

Subject (add as appropriate)	Comment & update	Milestone dates (e.g. start work / completion)	Main NT contact
Big Nature, Better Access	As part of the Bridgeman Restoration project, we have advertised for a Lodge Park Ranger. Working closely with the existing ranger team the role will ensure that high standards of presentation are upheld. It will play a key role in the physical delivery of the landscape restoration project focussing on tree planting in the Grade I-listed Lodge Park to a plan produced by Charles Bridgeman in 1725. It will help to manage the existing trees through a programme of maintenance work, including tree safety inspections, as well as being the key role for trees, woodland, and hedgerows across the estate. Part of the role will be communicating the splendid work we do to visitors, communities, and funders. Sherborne Farm Arable Reversion fields will be topped in early August. Lodge Park open days reopens Friday 1st August and is then open for all the August weekends. Community newsletter was published in early June – Residents can sign to receive this and other updates electronically by emailing Sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk	Ongoing	Andrew Danson
Conservation Management Plan	We expect the CMP to be published this summer.	Summer 25	Andrew Danson

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Sherborne Brook	Follow up meeting held with members of Sherborne Parish Council and riparian landowners to go through scheme in detail and conduct a site visit. Special issue of newsletter of relating to Sherborne Brook Project will be published shortly. Grip clearance works in Ragged Copse will be carried out on Saturday July 26th. Further works will be carried out in September.	Planning Application Summer 2025	Simon Nicholas
Tree Planting	Tree Planting: Summer – no more tree planting scheduled until the autumn.	Autumn/Winter 2025	Andrew Danson
Estate Infrastructure	Significant works scheduled for the Sherborne to Windrush footpath and the Laughcroft right of way, unfortunately only in September due to contractor availability but we are looking to blitz all these unfit utility/pedestrian gates. Area Ranger Martin and Ranger Ben have conducted significant clearing of rides to aid the deer stalker operations when they resume stalking. Between the 7th and 18th July, Deliver Manager Tim has overseen the resurfacing of Sabrina Way Bridleway between Northfield cottages and the Cotswold Flyfishers carpark. This work has also inserted some drainage channels and a culvert to alleviate long standing drainage issues. Ranger Ben and his Cotswolds Wardens have worked to reinforce the River Windrush bank where a collapsed fence was unsightly and dangerous – with	Ongoing	Andrew Danson Luke Hunter

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	Environment Agency permission we are using dead hedges to construct a new fence to reduce erosion and protect visitors. We are preparing to remove old stone from the dry-stone wall restoration in July at Lodge Park – activity will increase in the parkland with trucks, trailers, and tractors.		
Walling and Fencing	Preplanning application submitted for pre-emptive repairs to wall on Langott Hill. Walling repairs continue along road from A40 down to the village. Breaches in listed wall on Clapton Road have been repaired. Fencing around Laughclose field on Clapton Road being replaced from July 14th. Work is expected to take two weeks.	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, 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. June highlights include -- 2 garden warblers, whitethroat pair with 3 fledglings, sparrowhawk harassing buzzard around Sherborne Watermeadows (09/06). Tawny owl fledgling at West Belt (10/06). Barn owl at Northfield barn (15/06). Buzzards nesting in an A40 shelter belt (23/06). Goshawk in flight (23/06). Birds nest orchid in South Belt (23/06). Hobby over Sherborne Broadwaters (26/06).	Ongoing	Luke Hunter

	Otter reported with prey on the top weir (29/06). Otter spraint continues to be reported from Sherbrooke all the way to the estate's edge at Windrush (June). June moth trapping recorded c.85 species across 268 individuals at Stones Farm.		
Woodland work and Tree Safety	Forestry Works: In line with our Woodland Management Plan we have selected Northfield Copse and Sandy Hill Copse for 30% woodland thins in winter 2025/2026; Northfield Copse holds bags of potential as it is closely situated near our PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland) graded Sherborne Common with existing wildlife corridors already providing the connectivity – Northfield Copse is infamously dark with large cedars, conifer stands and beech plantation shading out the woodland floor – we'll be looking to open up this woodland to encourage light and life into the understory. Sandy Hill Copse will prove challenging and we'll be driven by the conditions during winter, but we hope to begin in the opening portion of the woodland where plantation Douglas fir, grand fir and western red cedar are overdue harvesting; we'll be aiming to release light into the wet streams that run through this woodland and encourage more growth in the understory 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 <i>Sudden Branch Drop</i> in recent weeks – please be vigilant and if you see any potential issues, or if anything falls on your fences – please let me know; I've attached some pictures from one we are working through in Snowbottom Belt – one positive is the incredible natural fracture that is left in the tree, a home for birds, bats and bugs in the future. We	Ongoing	Luke Hunter

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	are currently working through ash dieback surveys; we have again recorded many trees but what appears less than last year at this stage – the reality, unfortunately, is that ash is becoming less abundant each year... one observation however is that many of our remaining ash have looked healthier this year; I can only speculate that early spring/summer has provided more favourable conditions. The tree surgeons joined us last week to work through a dead Scots pine in South Belt, a dead elm in the village and a dead wood removal from beech trees spanning the Ewe Pen Road. SSEN will be present on the estate for the next few weeks. They have contractors looking at trees near electricity cables – This is not National Trust work and SSEN will contact people directly if there is an impact; they have the final say on trees near their cables.		
Volunteering	June: Ben started the month leading the Cotswolds Wardens through the River Windrush dead hedge. The Volunteer Rangers, Ollie mulched some of the Lodge Park Avenue trees, as well as some sensitive pruning and watering – it is challenging work keeping trees alive this time of year. We held a session in Picardy Copse uncovering a blocked culvert, building some leaky dams and a small extension of dead hedging. Ollie and Tim lead a Wednesday Walling session continuing their work on the west perimeter wall. July: It is a month of summer maintenance; cutting, cutting, cutting! The A40 wall and verge, the Eastington Road wall and verge and The Pleasure Grounds are all scheduled.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter

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