Farm.

- We have secured £590,000 to create 53 hectares of species rich grassland through an arable reversion project funded by National Highways. The priority habitat will include a series of butterfly banks and ponds and will be completed by March 2025.
- Working with Greater Western Community Forest we will create 35 hectares of Woodland pasture and plant 45 thousand trees to create new closed canopy woodland on the farm. Total external funding for this workstream will be circa £1 million.
- Access concepts being developed with the focus being on how to improve visitor facilities in conjunction with creating improved habitat for nature. Working on a Cotswold National Landscape funding bid to be submitted this year.



Bridgeman Landscape Restoration



We are restoring a Charles Bridgeman design within the Grade 1 listed parkland at Lodge Park. The parkland includes a 17th century Grandstand.

- 15K trees planted in the Bridgeman landscape last winter – planted to a G1 listed design, following our conservation management plan and Lidar and GPS location. Delivering both nature and heritage goals.
- Tree planting days carried out as stakeholder engagement exercises including local MP Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, members of Cotswold District Council and Sherborne Parish Council.
- Ha-Ha avenue to be planted this upcoming planting season.
- Article written and published in the Garden Trust ‘Wider View’ magazine.
- Future planting and restoration phases being developed for funding applications with support from the Gardens Trust.
- Project team working on proposals for Lodge park to accelerate public access into the listed parkland.

Old Park and Sherborne Brook

Old Park is in the centre of the estate, containing the village of Sherborne, the Brook and a series of historical features.



- Feasibility work progressing with JBA Consulting on long term management model. The aim is to create a wet woodland up stream to reduce the amount of silt entering Sherborne Brook.
- Sandy Hill tenants are now grazing elements of Old Park with their herd of Hereford cattle under a grazing licence.
- The boat house has been painted and cleaned. The area around the Turbine House has been cleared.
- Plans are being developed to allow public access to the Turbine house area by making the structures safe before we undertake a longer-term project on the Turbine House itself.

Access and visitor developments

We are carrying out a series of different research projects to ensure that we can make informed decisions on future access developments across the estate.



- Basic desktop planning assessments carried out to understand feasibility/suitability of location of potential new visitor facilities across the estate.
- Strategic Planning Masterplan will be produced in conjunction with Cotswold District Council so the project can be included in the authorities updated Local Masterplan.
- Conservation Management Plan for the estate commissioned to provide facts and significances for the whole estate that will be used to support our management of change. Will be published in Spring 2024.
- £26,000 of funding secured from Cotswold District Council SANG fund to deliver improvements to public offering at the Ewe Pens landing point. £10,000 match funding provided from Sherborne Big Nature Better Access funds.

Stones Farm

An unexpected opportunity has arisen within the Stones Farm tenancy that will allow us to accelerate plans for nature including potential wetland creation and the development of a community asset.

- Stones Farm was an AHA tenancy. Existing tenants proposed surrendering the AHA and taking up an FBT instead. This has resulted in some of the farm coming back in hand in autumn 2023.
- Existing Stones Farm tenants have entered into a new Countryside Stewardship scheme that will deliver multiple benefits.
- Some of the land is in the Windrush valley and in combination with elements of Sherborne Farm presents an opportunity to create a Wetland reserve with particular focus on habitat for wading birds.
- One field has potential to enable a new access route for the public to enter Old Park via the Turbine house area helping to recreate elements of Lady Sherborne's Walk.
- Another field within the village presents an opportunity for concepts to be developed regarding future uses.



Estate Wide Strategic Master Plan

- Will commence following the publication of the Sherborne Park Estate Conservation Management Plan.
- This plan will be designed and written in accordance with the principles laid out by Cotswold District Council Local Plan policy EN18.
- Will act as the road map for the National Trust to deliver on the aims and aspirations set out in the concept paper for the Sherborne Big Nature Better Access Project.
- We expect the plan will take 2 years to complete.
- Will be written in conjunction with a broad range of local communities and user groups with a core group of still to be decided regular consultees on a project working group.
- We expect to hold working group on a quarterly basis although the frequency and duration of meetings will be reviewed throughout the process.
- The first step is for the National Trust to produce a proposed terms of reference for the working group and ascertain willingness on behalf of potential groups to commit to the project.