



National
Trust

Community newsletter
October – January 2023

Sherborne & Bibury



National Trust Images/ Nick Dautlich

All the colours of autumn

I hope this newsletter provides a good accompaniment to a warming drink.

The fresher mornings and dew are beginning to bring some things to life while the trees change colour to give us their final wave before a winter sleep.

I am sure you are spotting the changes as you walk around the estate.

Indeed, it can be easy to forget just how dry the summer was. But as we work on taking down some trees with disease, we see clearly how they were further weakened in the hot and dry conditions this year.

It is ever clearer that we need to plan across the country for a climate that is changing and to make sure the very best protections and support for our environment remain.

At Sherborne, we are continuing to invest in buildings and landscape with the future in mind. We have commissioned work to help guide us in doing that in the best and most informed way.

The team are certainly busy right now. If you see us out and about, do say hello!

Jonny Loose, General Manager – Cotswold Countryside Portfolio

Bridgeman landscape

Simon Nicholas, Countryside Manager

This autumn/ winter we will be planting more trees and shrubs in the Charles Bridgeman landscape at Lodge Park.

This is being made possible through funding we secured through the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative together with a generous donation from the former Cheltenham and Gloucester National Trust

Association.

We have begun marking out the next phases for planting, which will include 140 avenue trees and 15,000 trees and shrubs in three hectares of woodland blocks.

We will also be repairing gaps in the park wall on the north boundary.

Another 75 avenue trees will be planted next autumn/ winter, funded by the same project.



National Trust Images/ Cara Laver

Fisherman's Bridge



National Trust/ Simon Nicholas

We recently completed repairs to the Fisherman's Bridge, where it crosses the Sherborne Brook and enters the Broadwater.

In keeping with the original structure, the repairs were completed on a like-for-like basis. However, we have made some improvements to the handrail.

Later this autumn, we will be repairing the fencing either side of the bridge and adding some new pedestrian gates.

Fungi foray



National Trust Images/ Rob Coleman

Georgina Lindsay, Area Ranger

Autumn is a prime time for woodland fungi to pop up.

Walk through any woods and you'll be surrounded by these strange and fascinating life-forms.

I am hoping to start a fungi catalogue of all the amazing fungi that can be found across Sherborne.

If you'd like to help, please get in touch with the estate office with any photos and a What3Words location, if possible. I can then add them to the catalogue.



Let estate update

Emma Guthrie, Rural Surveyor

Over the last couple of months, we have installed three new kitchens and one new bathroom. We have also installed secondary glazing in three more properties.

Dan has been working closely with the Conservation Officer and we are pleased to say that, in certain circumstances, we no longer require Listed Building Consent to install secondary glazing. We can therefore progress more quickly in those properties still requiring it.

There are still supply chain issues for secondary glazing, so we are unable to confirm exact timescales at the moment. To check if you are on the list for secondary

glazing, please email Kathryn on:
Kathryn.alsbury@nationaltrust.org.uk.

External decorations at some properties will be starting in October. Contractors will continue to work for as long as the weather allows. They will then be back in early spring to complete the properties that we surveyed this year. We will be adding more properties to the list for the summer.

Thames Water have been relining the sewage pipe through the village, as well as fixing the water leaks on National Trust land. We will soon be replacing one of the main private water pipes which runs up to Home Farm and Vincent's Lodge.

Tenant Repair Line

Reporting repairs couldn't be easier. Simply;

- Call **0345 646 1311**
- Use the online portal, Fixflow
<https://nationaltrust.fixflo.com>
- Email
tenantrepairs@nationaltrust.org.uk



Chimney sweeping

We are aware that some properties are yet to have their annual chimney sweep completed this year.

This is being treated as a priority by the team at the Tenant Repair Line.

Affected properties will soon be hearing directly from the chimney sweep to schedule an appointment.

Please do continue to report any repairs to the Tenant Repair Line (details on the previous page).

Deer Course wall

Our drystone waller, Andy, has the finishing line in sight with his labour-of-love that is the deer course wall at Lodge Park.

Andy has worked for several years on the two-metre-high wall. You may remember the stoat-holes when it appeared on Springwatch.

The latest wildlife keeping Andy company as he works is a family of weasels who are moving along the wall below the footings.



National Trust/ Simon Nicholas

Woodland Management Plan



National Trust Images/ James Dobson

Georgina Lindsay, Area Ranger

The Sherborne and Lodge Park woodland management plan is currently in the planning phase.

Within the next six months we will have gained all the necessary approvals and associated felling licences. Work will start next

autumn/ winter.

We also have lots of tree planting this winter to help us meet our national tree planting targets to fight the climate crisis.

Tree safety surveys are planned for this autumn. You will see us out and about assessing the higher risk zones later this month.



Project update

Andrew Danson, Sherborne Project Manager

It's been a busy but enjoyable summer on the Sherborne estate. We have been working on developing project ideas that we can deliver over the coming months and years.

A major piece of work has been the successful tendering and commissioning of a Conservation Management Plan for the estate.

This will be carried out by the same team of consultants who successfully authored a similar document for Lodge Park. We're looking forward to

working with Chris Gallagher and his team once again.

The work will begin in earnest this October, with completion expected next summer.

If you are interested in finding out more, or if you have any information that might be useful for the plan, you can contact me on andrew.danson@nationaltrust.org.uk.

We are about to start the next phase of planting at Lodge Park as part of the Bridgeman restoration project.

Meanwhile, we have planned

for the Boathouse to be repaired and re-painted.

Over the past few months, we have hosted a variety of visitors from within the Trust as well as members of Cotswold District Council and the Cotswold National Landscape team.

I would also like to thank Jonty and Mel at Coneygree for their hospitality during their Harvest Festival weekend. My family and I had a brilliant time with the BBQ being a real highlight.

Ranger spotlight

James Bradford, Ranger

I have been at Sherborne for just over three months. It's been great getting to know the team and learning more about this amazing estate.

I have been carrying out many maintenance tasks with the outdoor team. This has ranged from watering trees, carrying out ash dieback surveys to strimming paths and repairing broken gates.

I am really excited to be heading into my favourite season of the year and seeing the autumnal colours Sherborne has to offer. I may even venture out on some fungi forays.

An exciting project I will be part of is our Heritage and Archaeology Ranger Team (HART). George our Area Ranger got the wheels turning on this and has now passed the baton onto me.

This team, once established and trained will visit the places we look after in the portfolio, surveying the archaeological features and condition scoring them.

This is a huge task. We will be starting with Sherborne this year due to the reliable



National Trust Images/ James Dobson

records of the features across the site. We'll then move on to focus on a different location within the Cotswolds.

I've only had a small amount of experience in the field of archaeology but have enjoyed watching Time Team over the years.

I'm therefore looking forward to learning more alongside the HART team.

I'm really enjoying working within this truly stunning estate and looking forward to the seeing what wildlife the colder, shorter days bring.

Thank you to everyone for making me so welcome.

If you want to know more about becoming a HART volunteer, please drop me an email: james.bradford@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Ash dieback

National Trust Images/ James Dobson



Patrick Brown, Ranger

It has been a real pleasure spending the last few months working with James on the estate.

One of the principal tasks we've tackled in that time is the annual summer survey of Sherborne's ash trees and monitoring the impact of ash dieback.

Sadly, many of our ash are suffering from the fungal pathogen. High summer is a good time to check how badly affected they are.

The trees should be in full canopy, but those affected by the disease will have reduced leaf cover.

Once a tree has lost 50% of its canopy, it is severely affected and needs to be considered

for removal.

Between James and I, we have surveyed every ash that could fall on a path, road or building across the estate.

Unfortunately, the disease is hitting hard. We've had to mark-up many trees for removal. You may have seen those marked with pink paint.

This winter, contractors will be felling those that will pose the greatest risk.

We're keen to keep as many ash as possible; some individuals are resistant to the fungus. We don't want to fell trees that could produce healthy, disease-resistant offspring in the future.

It has been heartening to see some trees still thriving, dense

with leaves and unaffected by dieback.

There is also some good news from the Bridgeman landscape.

Last winter, volunteers helped us to plant a new clump of small leaved lime.

James and I have carefully nurtured this clump over the drought and very hot summer weather.

Despite the testing conditions, we only lost one lime.

We're looking forward to the planting efforts to come this winter.



Lodge Park weekends

Claire Forkes, Senior Visitor Experience Officer

September saw the last open weekend of 2022 for Lodge Park.

Thank you to everyone who supported the opening this year; the volunteers who shared their knowledge and enthusiasm, the rangers and volunteer groups that made the grounds around the Grandstand look so neat, and

the staff who ensured the weekends all ran smoothly.

During the winter, I will be working with volunteers to gather their thoughts from the year just gone and to see what we can do in the future.

We will be making some changes next year. These include removing the booking system, trialling a mix of room and tour guides and taking card payments on the day

to make the admissions process easier for non-members.

We are also working on the long-term plan for Lodge Park from 2024 onwards.

Lodge Park will open to visitors the first weekend of the month between April and September 2023.

Farewell and good luck Andy

It is with great sadness that we are saying goodbye to Andy Hewitt, our Building Supervisor at the end of the year.

Andy will be spending time enjoying his hobbies. We are very grateful for his hard work on the estate and wish him the very best of luck.

Wildlife wonders

Georgina Lindsay, Area Ranger

This spring/ summer season a new wildlife monitoring programme, using an app to collect data, was trialled at Sherborne – with the help of some willing volunteers.

The focus was mammals, butterflies, reptiles and breeding birds.

I opted to carry out the trial on Sherborne Farm and our permissive walking routes.

We had a very successful season collecting data with over 10,000 entries logged.

I was disappointed that I wasn't able to carry out the bat and habitat surveys this year, due to my ankle injury. However, they will be included in my monitoring programme for 2023.

If you have seen any species in these areas, please get in touch – especially if you have any photos confirming identifications.

If you'd like a list of the species recorded on the estate this spring/ summer, please drop me an email: sherborneestate@nationaltrust.org.uk.



National Trust/ Georgina Lindsay

If you'd like to receive these newsletters by email, please contact the Sherborne Park Estate office – sherborneestate@nationaltrust.org.uk

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