

National Trust monthly brief: August 2024 (Andrew Danson)

Subject (add as appropriate)	Comment & update	Milestone dates (e.g. start work / completion)	Main NT contact	OK to share via PC website?
Big Nature, Better Access	Lodge Park will be open on the last weekend of the month (including the last Friday) between June and October. Habitat creation Walk held on Thursday 11th July at Sherborne Farm with approximately 25 attendees. It was a very pleasant evening and I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves. Further walks to be held this autumn starting in September. Final details to be confirmed but will include a walk along Sherborne Brook towards Windrush village, a walk with Jonathan Summers around Stones Farm and a walk through Old Park. Still awaiting to hear from Defra regarding Funding bid submitted to Water Restoration Fund (Defra) for feasibility funds to consider options for creation of 83 hectares of wetland and improved habitats on Sherborne Farm. Site visit to Lodge Park held with Regional Trees and Woodland advisor to discuss management options for avenue trees going forward. We will be working with a contractor over the autumn with particular attention	Ongoing	Andrew Danson	Yes

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	being paid to the Grand avenues. Ha-Ha and woodland block planting will be completed this season. We have installed 5mph signs at Ewe Pen in a bid to try and encourage drivers to slow down and think a little bit as they approach the car park – We want to try and avoid a repeat of pothole work there as long as possible. On the 5th of August I received the update below from Matthew Britton of Cotswold District Council on the progress of the Local Plan consultation. “Council officers are currently reviewing the Local Plan consultation responses and making updates to the draft policies, where needed. We will be publishing a summary of the consultation responses in the near future. I suggest that we arrange the first Working Group meeting once that process is completed. This is likely to take around two months.”			
Conservation Management Plan	Final sign off meeting to taking place this month prior to publication.	Summer 24	Andrew Danson	Yes
Sherborne Brook / Broadwater	JBA consultants still working on final detailed design for Sherborne Brook Management option. Currently exploring options for disposal of waste materials within the impacted area. Community events will be held this autumn when the plans are complete.	September 24	Simon Nicholas	Yes

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Boathouse / Turbine	Arborist visited area on June 27 th to carry out survey of trees that may be impacted by restoration of Lady Sherborne's Walk. Awaiting receipt of his report.		Andrew Danson	Yes
Tree Planting	Ground preparation has begun on the Sherborne Farm scheme in readiness for planting to take place this autumn. We're working through summer maintenance, particularly at Lodge Park, trying to keep newly planted trees in the ground alive – watering and mulching this time of year is imperative.	Planting on Sherborne Farm scheme will begin this autumn.	Andrew Danson	Yes
SANG Funding	Still awaiting to hear on success or otherwise of bid.	Delivery of 2023 funding will be complete by end of July. We expect to hear from CDC on status of 2024 bid by the end of September	Andrew Danson	Yes
Walling	The restoration of the North Wall at Lodge Park continues.		Simon Nicholas	Yes
Wildlife	A quiet July – Very few wow sightings and little to get excited about. The pick of the highlights has been fledging kingfishers on the brook with multiple sightings near the bridge between the village and Northfield – this is most likely a fledgling following a parent. The hobby pair were still visible on the broadwaters earlier in the month, but no reports since. Migration will be gradually starting back up through August and the Cotswolds can sometimes throw up some surprises so keep your eyes peeled.		Luke Hunter	Yes

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Ash Dieback	We have completed our ash dieback surveys and are processing the data but as was expected a considerable number of Ash have been condemned. In addition to numerous ash trees, we have work scheduled along the A40 to remove 8 elm (Dutch elm disease), 1 cherry (abnormal lean and cavity near root plate), 3 Scots pine (dead), 1 larch (dead) and 1 beech (abnormal lean)	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes
Volunteering	July saw Ollie and the team roaming around the estate's most frequented footpaths – Ragged Copse, pleasure grounds and west belt all received some TLC, in addition to the Watermeadows car park. The Cotswolds Wardens were also on site and helped with some tree guard removal at the start of the month. We're inching towards the cutting season now and through August you can expect to see verges being tidied and the first of our tree work starting up – though even still only in instances where we are certain that any late season breeding birds aren't nesting. We also have sessions booked in to tackle infrastructure around Sherborne Farm and the Watermeadows. To finish the month, we will be wood chip spreading along the path between Ewe Pen and Ragged Copse.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes
Surveying	The Sherborne Estate Farms Wildlife Monitoring project: The volunteers were again out on Woeful Lake in July – a second brood seems to have finally put butterflies on the wing after what many rangers and ecologists are calling an extremely quiet year; one of our volunteers recorded 11 species last week; our most diverse day to date. Jean was surveying for moths as well last week around Woeful Lake House – 35, 36 and 42 species recorded in each of our three traps.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes

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