

National Trust monthly brief: January 2025 (Andrew Danson – 20/01/2025)

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	We are currently undertaking a recruitment exercise to employ a part time Senior Project Co-ordinator and a Full time Delivery Manager. Both roles should be in place this Spring We have welcomed four Belted Galloways to Budgehill for a few weeks – it was a real highlight to see them pushing their way through the scrub on Monday when they arrived and hopefully, we will reap the benefits of this in the spring – They are sporting ‘no fence’ collars.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson	Yes
Conservation Management Plan	We expect the CMP to be published early in the new year.	Spring 25	Andrew Danson	Yes
Sherborne Brook / Broadwater	Final designs received from consultants and shared with internal colleagues for approval.	Ongoing	Simon Nicholas	Yes
Boathouse / Turbine	Initial concept design work on access to the Turbine/Boat House area of Old Park will commence in January.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson	Yes
Tree Planting	We are expecting to be restocking the Lodge Park woodland blocks with new whips that will be more tolerant to vole damage. This will take place in late January.	Planting on Sherborne Farm scheme taking place this planting season.	Andrew Danson	Yes

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	We are also planting 4000 trees on Sherborne Farm during the week of February 10 th to the 14 th .			
SANG Funding	Rangers Ben and Ollie have begun installing new and replacement benches in the Pleasure Grounds, Quarry Wood and the Watermeadows.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson	Yes
Walling and Fencing	Walling repairs are being carried out walls which have been impacted by the recent cold snap. Working with contractors we have replaced fencing and gates along Sabrina Way into Sherborne Farm. We are trying to move to sustainable hardwood fencing and have used chestnut; it looks lovely, does not require chemical treatment and should – hopefully... - last a little bit longer than pine equivalents. This also encourages coppicing and effective woodland management through our supply chain. We are also trialling some deer hurdles in that fence line to minimise inhumane deer trappings.	Ongoing	Simon Nicholas	Yes
Wildlife	Peregrine hunting woodpigeon adjacent to Snowbottom Belt (early December); 250+ Golden Plover at Woeful Lake Farm (early December), Marsh Tit and Corn Bunting at Woeful Lake Farm (early December) now three(!); two stonechat at Sandy Hill Farm (10th January); swans on the broadwaters – one adult male, one adult female and a first year juvenile who is	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes

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	constantly being pestered by the other two (15th January); Common Sandpiper, Common Snipe and Wigeon (144) Teal (16) on the Brook (17th January).			
Woodland work and Tree Safety	• Forestry Works: We are continuing to deliver phase one of our woodland management plan in 2025, which (amongst other things) aims to increase opportunities for wildlife, improve soils, reduce carbon, contribute to the local economy, and protect the health and safety of visitors. This year we are completing a 30% thin of compartments 34 and 35 - the opening portions of Snowbottom and Budgehill Belt. • Hedge laying, we have been working with a contractor and our volunteers to lay The Double Hedgerow along the northern farm track at Sherborne Farm – We are keen to explore opportunities to grow and enhance our hedges across the estate so if anybody has any thoughts on this, please reach out. • Tree Safety: we have continued to lick our wounds from Storm Darragh with early January again spent dealing with dangerous trees; the Pleasure Grounds, Sandy Hill Farm and Northfield Copse have all required attention this month. We are approaching the end of our felling season and it has certainly been a	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes

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	challenging one – we have outstanding actions remaining to deal with ash dieback in the Pleasure Grounds and Tight Lane and dangerous/diseased/declining trees in the School; there is an existing CDC application here; We are confident we can mitigate some issues in a whitebeam with a crown reduction whilst a diseased (cherry shot) cherry tree and a dead hawthorn have unfortunately been recommended to fell. Elsewhere, we have worked our way through significant squirrel damage sycamore along the Ewe Pen road and a handful of dangerous trees on the A40.			
Volunteering	- December: The volunteers joined us for a Christmas bonfire session to clear some scrub and invasive species. We also spent a few sessions in Budgehill Bank repairing fencing, clearing scrub, and working diligently to enhance this area of calcareous grassland – hornbeam scrub is proving particularly challenging here and as a former Duke of Burgundy butterfly site it is one, I am keen to try and see restored to former glories. - January: The Sherborne Volunteer Rangers have joined us twice already, once working on ride management through Arnold Springs and the Sherborne Common ride; as well as the Lime Avenue situated to the far east of the village – whilst we were primarily trying to restore the aesthetics to these cluster of beautiful trees, we also needed to clear ivy to inspect them for	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes

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	safety. Later in the month we have hedge laying and tree planting planned. The Cotswolds Wardens have also joined us this month to assist with litter picking along the A40 (some horrible finds here!!) and some ivy clearance on trees within reach of the A40.			
Surveying	We are currently pulling together the results of our 2024 surveying, including the focus on Woeful Lake Farm – Surveying will begin again in April at Stones Farm.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes