

National Trust monthly brief: June 2025 (Andrew Danson – 16/06/2025)

Subject (add as appropriate)	Comment & update	Milestone dates (e.g. start work / completion)	Main NT contact
Big Nature, Better Access	We have been informed by Cotswold National Landscape that our full funding bid for the next phase of the Bridgeman restoration project has been successful. The fund is the Landscape Enhancement Initiative. The fund is administered by the Cotswold National Landscape on behalf of National Grid. The bid will enable us to recreate the “Theatre of Trees” and the planting of further serpentine avenues. In total we will look to plant over 330 avenue trees and 2700 whips in woodland blocks. Works will take place over the next 2 autumn/winters. We have received approval for an internal funding bid for £450,000 to create 50 hectares of grassland on Sherborne Farm – As well grassland the project will fund tree planting, hedgerow management and pond creation. Work will begin on this project in July and August. Lodge Park is open again on the weekend of August 1st. Community newsletter was published in early June – Residents can sign to receive this electronically by emailing Sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk	Ongoing	Andrew Danson
Conservation Management Plan	We expect the CMP to be published in the Spring.	Spring 25	Andrew Danson
Sherborne Brook	Two public information sessions on the Sherborne Brook Wetland creation project held at Sherborne Social club on Saturday 7 th June and Wednesday 11 th of June. We shared details of the proposed works and had a robust and frank discussions with those in attendance. Thank you to all who attended.	Planning Application Summer 2025	Simon Nicholas

National Trust monthly brief: June 2025 (Andrew Danson – 16/06/2025)

	We will continue to engage and are hoping to submit a planning application this summer.		
Tree Planting	Tree Planting: Summer – no more tree planting scheduled until the autumn.	Autumn/Winter 2025	Andrew Danson
Estate Infrastructure	Rangers Ben, Ollie, and Luke have repaired gates and fences between grazing parcels in North Park – two were damaged from trees. Ranger Ollie fixed a gate in Cowham and is preparing to improve gates along the Sherborne to Windrush public footpath. Ranger Ben and his Cotswolds Wardens have improved gates around the Sabrina Way public footpath and the badger diversion – again, these were not fit for purpose. More generally, we have been trying to tidy up after this work – we do not leave treated timber in the environment so processing this waste takes up a lot of time. We are preparing to remove old stone from the dry-stone wall restoration at Lodge. Final track repairs carried out at Quarry wood.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson Luke Hunter
Walling and Fencing	Wall along track from Ewe Pens car park has been repaired – Awaiting final capping to be done. Breaches along wall from A40 to the village have been repaired and a larger repair is now under way by the woodland entrance gate.	Ongoing	Tim Green
Wildlife	The Sherborne Farm Monitoring Project continues at Stones Farm with sessions continuing to deliver interesting results; highlights from the volunteers so far include... buff tailed bumblebees in huge abundance, peacocks, brimstones, tortoiseshell,	Ongoing	Luke Hunter

National Trust monthly brief: June 2025 (Andrew Danson – 16/06/2025)

	orange tip, large/small white, red admiral, green veined white and dragon/damselflies. Bird sightings have included common whitethroat, yellow wagtail, corn bunting, reed bunting, sedge warbler, reed warbler, Cettis warbler, kestrels, kites, and barn owls. May highlights include – large/small whites, orange tips and peacock butterflies (05/05). Deceased (not a conventional highlight!) hedgehog at Lodge Park – first record in my time here (09/05). Anecdotal reports of Marsh Fritillary around Northfield Barn – suspected illegal release as cases have been reported elsewhere in Gloucestershire (09/05). Plethora of otter feeding remains and footprints all along the Windrush (13/05). Small eggar moth larva at Stones Farm (13/05). Watermeadows BBS highlights: 50+ linnets, reed, sedge and Cettis warblers, 9 lapwings, two barn owl, mandarin pair – (and a lowlight) huge numbers of signal crayfish in the Windrush (20 + 21st/05). Barn owl, kingfisher, and garden warbler at Windrush Village (23/05). Small magpie moth (05/06). Five cygnets with swan pair (08/06). Also, a hobby hunting at Conygree (02/06). Elephant-Hawk Moth in the moth trap at Stones Farm – I have been after that record for two years!		
Woodland work and Tree Safety	Tree Maintenance: Tree watering continues; as does selective management of vegetation in the Lodge Park woodland blocks. Tree Safety: We have had a few issues with Sudden Branch Drop in recent weeks – this is common in beech, particularly this time of year as the weight of fruits, leaves and rain can add up. Our ash dieback surveys are scheduled for June and July which will be busy months for the ranger team; with stressed ash trees looking more noticeable than ever this time of year. We are again envisaging another winter with a lot of tree work ahead... there is some solace to take that our approach to gradually working our way through the worst of the trees annually allows ash dependent species time to adapt, is less impactful on our woodlands and helps best direct our resources. We are preparing a few small technical summer jobs for the tree surgeons, including a dead elm in the pleasure grounds, a dead Scot's Pine in South Belt and a few ash in the watermeadows – We only conduct summer tree works where necessary and ensure we minimise any ecological issues.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter

National Trust monthly brief: June 2025 (Andrew Danson – 16/06/2025)

Volunteering	May: In early May, the Cotswolds Wardens and Ben fitted new bird boxes and bug hotels to the Sherborne School Forest School whilst Ollie and Luke prepared the Sherborne 5-miler course. Later in the month, Ollie and Delivery Manager Tim lead their new Wednesday Wallers session as we try to make some progress on the most important dry-stone walls across the estate – they began working on the Lodge Park west perimeter wall along the Aldsworth to Northleach wall. Luke led two sessions, one in the orchard where we mowed, mulched, and watered our fruit trees and another in the watermeadows car park to improve visibility on the entrance/exit as well as access for our skips. Ollie finished the month mulching the avenue trees at Lodge Park. June: Ben has begun the month leading the Cotswolds Wardens with the infrastructure job detailed above. Ollie and his volunteers worked on the village walls and verges at Ragged Copse – clearing Ivy and managing dominant nettle and bramble. We are back at Lodge on this coming Tuesday, continuing to mulch, water and prune the avenue trees – ensuring they are resilient in the future. Later in the month, we are planning to unblock a culvert in Picardy which is undermining the track, creating some leaky dams, and replacing a defunct fence with a dead hedge. Ollie will be mowing the Pleasure Grounds paths, and we hope to remove some old tree guards at Lodge Park as well.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter